

OLD AND NEW COURT HOUSES ABOUT 1927

HISTORY  
OF  
POTTER COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA

By  
Victor L. Beebe



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by

**VICTOR L. BEEBE**

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## PREFACE

The author is under the greatest obligation to the Potter County Historical Society, and especially to one of its members who is too modest to allow the use of his name. He is also indebted to his printers. Without the hearty cooperation that has been extended from these sources, the publication of this book would have been impossible. The warmest acknowledgements are also due to the Potter Enterprise, the Port Allegany Reporter, and the Oswayo Valley Mail for the use of several invaluable cuts of our pioneers and of old-time scenes, and to all the above newspapers and the Galeton Leader-Dispatch for the live interest they have taken in this work.

## ERRATA

The following errors and omissions occur.

Page 35. The age of Israel Burt at the time of his death should be given as 90, not 96 as here stated.

Page 41. It is here stated that Daniel Clark, Jr., was a cattle-buyer. His daughter, Mrs. C. W. Gorham, says that he did not engage in this business to much extent, merely taking a few cattle from neighbors in ordinary barter. His main occupation was farming.

Page 85. For Byron F. Hamilton read Byron F. Hamlin.

Page 94. Besides the old buildings here mentioned should be noticed a barn belonging to Almeron T. Nelson, at Lymansville. It is still in use, and was built by Cephas Nelson in 1828, being in all probability the oldest building now standing in the county. It was unroofed in the great windstorm of 1834, to which circumstance a cracked purline plate still bears testimony. Mr. Nelson's house, which is in an excellent state of repair, was built by his father, Almeron Nelson, in 1862-63. Nelson H. Goodsell was the carpenter.

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Page 30. The following interesting information about one of the very oldest Potter County families came to the knowledge of the writer too late for insertion in its proper place. It is contained in letters to Mrs. Derna Bloomer dated 1902, from Edgar L. Spafford of Watervliet, N. Y., who was engaged in compiling a genealogy of the Spafford family. Patience Mann was born in Vermont in 1774. She married Bradstreet Spafford, by whom she had six children: Orlean, born 1796; Ansel, born 1798; Lorenzo D. born 1800; Lucretia, born 1802, married Jonathan Edgcomb; Eliza, born 1805, married Harley Knickerbocker; Marietta, born March 7, 1807, married William Earl. Mr. Spafford thinks all these children were born in Vermont. Bradstreet Spafford and his wife separated, and she came to Tioga County, Pa., and married Major Isaac Lyman, March 3, 1809. The account of the Lyman family is given in the text in its proper place. Bradstreet Spafford was twice married after the separation from his first wife, and had three more children. It would appear that the two oldest sons of Bradstreet and Patience Spafford never left Vermont, though a daughter of Ansel Spafford lived for a time at the house of Jonathan Edgcomb. The name of Eliza Spafford is omitted in the account of the family on page 30. Her husband, Harley Knickerbocker, was an early settler on Ayres Hill, and taught one of the first terms of school in the county. Patience Lyman died at the home of her son Lewis Lyman at Sweden Valley in 1867, aged 93. She was bedridden and her mind failed in her latter years.

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## INTRODUCTION

My purpose in writing this history is to present a fairly complete account of the really significant events that have occurred in our county; not merely a synopsis, nor a bulky book of reference, nor a collection of hunting stories, nor a mere rehash of former works on Potter County history. In the nature of the case, the historian depends on sources outside of his own brain for the material of which his work is built up. I have earnestly endeavored to make use of all sources of knowledge on my subject that have been available.

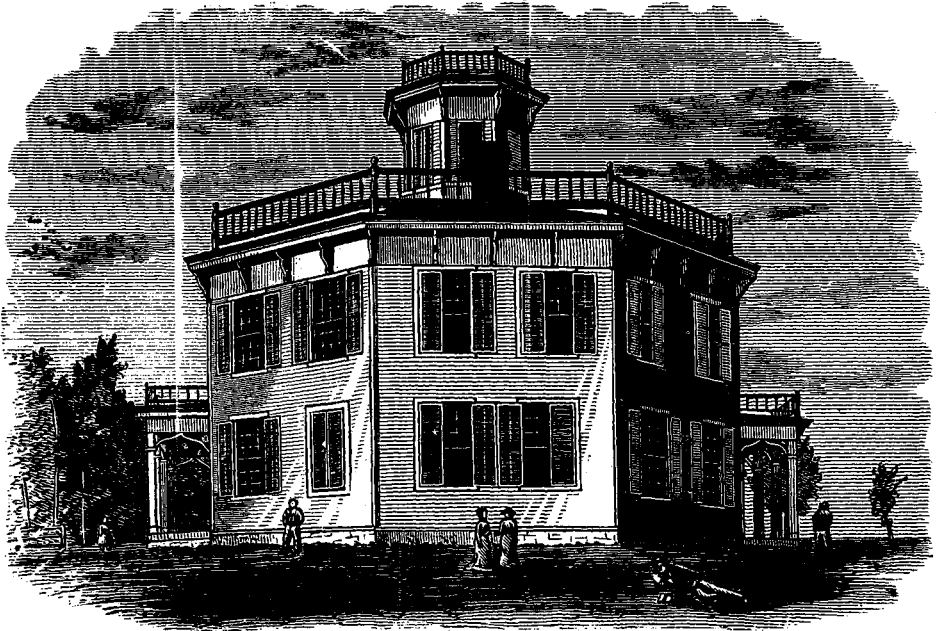
The people who have assisted me in my work have been most kind and helpful, and their aid has been invaluable. Mrs. W. W. Thompson, besides giving me access to her files of the Potter County Journal and the Potter Enterprise, and other historical material in her home, has given personal recollections, being probably the best informed person now living on the history of Coudersport. Mr. D. F. Glassmire is another who has contributed much to my knowledge of early times. His mind is a storehouse of information on the early history of Northern Pennsylvania that has been handed down to him, both orally and in writing, by his ancestors, who for several generations have been prominent citizens of our county, and his memory is extremely accurate in recollection of details. Another man to whom I am indebted for incidents of our very early history, known to very few besides himself, is Mr. John C. French of Roulet. His body is bedridden and helpless, but this seems only to increase the activity of his mind and memory. Some episodes of our local history I have related on his authority alone, but I believe his accounts to be thoroughly authentic. Mr. and Mrs. Milo Lyman of Roulet have supplied me with valuable historical material both from personal recollections and from papers and books possessed by none but themselves. Mr. Monta C. Burt is another to whom I am under great obligations. Several others have given reminiscences, accredited to them where they occur in the narrative.

But most of the information now to be had on the history of Potter County has been in print already. I have had access to the following works:—

1. The History of Ceres, by Mrs. Mary W. Mann and Miss Maria King. Both the authors are lineal descendants of Francis King, the oldest settler in McKean county and older than any in Potter, who founded the settlement at Ceres in 1798. This



**THE COUDERSPORT ACADEMY**  
Built 1840, torn down 1887.



**THE LEWISVILLE ACADEMY**  
Built 1859, torn down 1897.

book is well written and very authentic, containing much material not to be found elsewhere. A considerable part of the narrative, however, relates to the history of McKean County rather than that of Potter.

2. McKnight's History of Northwestern Pennsylvania. This book is largely an account of events outside of Potter County, but contains considerable history pertaining to our county before its settlement that is not easily available elsewhere.

3. Early Days in Potter, by Almeron Nelson. This is, on the whole, the best history of the early Potter County settlements in existence, and contains no errors of importance. The author was himself an early settler, having come to the county with his parents in 1820. He was a grandson of Major Isaac Lyman, the second permanent settler in the county.

4. Dr. Edgar S. Mattison's Annals of Potter County. Two installments of these were published in the Potter County Journal October 3, 1887 and November 10, 1887. Most of Dr. Mattison's historical material was incorporated in the History of McKean, Elk, Cameron, and Potter Counties, published by J. H. Beers & Co., Chicago, in 1890. The Potter County section of the book also contains some other matter, mostly statistical, added by the editor. This is the only work that I know of that purports to be a complete history of Potter County, the other books I have read covering only short periods and limited sections of the county. In this work are preserved many data relating to early times which would otherwise have been lost, and it may in general be relied on as a true account. But it contains some minor errors, and a few important dates that it gives are incorrect. The matter it contains is arranged topically, making it difficult for the reader to follow the progress of our county as a whole. The following communication regarding this book is found in the Potter County Journal of September 4, 1890:—

"Will you please say to those who have subscribed to the recently delivered history of Potter, who have understood that I was the author, that although a large proportion of the matter is from my manuscript, I decline all relation to the dish of hash set before them, and desire posterity to know that I am not in any way responsible for the mixed up mess they will have to wade through in pursuit of information. Edgar S. Mattison, August 23, 1890."

Dr. Mattison practiced for a time in Sunderlinville, later moving to Coudersport. He joined the Journal staff in August 1882. He died prematurely in 1892 at the age of 47.

5. Historical Sketches of Potter County, by W. W. Thompson, consisting of several papers published from time to time in the

Potter Enterprise, and issued in book form in 1925. These papers are unexcelled in their field and absolutely authentic. Mr. Thompson ranks with Almeron Nelson as one of the foremost writers on our local history.

6. The centennial number of the Potter County Journal bearing the date May 25, 1904. This issue of the Journal is entirely devoted to historical matter, and contains several invaluable articles contributed by some of the older people then living who had played prominent parts in the earlier life of the county. It was published under the auspices of the Coudersport Chautauqua, S. H. G., and was edited by Mrs. Eva D. Thompson.

7. The official records in the Court House. The county officials have been very kind in assisting me to examine these records, which have yielded several important data.

The facts I shall present that are not derived from the above sources are mostly compiled from Potter County newspapers. The oldest file in existence, aside from a few old numbers owned by Mrs. W. W. Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Milo Lyman, is one of the Potter Pioneer for 1843-44, belonging to Julius S. Colcord, to whom and to Mrs. Colcord I am indebted for its use. The files of the Potter County Journal from January, 1848 to April, 1867, and from December, 1872, to the present time are in the possession of the Potter County Historical Society, and to these I have had free access. The library of the Society also contains a complete file of the Ulysses Sentinel, 1881-1919, the Cross Fork News 1903-1906, and some of the later volumes of the Potter Enterprise, the Galeton Leader-Dispatch, and the Oswayo Valley Mail, and a few volumes of the Roulet Recorder. Many articles on earlier times are found in these papers, beginning as long ago as 1853. Since the organization of the Society several valuable articles have been presented at its sessions, most of which have appeared in print. I have also, through the kindness of Mrs. Eva D. Thompson, had access to the files of the Journal 1867 to 1871, and the early files of the Potter Enterprise from 1874 to 1887.

Such are the sources from which my attempt at a narrative of our local history is chiefly drawn. I have endeavored to include as much new material as possible, avoiding hackneyed stories and incidents that have been sometimes magnified beyond their real importance. An amusing portrayal of the sort of historical writing that I have aimed to avoid is given in a letter from Mrs. Orrel Peet Moody, which appears in the Journal of December 15, 1897. I quote as follows:—

“None of the reminiscences fail to mention the fact that John Peet’s family ate leeks; that they ate them as a steady diet for six weeks. We are informed that they served them with

milk, probably with whipped cream, or perhaps they garnished their dessert of whipped cream with the beautiful smooth green leaves of the festive leek. The said Peet family were known to be of regular habits, so we may draw the conclusion that leeks were served for breakfast, dinner, and supper, and there having been five in the family at that time, it would make a total of 630 meals of leeks.

"These figures also help us to realize the labor that it cost John Peet, the elder, to procure the quantity of leeks required daily, as it was before the reaper and binder had been invented, and before leek hooks, an implement of later invention, had been introduced. Methinks he must have exercised ambidexterity in gathering the succulent, highly flavored Potter County shamrock for their daily rations.

"Now I find my curiosity greatly aroused. Did any of the other early settlers ever eat leeks? I have never heard any account of their having done so, and have always entertained much sympathy in my heart for the early settlers whose misfortune it was to have lived near the Peet family in leek season; but I will console myself with the reflection that they may have carried a leek in their pockets, until I hear further particulars.

"If I remember rightly, the famous fawn-skin petticoat (which the writer no doubt forgot to mention in the last article) shrunk and shriveled until there was nothing left but the waistband, which one of the granddaughters at last wore out, and I find I am left to either beg, borrow, or buy a substitute for the famous Peet petticoat."

I hope I shall not be guilty of the style of historical writing that evoked the above outburst from Mrs. Moody in behalf of her grandfather. A few classic manuscripts of pioneer days must be included in any history of these times that is worthy of the name, but I trust I shall be forgiven for reproducing them.

The History of Potter County seems to me to be most naturally considered in the following divisions, to which I shall devote one chapter each:—

1. The Period Before Settlement, ending with the settlement of William Ayres in 1807.
2. Early Settlements and Roads, 1807-1820, terminating with the building of the Cowanesque road, which completed the connection of the settlements then existing.
3. Further Settlement and Development, bringing us down to the organization of Potter as an independent county in 1833.
4. First Years as an Independent County, terminating with the founding of the first permanent newspaper, The Potter County Journal, in 1848.

5. The Period Preceding the Civil War, 1848-1861.

6. Potter County in the Civil War, 1861-1865.

7. Events Following the Civil War, bringing us down to the great expansion of the lumber industry that began with the building of the Goodyear mill at Austin in 1885.

8. Lumbering in Potter County. We now go back to the beginning of this industry in 1815, and trace its history to the cutting of the last original timber, 100 years later.

9. Industrial Growth, beginning in 1885 and reaching its climax in 1904.

10. The Decline of Industry, 1904-1915.

11. Adjustment to New Conditions. Potter County as we are today, 1915-1933.



## CHAPTER I

### POTTER COUNTY BEFORE SETTLEMENT

Potter County was originally an unbroken forest. Pine and hemlock predominated, with hardwoods of the same species that are still common in our woods occupying the tops of the ridges and other areas most exposed to winds and thunderstorms, and mingling more or less with the evergreen timber. The heaviest pine timber stood in the valley of the Oswayo and its tributaries; the name Oswayo being an Indian word meaning Stream of Big Trees, or Stream of Pines. There was also considerable pine on the high points in the southern part of the county. The tallest and finest hemlock stood on the steep hillsides of the continental divide that separates the valley of the Allegheny from those of Pine Creek, Kettle Creek, and the Sinnemahoning. The appearance of these original forests of pine and hemlock is familiar only to the older generation of our people. Few are living who have seen a stand of virgin pine, and the seemingly exhaustless forests of hemlock that were standing only forty or fifty years ago are now but a memory. Dense stands of timber stood 100 to 150 feet or even more, in height, often bare of branches for 40 or 50 feet. Excepting windfalls and patches of laurel or rhododendron, there was little undergrowth; a yoke of oxen could often be driven for miles without encountering any obstacle. The dense forest cut off all view of the surrounding country. Certain areas of heavy hemlock timber had no other vegetation besides a deep bed of moss. Dense forests of pine were carpeted only with a thick covering of fallen needles, soft and brown. There was a grandeur in this primeval forest that does not exist in the woods of today.

Many animals then roamed the woods that have long since disappeared; the panther, the wolf, the elk. The wild pigeon nested by thousands in our woodlands fifty or sixty years ago, darkening the sky in flight; the species has been totally extinct since 1905. The streams swarmed with speckled trout, easily caught in any quantity by the pioneer. Only the vigilance of the State Game Commission has saved them from the fate of the wild pigeon. Beaver originally inhabited this region. A certain piece of land at the head of Cowley Run in Portage township was formerly known as Beaver Meadows, but it seems the beaver were frightened away by the early hunters and settlers, and few had been seen by white men in Potter County prior to their reintroduction by the State Game Commission a few years ago.

Buffalo are known to have inhabited northwestern Pennsylvania at some comparatively recent period. Clearfield Creek, in Clearfield County, is named for the extensive patches that had been cleared, as it were, by the grazing of buffaloes. The buffalo had, however, already disappeared from Pennsylvania before white men came, and it can not be positively stated that a buffalo ever trod Potter County soil.

The Indians who originally inhabited this region called themselves the Lenni Lenape, meaning the original or unchanged people. The tribe was called Delawares by the whites. At some previous period of their history, they migrated eastward from the plains beyond the Mississippi, meeting their enemies the Mengwe (Iroquois) in battle when they crossed that river. The Mengwe were defeated in the encounter, and proceeded eastward in company with their conquerors. The tribes divided the eastern country between each other, the Mengwe taking the northern section of the new country, in what is now New York state. The Lenni Lenape were composed of three tribal divisions: the Unamies, or Turtles, who took the country on the coast; the Unochlactgos or Turkeys of the country next adjoining on the west; and the Minsi or Monsi, meaning wolves, who took the mountain region, a few of their villages extending into the valley of the Allegheny. Their name is preserved in the village of Muncy, Lycoming County, situated on the site of one of the Minsi villages. These Minsi were the original Indians of Potter county. Numerous remains of their encampments have been found in our county, but these appear to have been of a temporary nature, the Indians choosing the sites of their permanent villages nearer to good corn ground.

Indian relics, such as arrowheads, tomahawks, implements for dressing hides, etc., having been found at various points in the county, denoting former camping grounds. Such camping grounds existed at Colesburg, Andrews Settlement, Shinglehouse, on the Roswell Carmer farm in Hebron, and on the head of Cowley Run in Keating. There was an Indian burial ground at Costello. There was an Indian granary on the site of the John Lyman cemetery, near Roulet, roofed and floored with hemlock bark. It had been burned before the first settlers arrived in that region, the charred remains of the corn lying between the fragments of bark indicating what the construction had been. The corn it contained is believed to have been stored about the time of the French and Indian War. It was not raised here, being probably brought up the river in canoes from the cornfields near the present sites of Warren and Tionesta, and stored for use in famine or time of war. No instances are known of

Indian atrocities in Potter County, such as can be found in the early annals of Lycoming, Clinton and Tioga Counties, and of the settlements in the adjoining parts of New York State. I cannot find a single instance of bloodshed by the Indians in our county, though a few cases of drunkenness and lawless behavior are on record. Several Indians are named in the early records of our county as having brought in wolf or panther scalps for bounty. A few wandering Indians were seen till well past the middle of the 19th century, but they were entirely peaceable.

The earliest report of white men in this region is found in a letter to the Journal from Lucian Bird appearing in the issue of May 18, 1882. Mr. Bird was engaged in surveying near Brookland for H. H. Dent, 1851-1855. He found an ax mark on a tree at Buckseller Hollow which he says was 205 years old at that time, and which he says must have been made by an ax, not a tomahawk. Mr. Bird had much experience in such matters, and his statement deserves consideration, but it is hard to believe that any white man passed through Potter County 35 years before William Penn founded Philadelphia. If Mr. Bird's conclusions were correct, we can only suppose that the mark in question was made by some Indian who had obtained the ax in barter with the early traders, perhaps the French in Canada.

The first white man who is known to have trodden the soil of Potter County is David Zeisburger. He was a missionary of the Moravian church to the Indians, and made his first trip westward in 1745, coming up the West Branch of the Susquehanna, but not reaching on this occasion any territory beyond that now embraced in Clinton and Lycoming counties. In the fall of 1767, he undertook a trip to reach the Indian village at the mouth of the Tionesta, accompanied by two Delaware Indians, Anthony and Papunkauk. He started from a point near the present site of Wyalusing, Bradford County, coming up the Cowanesque valley, camping overnight near a large swamp, probably near the present site of Elkland or Knoxville. His next day's journey brought him over the divide to the headwaters of the Allegheny, where he states in his account that he passed through a dense forest of spruce (hemlock), losing the course of the Allegheny for a time, but rediscovering it late in the day. The following night, that of October 8, 1767, he camped at a point on the upper Allegheny that can not be precisely known, but is generally believed to have been on or near the present site of Coudersport. He met no Indians during this stage of his journey, thus proving that few, if any Indians resided in this region at that time. Zeisburger was born in 1721 and died in 1808. He spent his life among the Indians and was an authority on Indian languages, a writer and historian.

In 1774, the first survey was begun of the State line between New York and Pennsylvania, starting at the northeast corner of our State on the Delaware River in December. The winter weather prevented the surveyors from running the line that season. They were employed by a joint commission of the two States. It seems doubtful whether the north line of our county was ever run before the surveys of 1786 and 1787, to be mentioned later. I have not found any information on this subject beyond that just given, which was obtained from the U. S. Geological Survey. Extended research might uncover something on this topic in the records at Harrisburg. Few white men are known to have ventured west of the Tioga River before the purchase of this part of the State from the Indians in 1784. David Zeisburger was especially favored by the Indians, and may very probably have been the only white man to tread Potter County soil before the Revolution.

In the summer of 1779, Col. Daniel Brodhead, who was stationed at Fort Mackintosh, at the mouth of the Beaver River, on the present site of Beaver, Pa., near Pittsburg, was ordered by General Washington to proceed northeast with a force of men and cooperate with General John Sullivan in his campaign against the Indians. He started with a force of 605 men besides 15 or 20 Indian scouts, taking with him oxen for draft animals and for meat for his men; also it is believed, some of the men had horses. He proceeded overland by a trail, well known in those times, from Fort Mackintosh to the present site of Warren. At the mouth of the Brokenstraw on the Allegheny River, near the present site of Irvineton, Pa., he was fired upon by a party of Indians in a canoe, and one of his men was wounded. He returned the fire, wounding two Indians, whether fatally or not he did not know. At all events, the Indians retreated without molesting his men further, nor was he again attacked during the expedition. He left a guard of 40 men to care for the soldier who had been wounded and proceeded to the present site of Warren, where he arrived August 11, 1779. Thence he turned up the valley of the Conewango to the State line.

Here he turned east, following the State line as nearly as possible, which made it necessary for him to cross the Allegheny River twice, the second crossing being near the present site of Bullis Mills, whence he followed the Oswayo valley to the present site of Ceres. Here he received news of Gen. Sullivan's victory over the Indians near the present site of Elmira, and the subsequent devastation of their homes in central New York State, well known to students of U. S. history. He received orders not to join Gen. Sullivan, as his aid would not be needed. He then

pursued a southeasterly course across what is now Potter County. The road that he built along the line of his march for the transportation of his supplies, we know as the Boon road. This road also served as the boundary of refuge for the non-fighting Indians of the Iroquois tribes, left desolate and in danger of starvation by Gen. Sullivan's raid. At that time there was a price on the scalps of Indians in Pennsylvania. Within this refuge scalp-hunting was forbidden. Col. Brodhead proceeded from Ceres up the north bank of the Oswayo. Near the present county line between McKean and Potter, he lost a horse, the skeleton of which being afterward found, gave the name of Horse Run to the small tributary that here enters the Oswayo from the north. He crossed the Oswayo at the present site of Coneville, coming up Whitney Creek, over Crandall Hill and down Steer Brook, crossing the Allegheny and following Prosser Hollow to Sweden Hill. The exact course he took from this point to the present Jersey Shore Pike is not known, but it is certain that he followed nearly the present route of the turnpike through to Antes Fort, just across the river from Jersey Shore. Thence he made his way northwest through the present sites of Emporium, St. Marys, Benzinger, Kane, and Kinzua back to the detachment he had left at the present site of Warren, arriving there September 14, 1779.

About three miles from Mount Brodhead on the Jersey Shore pike there was standing as late as 1836 a beech tree on which was carved the figure of an Indian headed west, which was made by Col. Brodhead on his march through this region. Mr. John C. French tells me that his father had seen this tree on a journey over the turnpike at that time, but that a few years later a camper built a fire against the tree, killing it and causing it to fall across the road, so that it was chopped out and disappeared. The piece of land that Col. Brodhead had thus gone around and set apart as a refuge for Indian fugitives was known as the Boon Lands, hence the name Boon Road. For his services on this expedition, Col. Brodhead was commended by General Washington and rewarded with promotion to the rank of general.

The foregoing facts are little known and have not been related in most accounts of these times, but the source from which they are derived seems to me to be authentic. I obtained the story from Mr. John C. French, who himself learned it many years ago from sources not now available for verification. It seems to agree well with other known incidents of our early history.

The next instance on record of white men in Potter is in 1788. A party of 47 people under the leadership of General Rufus Putnam set out from Connecticut in 1787 for the lands on the

Ohio granted by Congress to soldiers of the Revolution. They passed through New York City, crossing the Delaware at Easton, Pa. Thence they traveled over the Pocono mountains to the Susquehanna, going up the West Branch in canoes, and following the Sinnemahoning and the First Fork to the present site of Costello. Thence they carried their goods over the continental divide at Keating Summit, reaching the present site of Port Allegany the last week in March, 1788. There they built new canoes, giving this point the name of Canoe Place, and proceeded down the river, arriving at their destination in April, 1788, being the founders of the settlement at Marietta, Ohio. A sketch of the route was made by one of the party and has been preserved, so there can be no doubt that the description just given is correct.

The northwestern part of Pennsylvania, including Potter and McKean counties and most of Tioga, was purchased from the Indians in 1784. The transaction took place at Fort Stanwix, N. Y., and the deed transferring the land to the Commonwealth bears the date, October 23, 1784. It was signed by representatives of the six tribes of the Iroquois, the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Senecas, the Cayugas, and the Tuscaroras. The sum of \$500 was paid to the Indians, who were to be allowed hunting rights on the land in question for 20 years following the date of the treaty. In January, 1785, another agreement was signed at Fort Mackintosh with the Delaware and Wyandot Indians, by which they received \$2000 in extinction of their claims. The straggling Indians met by the early settlers of Potter County were all of the Iroquois tribes. It is said that the organization of this purchase into counties was deferred till 1804 because this was the date of expiration of the Indian hunting rights. The land in question was at first attached to Northumberland and Westmoreland counties. On the organization of Lycoming County in 1796, the region now embraced in Potter and McKean was attached to that county.

The first survey of lands in this part of the State was made by officers known as deputy surveyors, who first ran the State line between Pennsylvania and New York, placing milestones; then they ran lines due south, eventually dividing the whole country into blocks and warrants of land. This work began soon after the purchase of the land from the Indians, extending over a period of several years. Some of the men engaged in this work were General Daniel Brodhead, before mentioned, John Brodhead, and William Ellis; they were doubtless the first white men who ever trod the soil of our county, outside of a few of the main trails.

The new lands were opened for settlement in 1785, but the price set by the State was \$80 for 100 acres, an exorbitant figure for that time. It was reduced in 1788 and again reduced in 1792, the price then fixed on being \$13 1-3 per 100 acres. The following year it was nearly all bought up by land companies, William Bingham and the Holland Land Co. being the principal purchasers. The land was located by lottery, the number of acres applied for and the warrant numbers being shaken up together. Thus the lands of our county passed to private ownership.

William Bingham, the original landowner of Potter County, was born in Philadelphia in 1753. He graduated from college in that city with a degree of B. A., taking his M. A. in due course. In 1778, he was appointed by Congress to the post of Consul to the French West Indies. He returned to Philadelphia in 1780, and on October 26 of that year was married to Ann Willing, eldest daughter of Thomas Willing, a merchant of Philadelphia. He was elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature, and served terms in both houses, being elected speaker both in the Assembly and in the Senate. From March 4, 1795 to March 4, 1801, he was United States Senator from Pennsylvania, and was a strong supporter of Washington's administration. He owned valuable property in Philadelphia and landed estates in Maine, New York, and Pennsylvania. He loaned money to the State during the Revolution, receiving land in payment. The title to the Bingham lands is partly derived from patents issued by the State, and partly by deeds given by William Willing; over a million acres in all. William Bingham died February 6, 1804, his wife having already passed away in 1801. He left his estate to a board of trustees for his son and two daughters. His sons-in-law were Alexander Baring, later Lord Ashburton, and Henry Baring, both residing abroad. These and Robert Gilmore, of Baltimore, Thomas Mayne Willing and Charles Willing of Philadelphia, were the trustees.

Most of the above information I have obtained from an article in the Journal of March 18, 1853. The precise boundaries of the Bingham lands I am unable to give. In 1853 the trustees were Joseph Reed Ingersoll, member of Congress from Philadelphia and later Minister to England; John Craig Miller; William Bingham Baring (Lord Ashburton); Francis Baring; Henry Bingham Baring. These last three were grandsons of William Bingham and resided in England, one being a member of the House of Commons and one a member of the House of Lords. William Bingham, the son, lived in Paris. Thus the owners of the Bingham Estate all resided abroad, and had nothing to do

personally with affairs in our County. The case would have been different but for the premature death of the original owner. He had made plans for the development and settlement of his lands, and had he lived, he would have been well known to our early settlers, as were John Keating and other landowners of the period just following. The other original landowners of Potter County were the Holland Land Company, an association of Dutch capitalists, merchants in Amsterdam, Holland, hence the name. Wilhelm Willink was the chief person in the company, several warrants of land being in his ownership during the time of the early settlements. The other members of the Holland Land Company were Nicholas Van Staphorst, Christian Van Eeghan, Pieter Stadnitski, Hendrick Vollenhoven, and Ruter Jan Schimmelpenninck. The company purchased in all 995,400 acres east of the Allegheny river, including the southern and southeastern parts of Potter County. Their most important holdings, however, were in western New York State; the village of Holland, N. Y., on the route from Machias to Buffalo, is named for them. A large part of their holdings in Potter County was purchased by other capitalists before settlement. I have not thought it worth while to follow all these transfers, the records of which are to be found at Williamsport. In 1808 a separate deed book was opened for Potter County and from that time on, the records are on file in the office at Coudersport. Isaac Wharton bought a large tract in the southeast of the county in 1806. Waln & Learing, Vaux & Stewartson, were other early landowners in the southern half of Potter County but the dates of their purchases I am not able to give. The Dutch capitalists composing the Holland Land Company had, like William Bingham, loaned money to our country during the Revolution, and received land in payment; apparently they also furnished some money to their agents for the purchase of land. Legally, the Holland Land Company had no existence, the foreign capitalists employing their friends who were citizens of the United States to purchase lands, the agency being located in Philadelphia.

Here we must introduce the landowner who brought the first settlers into our county, and who retained a keen personal interest in the welfare of the settlers in Potter and McKean Counties as long as he lived. He bears to the counties of Potter and McKean a relation similar to that which William Penn bears to our State.

John Keating was born near Limerick, Ireland in 1760. His ancestors belonged to a long line of Irish nobility, one of his forefathers being a Norman who emigrated to Ireland in the time of Henry II in the 12th century. His family lost their lands



in the time of Cromwell. John Keating's father moved to France in 1765, and young John became an officer in the French army. He was awarded the cross of St. Louis for meritorious service, and was stationed in the West Indies at the time of the French Revolution. On the execution of the French King in 1793, he resigned his commission as protest against the Reign of Terror. He came to America, bearing letters to Washington and other prominent men. At this time a group of foreign capitalists, mostly Frenchmen, who took the name of the Ceres Company, had just been formed to promote settlement in our country. They hastened to secure the services of John Keating as their agent. He took up his residence in Philadelphia, where he remained the rest of his life. His acts as the agent of the Ceres Company will be related in the course of our narrative. During his long term of trusteeship for lands in Potter and McKean Counties, he was the most liberal in his dealings with settlers of any landholder of his day, never evicting any settler who wished to remain because of his inability to pay; drawing up land contracts on easy terms of payment; donating land and money for schools and roads, and in not a few cases deeding lots practically free to settlers whom he felt he could trust. He gave 50 acres of land to the builder of the first sawmill or grist mill in each new settlement. He frequently visited settlers, who looked on him as a trusted friend and adviser. He died in 1856 at the advanced age of 95. It is not too much to say that Potter County owes more to John Keating than to any other man. Mrs. Mary W. Mann, who knew him personally, speaks of him in her *History of Ceres* as "a most benevolent Christian gentleman, whom it was a privilege to know, and whom it was impossible not to trust."

Desiring to explore the land lately bought from the State by William Bingham, with a view to purchase, John Keating inquired in Philadelphia for a man suitable for him to send on such a mission. The Quakers of Philadelphia recommended Francis King, a young married man of their sect, who had come over from England in 1795, and who was then living at Asylum, Bradford County. Accepting the task of exploring the new country, he left Asylum in 1796, coming up the Susquehanna, Chemung, and Tioga rivers, taking with him as a companion a boy of fourteen whose name is now unknown, and a pack horse to carry provisions. The exact route he followed I can not give, but most probably he came up the Cowanesque valley, passing through the northern part of Potter County, and following the Oswayo valley to Ceres. He spent about six weeks in exploration, and started home by another route, steering for the advance

settlements on the waters of the West Branch of the Susquehanna. But long exposure in wet weather and scarcity of provisions had told on the health of the explorers, and Mr. King fell sick. Despite their weakened condition, the two contrived to build a raft of logs, on which Mr. King proceeded down the Sinnemahoning, while the boy led the horse along the bank. The travelers at last found refuge in the home of a settler down the river; the exact locality is not given, but it was probably on the present site of Keating, Pa., at the mouth of the Sinnemahoning. The boy and horse, after a two days' rest, pursued the trail home to Asylum, arriving almost exhausted. Mr. King finally recovered sufficiently to make his way home, probably by water. He made a favorable report of the country he had explored, and in a deed dated January 6, 1797, 300,000 acres of land in Potter and McKean Counties are conveyed to John Keating and Company for \$80,000. The chief members of the Company besides John Keating were John S. Roulet and Richard Gernon. The foreign business men who were the original promoters of the Ceres Company appear to have acted only as bankers for the Company.

The portion of the Keating lands situated in Potter County consisted roughly of what is now embraced in the townships of Sharon, Clara, Pleasant Valley, Roulet, Keating, Homer, Eulalia, and Sweden. The northeast of the county remained the property of the Bingham estate till sold to settlers.

Francis King's second trip to Ceres was made in the spring of 1797. He came by water down the Susquehanna to Northumberland, and up the West Branch, bringing supplies and a few men. They succeeded in bringing their boats up to the present site of Emporium. Here they found a man named William O'Grady, who had been engaged by the State to open a road from that point to the present site of Port Allegany for the use of settlers enroute to what was then the West. Mr. King and his party assisted in building this road, which, though not mentioned in most accounts of those times, was the first road ever opened in Potter County since the Boon Road of 1779, which had not been used and had already become overgrown. Most of this portage road has been relocated, but there is at least a chance that some of the section adjacent to Keating Summit in Potter County is still on the location made 136 years ago. This road, though among the first to enter the county, was not the one used by our early settlers. It fell into disuse, and when John Earl founded the settlement at Emporium in 1810, he found it overgrown with briars and brush. It was re-opened in 1814, and has remained in use ever since, though much of it was relocated when it was reopened.

Mr. King proceeded from Canoe Place—as Port Allegany was then called—by water down the Allegheny and up the Oswayo, reaching his camp of the year before in June. He cleared a small piece of land, sowed some winter wheat, and explored the country further, finding his nearest neighbor at Dyke's Settlement, now Andover, N. Y.; then he and his companions returned to Asylum for the winter.

He came to Ceres the third time in the spring of 1798, bringing his family. He had hired another settler to come with him, but this man deserted him and went on down the Allegheny to some point farther west. Mr. King built a sawmill the first summer and a grist mill the next. What he could raise was not enough for the needs of his family, and he had occasionally to make a trip by canoe to Pittsburg for supplies, that being the point most easily reached. It was often necessary for him to be away for days at a time, leaving Mrs. King alone with her children. She was a small, frail woman, and the hardships of pioneer life told too heavily on her. She died in childbirth in November, 1801, leaving eight children, the oldest being a boy of 17 and a girl of 15. By this time a few other settlers had arrived.

This account of the settlement of Ceres is so closely connected with the settlement of Potter County a few years later that it is properly related here. The first settlers in Potter County a few years later came from Ceres, and among the descendants of the pioneers of Ceres have been some of the most prominent people in our county. Francis King was himself a man of the highest character, worthy to be the first of the pioneers of Potter and McKean. Further account of his settlement may be found in that excellent work, "The History of Ceres," by Mary W. Mann and Maria King.

A bill was reported in the Pennsylvania legislature January 13, 1804, entitled: A Bill to erect parts of Lycoming, Huntington, and Somerset Counties into Separate County Districts. It created six new counties: Jefferson, McKean, Clearfield, Sinnemahoning, Tioga, and Cambria. Thus it appears that the name first proposed for our county was the Indian name Sinnemahoning, meaning Stony Lick. But the Senate wished to have a county named in honor of General James Potter. It was at first proposed that the name McKean be changed to Potter, but Gov. Thomas McKean was so much esteemed that this suggestion found little favor, so the proposal was made to change the name Sinnemahoning to Potter. This motion was carried, and the bill finally passed both houses and was signed by Robert Whitehill, Speaker of the Senate, and Simon Snyder, Speaker of the House,

and approved by Gov. Thomas McKean March 26, 1804. Potter County as then erected was rectangular in outline, including an area now belonging to Cameron County, which was erected in 1860. This area included Sizerville, and the southwest corner of Potter County was on the south side of Driftwood Creek, not far from the present site of Emporium Junction. Thus we find several of the early settlers in this neighborhood holding office in Potter County in early times. The main part of what is now the town of Emporium was originally embraced in McKean County.

General James Potter, for whom our county was named, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1729, coming to this country when 12 years of age. He served under Colonel John Armstrong, the noted Indian fighter, and in the Revolution as commander of a battalion of militia under Washington at Trenton and Princeton, also as brigadier general at Brandywine and Germantown. He held various public offices before and after the Revolution. He died in 1789. Gov. Andrew G. Curtin, of Civil War fame, was a descendant of General Potter's sister, and Mrs. Curtin also belonged to the Potter family by blood. Some one who knew General Potter describes him thus: "A stout, broad-shouldered, plucky, active man 5 feet 9 inches in height, of dark complexion, of a hopeful disposition which no troubles could conquer." Our county is honored in bearing his name, though he never trod our soil. The valley of the West Branch as far up as the forks of the Sinnemahoning had, however, been the scene of some of his activities as surveyor of lands bought from the Indians in 1768.

The first road that was made by the settlers at Ceres led south from that place, following up the valley of King's Run, then called Mill Creek, crossing the valley of Annin Creek and leading down the Two Mile to the present site of Port Allegany. This road is still in use, but has long since ceased to be a route of any importance.

In 1805, John Keating had a road opened from Ceres through Potter County to a point within the present limits of the town of Renovo. Its northern section followed very closely the Boon road made by Gen. Daniel Brodhead in 1779. This road was surveyed by John Brevost (Bra-vo) who had lately come to Ceres as a surveyor for John Keating. His name is perverted to Braw by some writers. The road was built at much trouble and expense, as the workmen were obliged to camp in the woods and were often short of provisions, which could only be obtained by long journeys to Ceres or some other point at a great distance. It proved to be of little practical use; Almeron Nelson even says

that only one man ever traveled over it, a settler enroute to McKean County, whose name he did not know. It must be remembered that in those days the most expeditious means of travel was by water, when possible, and we may guess that John Keating's plan was to reach the navigable waters of the West Branch of the Susquehanna, the early travelers who used the route through the present sites of Emporium and Port Allegany having had a hard time pushing their boats up the swift and shallow Driftwood Creek. But there was then no settlement at the southern terminus of this road, and the pioneers of Potter preferred to go to Jersey Shore, only a little farther away, where there was a grist mill, and where supplies could be purchased. The exact location of this road, often called the Boon road because it followed for some distance the route of the original Boon road of Gen. Daniel Brodhead, has been the subject of much controversy. I state only what seems to be fairly well proved as to its course. It followed closely the location of the present main road from Shinglehouse to Millport and Clara, thence up Nigger Hill and across Crandall Hill on a route now vacated, passing about half a mile north of the Five Corners cemetery, leading down Steer Brook and passing through the site now occupied by the North Eulalia church; turning up the Allegheny, which it crossed at the Wedsworth place, just below Frinks. Thence up Prosser Hollow, crossing the Miles Harris place on Sweden Hill and passing near Clark Chase corners. The route from this point to Denton Hill can not be determined and possibly was not the same as the original Boon Road, but it is recorded that the Keating farm, now belonging to Milo Freeman, was on the route. From Denton Hill the course was down one of the branches of Pine Creek, perhaps the Sunken Branch, and up Hopper House Hollow, crossing the present location of the Jersey Shore Pike near the Cherry Springs fire tower. Thence down the Cross Fork to the county line, leaving Kettle Creek by way of Haystack Hollow or one of the other branches on the east, following the ridge beyond and coming off the hill down Drury Run, which is now within the limits of Renovo. No bridges were built on the Boon road, and like other roads of those days, it was a mere track cut through the forest. Only the northern section of it continued in use after the opening of the East and West road and the blazing of the trail to Jersey Shore, a few years later.

A Frenchman named Generet (corrupted into Jaundrie by many writers) built a house on the south side of the Oswayo Creek about opposite to the mouth of Horse Run in 1806 and covered it with shingles nicely rounded at the butts. Few shingled houses were built in those days, and it is from this

that the town of Shinglehouse takes its name. Mrs. Mann states that this house was still standing in 1834. But from her description it seems almost certain that it stood just across the line in McKean County. M. Generet was an elderly man when he settled here, and had left his family in France. Mrs. Mann thinks that he died here. Janders Run, a small tributary entering the Oswayo from the south, just west of the county line, perpetuates his name in a corrupted form.

Francis King surveyed Coudersport as a town site in 1807, a preliminary survey having been made in 1805. This place was named by John Keating in honor of his friend John Coudere, head of the banking firm of Coudere, Brants, and Changuion, of Amsterdam, Holland, financial backers of John Keating's company. Likewise the town of Smethport was named for Raymond and Theodore de Smeth, another foreign banking firm. The original town plot of Coudersport was 93 acres in area. Most of the land was north and west of the Allegheny River, only a narrow strip being embraced where Allegany avenue is now situated. The place was established as the future county seat by an Act of the Legislature, March 4, 1807.

A dense grove of pine originally occupied the present site of North East Street and the land adjoining. The land west of where North Main Street now is, was a swamp, the hummocks being covered with laurel of an unusually rank growth and large size. A brook flowed along the foot of the west hill, fed by a spring then of large size and well known to the early hunters and surveyors, but now so small that it is entirely consumed in supplying water for a few houses near by. There was a small island in the river in 1807, near the confluence of Mill Creek with the Allegheny. Mill Creek originally swung north from a point near the west end of Mitchell Park, crossing the flat through the site now occupied by Mrs. Davenport's house and nearly crossing the valley, joining the Allegheny at a point near the house of J. C. Breunig. It was diverted to its present course by Sobieski Ross near the middle of the last century. So late as 1869, there was a large island just below the Main Street bridge, the eastern of the two channels having been long since filled up and the land built over. The main channel of the river below the bridge has also shifted several rods to the south since 1869. This island is probably the one referred to as existing in 1807.

## CHAPTER II

### EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND ROADS. 1807-1820

It is proven that Thomas Butler, a deserter from the British army, was the first settler in Potter County, on the present site of Shinglehouse. Asylum Peters, who came to Potter with William Ayres in 1807, in recollections that he gave to Almeron Nelson, said that he remembered well that Butler was living at the mouth of the Honeoye when he came through with Ayres in the spring of 1808. This is all we know of Thomas Butler, or indeed of the early settlement of the Shinglehouse neighborhood. Probably he did not remain long.

In the season of 1807, a man named Carson was hired by John Keating to clear a piece of land and build a log house on what was long known as the Keating farm, or the Cold Spring farm, now the Milo Freeman farm in Sweden township. The original log house stood on the west side of the road, nearly opposite to the site occupied by the present farm buildings. In March, 1808, William Ayres moved into this house. On condition that he should remain in the neighborhood, he received a lease of the land for seven years, \$10 per acre for what land he should clear, and at the end of the seven years, a free deed of 100 acres anywhere else in that part of the county that he might choose. His family consisted of his wife, Susan, three children, George, Nancy, and James, and a negro boy named Asylum Peters. He came over the Boon road from Ceres, where he had been living for a short time. He is commonly reckoned the first settler in the county, Thomas Butler at Shinglehouse not being counted.

This negro, Asylum Peters, who came with William Ayres, is one of the noteworthy characters among our pioneers. He was born in Asylum township, Bradford County, from which he was named, the name being pronounced Azilum, accent on the first syllable. He was brought to Ceres by John Brevost, the surveyor who reopened the Boon road, and he served as cook in the family. His master sold him to William Ayres for \$100, stipulating that he be sent to school, and that he should receive his freedom when he came of age. The agreement to send him to school was not carried out, since there was no school within reach after his new master settled in Potter County. Asylum became discontented and left William Ayres, living for many years with Major Isaac Lyman, soon to be mentioned, and afterwards with Jonathan Edgcomb. The latter end of his

life was passed at the house of Jonathan Edgcomb's son, Walter Edgcomb, on Ayres Hill, where he died in 1880. To him we are indebted for many interesting bits of information about these old times. He retained a youthful spirit into extreme old age, dancing to the music of the fiddle when past 80. He was especially fond of a certain lively tune in a minor key, for which I know no other name than "Asylum minor." For want of printing facilities, I can not reproduce it here.

William Ayres remained but a single year on the Keating farm, removing to Ayres Hill, which is named for him and his sons. The farm now owned by Eddie Weiss is now generally called the Ayres farm, but Mr. D. F. Glassmire tells me that the place on which William Ayres originally settled is the tract of land known as the Cannon lot, adjoining the farm of Frank Howland on the east. Little had been raised on the Keating farm the first year, and the following winter nearly all of Mr. Ayres' stock died. This seems to have been a rather frequent occurrence with the early settlers, as their animals could not be sold, and no hay or grain could be had. What crops they raised for the first few years were entirely consumed by themselves and their families. Stock were usually fed in winter by chopping down maple or other hardwood trees for the cattle to browse on, which was of course a poor substitute for hay and grain. Mr. Ayres succeeded in wintering one ox, for which he fashioned a crooked yoke, so that the ox could be driven single. He procured a pack horse to carry supplies from Jersey Shore.

The descendants of William Ayres are not so numerous as those of some of the other early settlers; still many of them are living in Potter County to-day. Both his sons married and raised large families. One of his grandsons, Austin Ayres, fell in the service of our country at Gettysburg, and another, De Rostas Ayres, was drowned while rafting lumber down the Sinnemahoning. His daughter, Nancy, married Michael Hinkle. One child was born to them, the mother dying a few months afterward.

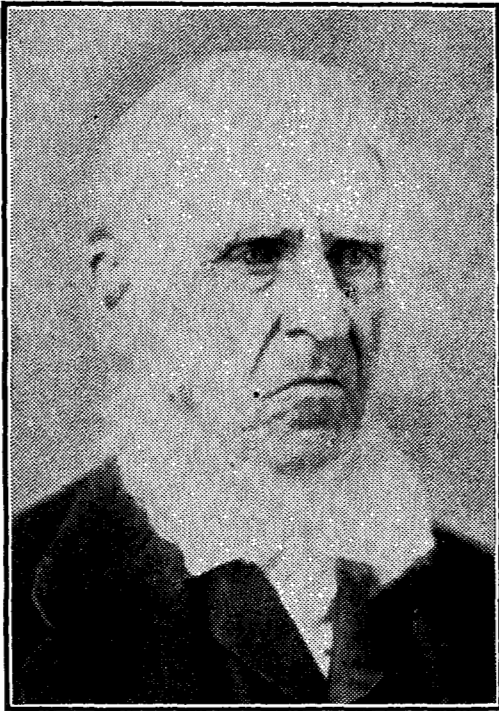
We must now introduce the second permanent settler in the county, Major Isaac Lyman. He was born in 1759, and when we first hear of him, he lived at Bolton, Vermont. He served as ensign in the Revolution, taking part in the battle of Bennington. In the battle of Lake George, his company was betrayed by a traitor, and only 15 men escaped, he being one of the number. He afterwards engaged in the milling business at Hebron, N. Y., a small place near the State line northeast of Albany. He was three times married. The first marriage was to Sallie Edgcomb in 1782. Mr. Milo Lyman tells me that



she was a near relative of Jonathan Edgcomb, whom I shall mention later among our early settlers. She died in August, 1791, having borne six children, one of whom, Jonathan, died in childhood. The oldest daughter, Sallie, probably married near the old home; there is no further record of her. The remaining four children, Lydia, Charlotte, Eunice, and John, all eventually came to Pennsylvania, and all settled in Potter except Charlotte, who married Ira Wells, whose residence was in McKean County, according to the Lyman genealogy. Lydia married Thomas Bellows, and Eunice married Cephas Nelson, both being among our early settlers.

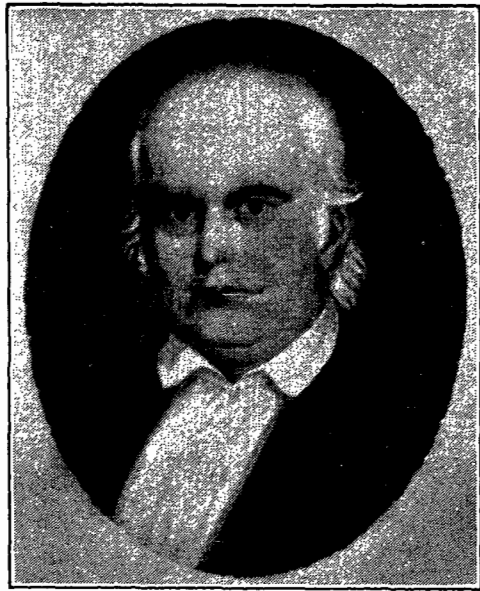
Major Lyman married Laura Pierce in 1792, six months after the death of his first wife. The children of this marriage, besides one or two that died in infancy, were Burrell, Laura, Harry, Isaac, and Otis. About 1805 or 1806, Major Lyman's domestic affairs seem to have run afoul of some obstruction that is now forgotten. He gave his wife a written document which he wished her to regard as a divorce, but which had no legal status whatever, and came to Charleston Township, Tioga County, where he lived for about two years. Here, on March 3, 1809, he married Patience Mann Spafford, a widow with one son, Lorenzo D. Spafford, and two daughters, Lucretia and Marietta. Tradition says that Major Lyman frightened the young woman into a marriage post haste, giving her only a moment to accept or reject him. However, that may be, they were married, and the first child of this union, Charles, was born January 13, 1810. The three Spaffords became members of Major Lyman's family.

Here we will leave Major Lyman's family affairs for a moment. In 1808, he was engaged by John Keating to open an east and west road through Tioga, Potter, and McKean Counties, the State contributing to the expense. The route was surveyed by Joseph Williams of Williamsport, who had laid out the pack horse trail from Lymansville to Jersey Shore, a year earlier. The road was cut through and Major Lyman partially completed a log house at the place we now call Ladona Corners, more properly known by the name of Lymansville, in the fall of 1809, living meanwhile in the Keating house, before mentioned. John Lyman, the Major's oldest son, who assisted him with his work at this time, tells us that the Major received a free deed of 150 acres of land and 50 acres for each of his sons. The first fifty families who should locate on the Keating lands in Potter County were each to have 50 acres by settling thereon, building a house, clearing five acres and remaining five years, each man to have the privilege of buying as much more land as he



**JOHN LYMAN**

Eldest son of Major Isaac Lyman. Came to Lymansville with his father in the fall of 1809.



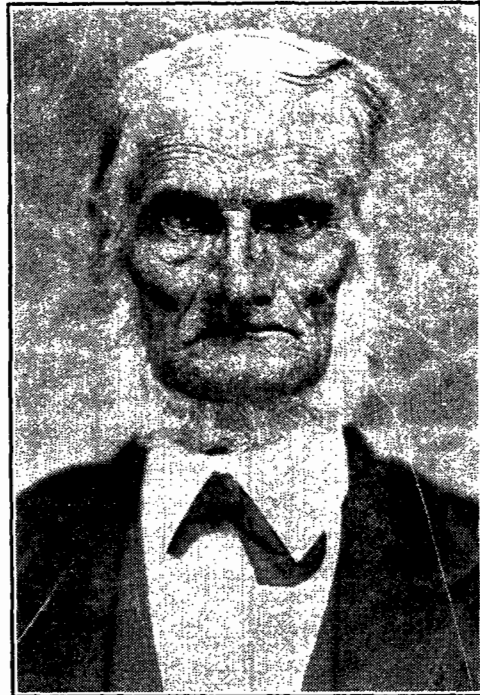
**BURREL LYMAN**

Second son of Major Isaac Lyman. Came to Potter County 1810.



**BENJAMIN BURT**

Third settler in the county. Brought his family to Burtville, May, 1811.



**JOHN K. BURT**

Son of Benjamin Burt, born 1811. First white boy born in Potter County.



wanted for \$2.00 per acre. Another authority tells us that Major Lyman received a bonus of \$10 for each new settler he induced to come in.

Major Lyman's house was roofed with shingles four feet long, riven from pine logs, the gables being covered with the same material. The floors were also laid of split pine logs in a similar manner. This house was only partly finished when he moved his family into it in the spring of 1810. During the season of 1810 he built a sawmill, and the next year a gristmill.

Soon after Major Lyman had settled at Lymansville, his former wife discovered his whereabouts and came with her family, assisted by her oldest son, Burrell, a young man of 18. It has been stated by more than one person whose veracity can not be doubted, that both wives and both families—or we might say, all three families, if we count the Spaffords—lived together under one roof for several years, till the young people married and set up for themselves. However, Mr. M. C. Burt says that the Major built a separate house for Laura Lyman and her family. Major Lyman's daughter Laura married Silas McCarthy, a carpenter who lived at Muncy, Pa., December 10, 1810, the marriage being the first to take place in the county. His daughter Eulalia born June 6, 1811, was the first white child born in the county. In due time, three more sons, Milo, Edwin, and Lewis W., were born, Milo, the eldest, dying when a young man of seventeen. Eulalia married Almon Woodcock, an early settler. Edwin and Lewis settled in Sweden Township. The older sons all settled in the county and will be mentioned later. Two of Major Lyman's sons went West in later years. In all, eight sons and three daughters of Major Lyman settled in Potter.

I have devoted so much space to the account of Major Lyman's family, because so many of his descendants are among our citizens to-day, probably more than those of any other man, and because so many of them afterwards became leading characters in our history and will be mentioned in succeeding chapters.

The east and west road that Major Lyman built through Potter County followed approximately the route of the Roosevelt Highway, but only small portions of it have remained on exactly the same location. Few relocations were made from the east line of the county to the mouth of the Nine Mile previous to the building of our modern concrete highways. The route followed the old road up the Nine Mile, crossing the top of the hill at the north edge of the Farnham Lyon place, thence across the John Miller place. From this point it followed about the

same course as the present road through the Corsaw neighborhood to Sweden Valley. The location from Sweden Valley to Lymansville has never been changed very much, if at all. From Lymansville to Coudersport the original road followed the flat instead of being at the foot of the hill as it is now. The old road left Coudersport by way of West Third Street, following the bank west of the site of the A. B. Mann house and the Braitling stone quarry, where its course may still be traced, coming off the hill at Eulalia cemetery. There is a minor relocation just beyond this point. From the tannery to the Fred Lehman place few changes have ever been made. Thence the old road followed the flat to a point about half a mile east of Mina. The next deviation from the present route began at the Kate Smith place and followed the flat as far as the John Lyman cemetery. Thence to the county line at Burtville, the location has remained unchanged. The oldest of the relocations were made more than 100 years ago, continuing at intervals down to the completion of the Roosevelt Highway in 1926.

Major Lyman's grist mill and sawmill are said to have stood east of the present State road at Lymansville, on land now belonging to Albert Mitchell, or possibly a little farther east. The whole of Potter County was at first attached to Dunstable Township, Lycoming County. In December, 1810, Potter County was organized into one township, to be called Eulalia, after the daughter of John Keating; this was also the given name of John Keating's wife. Major Lyman's daughter, Eulalia, the first child born in the county, was named for Eulalia Township.

The next settler to arrive was Benjamin Burt, who settled on a farm adjoining the county line at Burtville, which is named for him. He came from a point near Elmira in the spring of 1810. He cleared a piece of land and raised a crop of corn, which he stored in a granary that he built of split pine logs, and returned to his old home for the winter. The following spring he returned with his family, consisting of a wife and two children, Elisha and Joanna, reaching his clearing of the former season on May 4, 1811. The squirrels had gnawed into his granary and stolen all of his corn. He was obliged to make the long trip back to Elmira for seed corn, and he and his family were reduced to extreme hardship, but being of true pioneer stuff, they remained, and as the saying is, made good. A letter has been preserved from the pen of Benjamin Burt, recounting his experiences, together with one from John Peet, soon to be mentioned. These letters are now in a collection of historical documents at Harrisburg. They have been several times reprinted, and are familiar to many readers, but they are so well written

and describe so graphically the life of the pioneer, that they can not well be omitted from any history of Potter County worthy of the name. Here is Benjamin Burt's letter:—

“In the year 1808 an east and west road was opened through Potter County. Messrs. John Keating & Company, of Philadelphia, owning large tracts of land in the northwest part of the County, agreed with Isaac Lyman, Esq. to undertake the opening of the road. In the fall of 1809, Mr. Lyman came in, with several hands, and erected a rude cabin, into which he moved in March, 1810. He then had but one neighbor in the county, who was four miles distant. I moved in on the 4th day of May, 1811, and had to follow the fashion of the country for building and other domestic concerns—which was rather tough, there not being a bushel of grain or potatoes, nor a pound of meat, except wild, to be had in the county; but there were leeks and nettles in abundance, which with venison and bear's meat, seasoned with hard work and keen appetite, made a most delicious dish. The friendly Indians of different tribes frequently visited us on their hunting excursions. Among other vexations were the gnats, a very minute but poisonous insect, that annoyed us far more than mosquitoes, or even hunger and cold; and in summer we could not work without raising a smoke around us.

“Our roads were so bad that we had to fetch our provisions from fifty to seventy miles on pack-horses. In this way we lived till we could raise our own grain and meat. By the time we had grain to grind, Mr. Lyman had built a small grist mill; but the roads being bad, and the mill at some distance from me, I fixed an Indian samp mortar to pound my corn, and afterwards I contrived a small hand mill by which I have ground many a bushel,—but it was hard work. When we went out after provisions with a team, we were compelled to camp out in the woods; and, if in the winter, to chop down a maple tree for our cattle to browse on all night—and on this kind of long fodder we had to keep our cattle a good part of the winter.

“When I came here I had a horse that I called ‘Main Dependence’ on account of his being a good steady old fellow. He used to carry my whole family on his back whenever we went to a wedding, a raising, a logging bee, or to visit our neighbors, for several years, until the increasing load comprised myself, my wife and three children, five in all.

“We often had to pack our provisions eighty miles from Jersey Shore. Sixty miles of the road was without a house; and in the winter when deep snows came on and caught us on the road without fire, we should have perished if several of us had not been in company to assist each other.

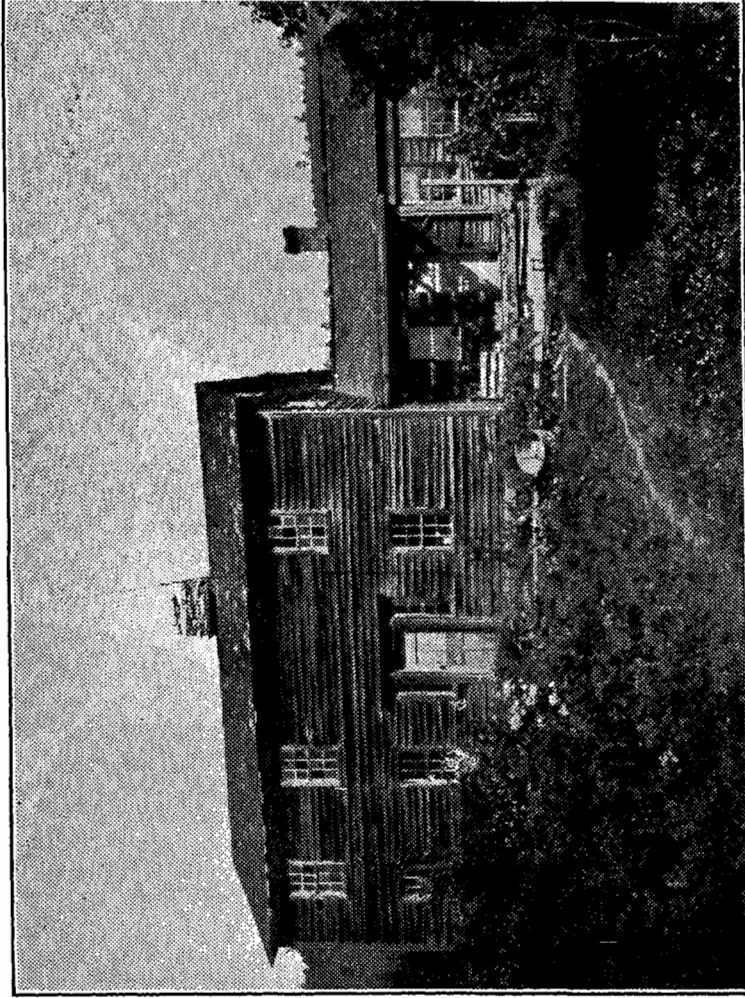
"The want of leather, after our first shoes were worn out, was severely felt. Neither tanner nor shoemaker lived in the county. But 'necessity is the mother of invention.' I made me a trough of a big pine tree, into which I put the hides of any cattle that died among us. I used ashes for tanning instead of lime, and bear's grease for oil. The thickest served for sole leather and the thinner ones, dressed with a drawing knife, for upper leather; and thus I made shoes for myself and neighbors.

"I had fourteen miles to go in winter to mill with an ox team. The weather was cold, and the snow deep; no roads were broken, and no bridges built across the streams. I had to wade the streams and carry the bags on my back. The ice was frozen to my coat as heavy as a bushel of corn. I worked hard all day and only got seven miles the first night, when I chained my team to a tree and walked three miles to house myself. At the second night I reached the mill. My courage often failed, and I had almost resolved to return; but when I thought of my children crying for bread, I took new courage."

Benjamin Burt, like Major Lyman, was the father of a large family, and among his descendants are many prominent citizens of the county to-day. His children all settled in the home neighborhood. His son John Keating Burt was the first boy born in the county, in the summer of 1811. His daughter Joanna married Frank Reed, one of the pioneers of the Reed settlement between Roulet and Mina. His daughter Sarah married Philander Reed, a brother of Frank, the first settler on Sartwell Creek. His daughter Elizabeth married James Reed, another brother, and his daughter Hannah married Matthew MacDowell, both of these being also among the early settlers on the Sartwell. The three sons, Elisha, John K., and Israel, also settled in the same neighborhood, John K. Burt receiving a gift of 50 acres from John Keating, adjoining his father's homestead.

Another extract from a letter of Benjamin Burt will complete our sketch of this hardy and resourceful pioneer. It is taken, as are the facts just related, from a paper presented by Mr. Monta C. Burt before the Potter County Historical Society:—

"The summer of 1811 was a bad season. I succeeded in raising a little corn which I pounded in a samp mortar, and this is all we had to eat except wild meat. The following winter my father-in-law, Israel Rickey, of Chemung, hearing that we were starving, sent us a load of provisions by my brother Israel. I soon had plenty of work, as the settlers commenced to come up the Susquehanna River to Shippen, now Emporium, with flat



**THE OLD BURREL LYMAN HOMESTEAD AT ROULET**

Built 1833. Torn down 1903.

Courtesy of Port Allegany Reporter





boats, and pack their goods across the Portage to Canoe Place, where they made canoes and floated down to the Ohio River. I had lots of work making these canoes out of white pine logs.

"There was a natural deer-lick near the mouth of Sartwell Creek about 30 rods from my corner, where I went whenever I wanted a deer. I wouldn't have to wait but a little while to get one, as a rule. I made a blind beside a hemlock tree from which I watched. One time when I was waiting in the blind, a piece of moss fell down close to where I sat. After a few minutes another piece fell. When I looked up, there on a limb lay a large panther watching me; evidently we were both looking for venison. I had no trouble killing him, after which I made my blind in the forks of a tree."

Most of the Burt family lived to a great age. Benjamin Burt himself died in March, 1876, aged 96, and some of his sons lived to be past 90, the last to go being Israel Burt, who died in 1908, at the age of 96.

Close after the settlement of Benjamin Burt comes that of John Peet, another famous pioneer. He came on May 23, 1811, settling on the place now owned by his great grandson, Julius S. Colcord. As I have already stated, a letter of his has been preserved, along with that of Benjamin Burt, just quoted. It is as follows:—

"It will be 23 years the 23d of May, 1834 since I moved into Potter County. Old Mr. Ayres was in the county about five years alone. In the fall before I came, three families, Benjamin Burt, Major Lyman, and a Mr. Sherman, moved into the county. The East and West State road was cut out the year before I moved in.

"It was very lonesome for several years. People would move in and stay a short time and move away again. It has been but a few years since settlers began to stick. I made some little clearing and planted some garden seeds, etc., the first spring. We brought a small stock of provisions with us. On the third day of July, I started with my two yoke of oxen to go to Jersey Shore to mill, and broke two axletrees to my wagon, upset twice and one wheel came off in crossing the creek.

"Jersey Shore was the nearest place to procure provisions, and the road was dreadful. The few seeds that I was able to plant the first year yielded but little produce. However, we raised some half grown potatoes, some turnips, and soft corn, with which we made out to live without suffering till the next spring at planting time, when I planted all the seeds I had left; and when I finished planting, we had nothing to eat but

leeks and cow-cabbage as long as they kept green—about six weeks. My family consisted of my wife and two children, and I was obliged to work, though faint for want of food.

“The first winter, the snow fell very deep. The first winter month it snowed 25 days out of 30, and during the three winter months it snowed 70 days. I sold one yoke of my oxen in the fall, the other yoke I wintered on browse; but in the spring one ox died, and the other I sold to provide food for my family, and was now destitute of a team, and had nothing but my own hands to depend upon to clear my lands and raise provisions. We wore out all our shoes the first year. We had no way to get more—no money, nothing to sell and but little to eat—and were in dreadful distress for want of the necessaries of life. I was obliged to work and travel in the woods bare-footed. After a while our clothes were worn out. Our family increased, and the children were nearly naked. I had a broken slate that I brought from Jersey Shore. I sold that to Harry Lyman and bought two fawn skins, of which my wife made a petticoat for Mary. Mary wore the petticoat till she outgrew it, then Rhoda took it till she outgrew it, then Susan had it till she outgrew it, then it fell to Abigail and she wore it out.”

The original letter of John Peet contains another paragraph, reciting the changed conditions in their family life at the time he wrote, by way of comparison with the hardships above described. John Peet came from Elizabeth, New Jersey. He, like the two pioneers whose lives I have already sketched, raised a large family. An account of them is given by his grandson, M. J. Colcord, of the Potter County Journal. The children were Mary, Rhoda, Samuel and Susan (twins), John, Abigail, Sarah, and Jacob. Mary married David Worden and Susan married his son William, both settling on Sartwell Creek, later emigrating to the West. William, Samuel, and John took up farms near Colesburg. Rhoda married Seth Taggart, son of a near neighbor, and they stayed on the home farm, becoming the owners at John Peet's death.

Abigail married Andrew Jackson, a preacher, who lived at Sheffield, Pa. Sarah married David Colcord, who settled in Homer Township, removing later to Cameron County. Jacob, the youngest son, settled in Homer on the farm now occupied by Will Russell, removing to Portage Township late in life.

John Peet was a man of high moral purpose and a professor of religion. The testimony of those who knew him is unanimous in declaration of his honesty and benevolent character. Yet he possessed some peculiarities that were a serious handicap in the struggles of pioneer life. In particular, Mr. M. J. Colcord states

that John Peet thought it sinful either to hunt or fish. This explains the straits to which he was reduced for food, described in the letter I have quoted. Mr. Julius S. Colcord, however, says that the Peets caught fish in a basket that they had constructed for the purpose, scooping them up from the stream, though Mr. Peet would not use a hook and line. But M. J. Colcord says that this basket was used only after the boys in the family had become old enough to be in some degree independent of the father. The reader may make his own choice between the two accounts. John Peet died in 1858 at the age of 86.

There is some difference of opinion about the route that Mr. Peet describes as having followed on his trip from Jersey Shore to Potter County. Men who have been familiar with the whole Pine Creek Valley have stated that they did not believe it possible that a man could have driven a team up the section of the Pine Creek gorge directly below Ansonia. These authorities believe that Mr. Peet left Pine Creek at Blackwell's, near the southern line of Tioga County, coming up Babb's Creek and taking an overland route that had been opened via Stony Fork, hitting the east and west road that had been opened by Major Lyman at a point a few miles east of Ansonia. In the same article it is stated that the early settlers at Ansonia and points up stream, who brought their supplies in canoes up Pine Creek from Jersey Shore, had built a cabin at a point six miles below Ansonia, known as Storehouse Bottom. Here they unloaded their canoes, bringing only small loads from this point up the swift current through the narrow and dangerous Pine Creek gorge.

Two other settlers came into the county from 1810 to 1814, the exact dates being unknown. These were John Ives, a soldier of the Revolution, who settled on the present site of Galeton, and Samuel M. Losey, who settled on Pine Creek on a farm adjoining the Tioga County line, his father-in-law, John Phoenix, settling on the adjoining farm in Tioga County. He bought 2,000 acres in Potter County, extending west from the site of his cabin 5 miles up Pine Creek. It is related that he had seen George Washington. He was born at Morristown, New Jersey. At the age of 22 he moved to Danville, Pa., and two years later to Elmira, and several years later to Tioga, Pa. He married Betsy Ives, a niece of John Ives, just mentioned, in 1809. Two children were born, a boy and a girl; the wife died in 1813. He married Olive Phoenix, a girl of fourteen, in 1814, and it was at about this time that he moved to Potter County. He was fond of having a good time, and it is related that on one occasion he rode a black bull all the way over from his home to Lymans-

ville to attend a dance, making good time on the road. He died in 1879 at the age of 106, the greatest age, so far as I know, ever attained by any person in Potter, with the single exception of Daniel Sullivan of Genesee, who died in 1916, aged 109.

John Lyman, eldest son of Major Lyman, settled on the farm near Roulet on which is located the cemetery bearing his name, in 1812; he was married to Lucretia Palmer at about the same time. Almeron Nelson describes a trip made by John Lyman to Jersey Shore for provisions in the summer of 1813. He started in July with a wagon, a yoke of oxen, and a horse, going by Babbs Creek, Tioga County, apparently over the same route as that followed by John Peet on the journey already described. Heavy rains set in before he had gotten far on the return trip, causing delay on account of high water. On the fourth day one of his wagon axletrees broke. The next day was spent in making another. One of his brothers then arrived from home in search of him, but even with this assistance his progress was slow. On the eighth day, near the house of Richard Ellis, at the Big Meadows on Pine Creek (probably near the present site of Ansonia) an axletree broke again. Mr. Ellis kept him overnight and assisted him in making repairs. The next day the horse was taken sick and died. Mr. Ellis took a yoke of steers and assisted them with their load for some distance. The next night they camped at the present site of West Pike, sleeping under the wagon. During the night a wolf came three times so near that they could hear him snap his teeth and hear his steps, but he was driven away by a little dog they had with them, howling frightfully as he went. They resumed their journey the next day, arriving at Lymansville on the twenty-second day after leaving home. Almeron Nelson also describes another trip made by John Lyman for provisions, in 1810, by canoe down the Allegheny to Kinzua, almost as dangerous and discouraging as that just described.

Very few trips like those of John Peet and John Lyman, however, were made by the early settlers; indeed these may have been the only ones ever made by the route down Pine Creek with a wagon. The ordinary means of transportation in those days was by pack horse, the driver going on foot. The pack horse trail from Ceres to Jersey Shore was first explored by Francis King in 1806, with two assistants, one of these being Jacob Tomb, who then lived at the mouth of Slate Run on Pine Creek, and the trail was blazed and opened in 1807, these explorers doubtless being guided by the traces of the old Boon Road of Gen. Daniel Brodhead.

In May, 1812, we find that an order was issued in court at Williamsport to open two more roads in Potter County. The first of these is described as "A road to intersect the road leading from Pine Creek to Ceres," and an examination of the survey on file in the county records at Coudersport shows that this road ran north from the plot that had been designated as the future county seat, following the same general course as the present road up the Allegheny to the Nelson Clark place, continuing up the Sheldon road, and meeting the Boon Road about half a mile beyond the Five Corners cemetery. The southern end of this road has all been relocated; its original course may still be traced, leaving the present highway near the house of Zalmon Robinson, and running far up on the sidehill, rejoining the present location near Gordon Hollow. Few people realize that this was the second road to be opened in the central part of the county.

The other road granted at the same session of court is described as "A road leading from the State road near Major Isaac Lyman's to the Tioga County line," and the survey notes tell us that it was 34 miles long. A careful plotting of the distances and bearings given in the record discloses the fact that the road in question is the Potter County section of the Jersey Shore turnpike, the surveyors having supposed that they had reached Tioga County at the east line of Potter instead of Lycoming County, as was really the case. The Jersey Shore pike was opened as a wagon road in 1811 and 1812, a part of it being built by Joseph Williams, of Williamsport. It is often supposed that this road was not opened till after the organization of the Jersey Shore Turnpike Company and the building of the toll-road, but the work then done consisted only in the grading and improvement of a route already in use. Two clearings were made at the time the road was opened, and a cabin built on each. One of these was at the present site of Cartee Camp and the other where the Lycoming Country Club now stands, known in former times as Herod's, where a road house was kept, but probably was not opened till some time from 1816 to 1820. The clearing at Cartee Camp seems not to have been occupied till about the time of the opening of the road as a toll road. A bridge over Kettle Creek on this road was ordered by court in 1815.

In 1810, the census of Potter County showed a population of 29 people, one, Asylum Peters, being colored. Only seven of these were women. The families of Major Lyman and William Ayres will account for most of this number, but there were probably a few others. In 1812, a celebration was held at Major Lyman's on the Fourth of July. It began with a chopping bee that lasted through the forenoon. Dinner and drinks followed, as was usual

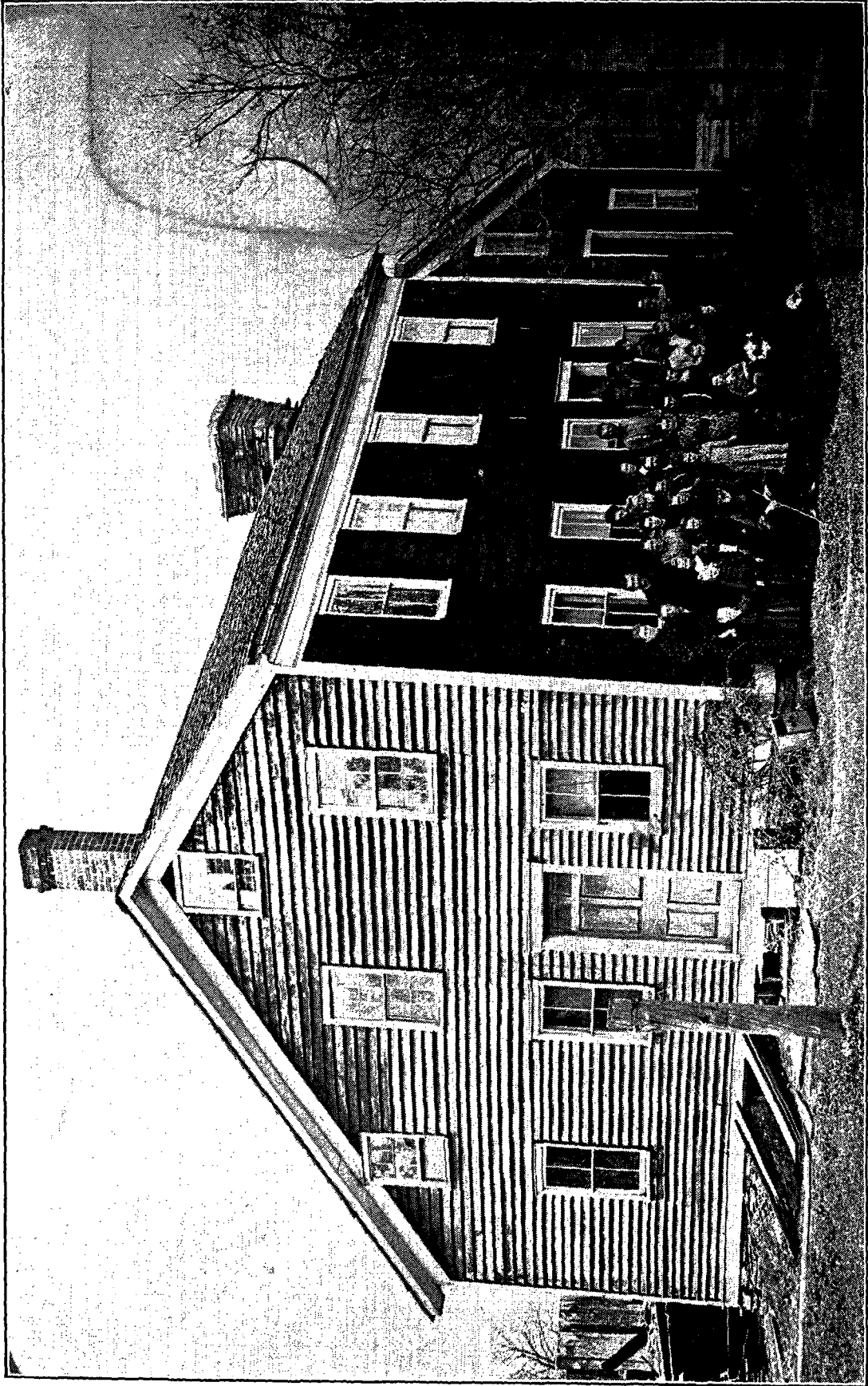
in those days at bees. The Stars and Stripes were raised on a tall tree and a huge pair of elk horns on another. It should be said here, however, that though Major Lyman kept a tavern, long the only one in the county, he did not keep liquor for sale, partly, perhaps, because his wife strongly opposed his doing so.

I shall not attempt to name all the settlers who came to the county before 1820. Many of them became discouraged and soon moved away, and their names are now almost forgotten. Several more settlers, however, deserve mention.

Solomon Walker settled at the mouth of Fishing Creek in 1811, but did not remain. Burrell Lyman bought a piece of land of William Wattles in 1813, on which he settled. Together with adjoining land he afterwards purchased, it embraced the farm now owned by his grandson, Milo Lyman, and the farm adjoining on the west. He is rightly regarded as the founder of the settlement of Roulet.

Jacob Vanatter settled in 1813 on the farm now known as the Bill Kimball place on Ayres Hill. He was a noted wolf hunter, as was also his near neighbor, George Ayres. The State paid a bounty of \$8.00 for wolf scalps in those days; several such bounties are recorded as having been paid to Indians. Vanatter killed 17 wolves from February to May, 1816. The scalps of these wolves were accepted by John Keating as payment on a piece of land bought by the wolf-slayer. Such transactions were common in those days. Vanatter's name is mentioned on several road views of this period. Obadiah Sartwell was the first settler within the original town site of Coudersport. He built a log house on the river bank back of where Mrs. Heck's house now stands, and a blacksmith shop on the land now occupied by the Potter County Garage. He became dissatisfied with his location and removed to McKean County at the mouth of Sartwell Creek, which bears his name. Daniel Clark came from Connecticut in the spring of 1816, and moved into the log house that Sartwell had built. On June 10, 1816, he moved into the log house that he had built on the farm we know by the name of his son, Nelson Clark, two miles above Coudersport on the river road, now occupied by a Mr. Moore. He had four children: Daniel, Nelson, Speedy, afterwards Mrs. Henry Nelson, and Lucy, besides a daughter who remained in Connecticut. The Clarks were among the prominent citizens of the county in the last century. Daniel Clark, Sr., was a surveyor, and made the first map of Potter County, for which he was paid \$150 by the State. He also laid out some of the early roads in the county.

The Clark family remained about eight years in the new home they had established, then they all went back to Connecti-



**THE OLD JOHN K. BURT HOMESTEAD AT BURTVILLE**  
Built 1838. Torn down 1895. In front of the house, John K. Burt and his descendants, at the Burt reunion spring of 1895.





cut. The father returned to Potter in 1829, but died the same year, the mother having already died in Connecticut. Nelson Clark with his brother Daniel and sister Speedy then returned to Potter, Nelson residing on the homestead till his death in the latter part of the century. He held several county offices at different periods of his life, and was a prominent member of the Free Soil party and an agent of the famous Underground Railroad in the days preceding the Civil War. He was one of the organizers of the Prohibition party in Potter County. Daniel Clark, Jr., afterwards settled on the farm afterward occupied by his son, Nelson Clark, on Crandall Hill, at the place we know as Clark Corners. Previous to this time he lived at Colesburg for a few years. He was a farmer, cattle buyer, and in a small way a landowner.

John Taggart, Sr., settled on the river road below Coudersport in 1816, coming from Colevane, New Hampshire. The old Taggart homestead is now occupied by W. S. Gates, the place across the road, owned by J. M. Harris, being originally the property of John Taggart's son, Leonard Taggart. John Taggart, Sr., was generally known as Squire John to distinguish him from his grandson John. His sons were Leonard, Samuel, George, and Seth. John Phoenix Taggart was the oldest son of Leonard. Several sons of the family were among the prominent citizens of the county two generations ago. John Dingman and Nathan Turner, with their families, and Abram Dingman moved in on March 1, 1816. It was cold wintry weather. They became snowbound at nightfall on the Nine Mile and nearly perished. Three girls of the party mounted the three horses. Nathan Turner and his wife remained with the wagon, while the rest of the party set out to bring help. It became dark, and for fear of losing their way they were obliged to remain out all night. One of the party succeeded in starting a fire by firing a musket into the outer wood of a dead hemlock tree—there were no matches in those days—and thus kept the party from freezing. News of these people reached Lymansville the next morning, and John Lyman and Jacob Vanatter took fresh teams and went to their rescue.

Both families settled for a short time in a cabin on the farm now belonging to Justus Mehring, but they removed a short time afterwards to the farm known as the Stephen Sherwood place just below Mina, where they lived together for many years. John Dingman's parents afterwards came, and the elder Dingman, who was a millwright, built a mill on the river bank at the mouth of Dingman Run. It was badly damaged soon afterwards by high water; he then built another mill farther up the run, the remains of this last mill dam being yet easily seen.

Nathan Turner was accidentally shot and killed in 1834 by George Taggart, who mistook him for a deer. George Taggart grieved over this sad blunder the rest of his life.

Another well known settler of this period was Jonathan Edgcomb. He came to Lymansville in 1811 and started to clear a piece of land, but gave it up and returned to his former home near Lake George. He came again in 1818 and accepted an offer from John Keating of 100 acres of land on a site Keating should designate, if he would build and maintain a road house there for three years. This house was the old Cherry Springs hotel, and here Edgcomb settled in June, 1818, having just married Major Lyman's stepdaughter, Lucretia Spafford, then a girl of sixteen. The place was so remote from neighbors and so subject to annoyance from wandering Indians, who on one occasion filled up on whiskey and built a huge bonfire in front of the house (without, however, doing any damage), that Edgcomb and his young wife sold out when the three years were up and removed to Ayres Hill, settling on the farm we now know as the John Bloomer place, Mrs. Bloomer being a granddaughter of Jonathan Edgcomb. The Cherry Springs hotel passed successively to the following owners:—A Mr. Cannon, Abraham Kimball, Sterling Devans, S. D. Seward of New York, who built a new hotel, kept for many years by Warren Corsaw. It burned in 1897, and the site is now only a deserted and partially overgrown clearing on the Jersey Shore Pike.

Nathan B. Palmer was another early settler on Ayres Hill. His name is mentioned on several road views in early times, and he was the first county clerk. He afterwards removed to the state of Indiana, where he became a leading citizen and eventually was elected to the State Senate.

The first death in the county was that of a Mr. Beckwith, a settler on his way to McKean County. He was taken sick and died at Major Lyman's, and was buried on a farm formerly owned by Mort Benson, west of the corners at Lymansville. His grave was not marked, and its location is lost.

Another road was authorized by court in December, 1816. It is known as the old Angelica road. It followed the present road from Lymansville up North Hollow to the present fork of the road near the watering trough. Thence it followed a route long since vacated over the hill through the sugar bush on the Miles Harris place, coming off the ridge towards Colesburg across what is now the Albert Davie farm. Thence it led up Dwight Creek and over the hill east of Andrews Settlement, passing through the place now known as Reynoldstown. The old location from Ellisburg to Genesee was on the east side of the valley and led

over three very steep hills, instead of following the course of the stream; the northern portion of the old road is still open, being used only by a few farmers who live along its course. At Genesee it crossed the main branch of the river, meeting the road leading from Whitesville, N. Y., to Shongo, Wellsville, and Angelica, which seems to have been built several years before. The Angelica road was laid out by Daniel Clark, Sr. Only small portions of this road are now in use and some sections of it are now very difficult to trace.

It seems hard to understand at the present day why a road should be located with such steep grades, and on a course that would not now be considered by any road viewer. As a matter of fact, the first relocation on this route was made as long ago as 1827. This road was for many years the only route from Lymanville to Colesburg, the Allegheny road from Nelson Clark's to Colesburg being opened at a much later date. But we must remember that Lymanville, not Coudersport, was the center of population of Potter County in those days; that the early road builders followed the ridges instead of the valleys, when practicable, so as to avoid making dug roads and building bridges. Only three bridges had been authorized by court in Potter before 1820, all at the session of December, 1815, namely, over Kettle Creek on the Jersey Shore pike; over the Oswayo at Millport; and over Pine Creek at Walton, or possibly West Pike. The descriptions of roads and bridges in the official records of these times refer to land marks long since destroyed or obliterated, and are extremely hard to follow from the figures given. Some roads authorized by court were never built at all, and several were already in use before they were surveyed. I have attempted to describe only a few of the most important roads, including all those opened during the period now under consideration. These early roads were little more than tracks cut through the forest, and would be thought impassable by the traveler of to-day; those of us who worked in the lumber woods during the latter part of the 19th century will understand me when I say that they were just such roads as those over which we used to haul supplies to lumber camps. Little grading was done, and breakdowns on the road were the rule rather than the exception. No man would have thought of starting on a trip with a team and wagon without having an ax handy to cut out trees that often fell and blocked the road.

A road to the Cowanesque valley was cut through in 1820; it is still in use as the road from Sweden Valley to Ulysses via Brookland. East of Ulysses it followed the ridge nearly to Harrison Valley, this section of the road being little used after

the opening of the road via the Worden schoolhouse and the village of Mills, some years later. Mrs. Lavinia Lewis tells us that this early road ran east of the first settlements in the town of Ulysses.

It is certain that there were a few settlers in what is now Harrison township before 1820, but so little information about them is obtainable that I have deferred the description of these settlements to the next chapter. It is probable that there were also a few settlers in Sharon at this time, of which I can learn nothing beyond the settlement of Thomas Butler at Shinglehouse in 1806, already mentioned.

The first doctor who came into the county was Dr. Eastman, who divided his time between Lymansville and Smethport. Harry Lyman, third son of Major Lyman, went to Lawrenceville in 1816 and studied medicine with Dr. P. Powers—few doctors attended medical colleges in those days. He returned to Lymansville and practiced in Potter County till his death in the 1850's. During the latter part of his life he kept a hotel at Millport.

A short term of school was taught on Ayres Hill by Harley Knickerbocker, the teacher being paid by subscription, as was the case with several other of the first teachers in the County. Another term of school was taught near Lymansville by Israel Merrick, and another by Miss Cena Jackson, afterwards Mrs. Samuel Taggart. Obadiah Sartwell's log house was used as a schoolhouse by a man named Hurlburt. The exact dates of these terms of school are not obtainable, but those named all belonged to the period before 1820.

In 1816 a mail route was established from Jersey Shore to Olean, the postoffices on the route being at Lymansville, where Major Lyman was postmaster, and at Ceres, with John King as postmaster. Prior to this time, there had been no postoffice nearer than Jersey Shore. Later, a postoffice was established at Clara, said to be the next oldest in the County. The first mail carrier was one Wallace; then John Murphy, 1820 to 1824; James Collins, 1824 to 1828; Samuel S. Moss, 1828 to 1832; Moses Haney, 1832 to 1840. Many trips were missed during the deep snows in winter.

As previously related, the county was organized as a single township, named Eulalia, attached to Lycoming County, in 1810. In 1816, a new township was organized, to be called Roulet, named for John Sigismund Roulet, of Philadelphia, an associate of John Keating in the land company. Roulet township, as first organized, extended north to the State line, including the present townships of Pleasant Valley, Clara, and Sharon. Isaac Lyman, Nathan B. Palmer, and Samuel Beach were the viewers.

The first tax duplicate in Potter County of which we have a record is for the year 1813, but it is likely that taxes were paid before that time. The total amount of taxes assessed for the whole county was \$13.92 of which a small amount was abated, leaving \$12.00 paid over to the county clerk. The unseated lands seem not to have been taxed at this time, but appear on the assessment in 1817. About half of all the taxes collected were used as one might naturally suppose, in making roads. At this period there was but one county treasurer and one county clerk for Potter and McKean Counties, but each county had one commissioner and one auditor of its own. John King, of Ceres, was the first county treasurer and Nathan B. Palmer, of Ayres Hill, the first county clerk. All court business was transacted at Williamsport.

Potter County still contained only a few straggling settlements in 1820. The settlers in the central part of the county nearly all lived along the road from Sweden Valley to Burtville, with Lymansville as the center of population and the only post-office in the county. A few families lived on Ayres Hill; two near where Galetton now is, with an unbroken forest between them and the Keating farm in Sweden. There were a few settlers in the extreme northeastern part of the county; a road was only just being opened to connect them with the settlement at Lymansville. Their nearest postoffices were Spring Mills and Knoxville. There were also a few settlers in the Oswayo valley and possibly on the Honeoye or the Eleven Mile; their postoffice was Ceres. Their road to Lymansville led over Crandall Hill and down Sheldon Hollow. There were as yet no settlers on the Angelica road; at least none are on record till a few years later. A few families had come in from Sizerville to the present site of Emporium Junction; this region was then a part of Potter County. Roads were poor and used only for hauling supplies; people usually traveled on foot and followed the nearest route through the forest, which was open and afforded better footing than the roads. Trails often used were marked by blazing trees along the route. There was not yet a store in the county; to reach one, a trip of 70 miles must be made through the forest, camping overnight on the road. There was no market such as we know to-day. Such products as the settlers could sell were exchanged for supplies or turned in as payments on land. Money was very scarce and chances to work for wages even more so. The population had increased very slowly; the whole county contained only 186 people in 1820. The county seat was still at Williamsport. People lived on what they could raise or take from the woods. Men had literally to make their living in those days. Such was Potter County in 1820.

### CHAPTER III

#### FURTHER SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. 1820-1833

The decade from 1820 to 1830 is marked by a speeding up of settlement and development in our county. Many new settlements were made, old ones increased in population, and several more roads were opened. First of all, let us make the acquaintance of some of the prominent settlers who came into the neighborhoods already partly occupied.

Cephas Nelson settled on the place now belonging to his grandson, Almeron T. Nelson, at Lymansville, in 1820. His wife was before her marriage Eunice Lyman, a daughter of Major Isaac Lyman. She was the first midwife who settled in Potter County and attended nearly all the early families. Another son-in-law of Major Lyman, Thomas Bellows, whose wife was Lydia Lyman, settled on what is now the Harold Holcomb farm in 1821. He remained several years and finally moved to Port Allegany. Almon Woodcock settled on what is now the Pfuntner farm the following year. Silas Nelson, a half brother of Cephas Nelson, settled in 1822 on the farm now owned by N. J. Leete & Son. In 1827 another brother, John Nelson, settled on the farm in North Hollow that we know as the Watering Trough farm, now occupied by George Rossman, being one of the first to locate on the Angelica road. Chester Corsaw settled in 1824 on the well known Corsaw farm in Sweden. He and his sons kept the famous Corsaw hotel, which in early days was at the junction of the Cowanesque road with the original East and West road, making it a frequent stopping place for travelers. His daughter afterwards became the wife of Marcus J. Flynn, well known in the middle of the last century as the keeper of a hotel at the place we now call Walton.

Joshua Jackson came to the county in 1820 from Broome County, New York. He lived for a short time on the Justus Mehring farm, then about a year in Lymansville, finally settling on Ayres Hill. His house stood nearly opposite to the site afterwards occupied by the Ayres Hill schoolhouse, near to the present township line between Homer and Summit. Another early settler at Lymansville was Alva Clark, a blacksmith by trade. His shop with an old fashioned stone forge, stood on the bank of the spring creek nearly opposite the Pfuntner house. He died in 1830. Reuben M. Clark came to Potter in 1823 and settled on the farm now owned by Joseph Grom at the mouth of Gordon Hollow, two miles above Coudersport.



**JONATHAN EDGCOMB**

Builder of the first hotel at Cherry Springs, 1818, and pioneer settler on Ayres Hill, 1821. The boy is his young grandson, Martin Floyd.



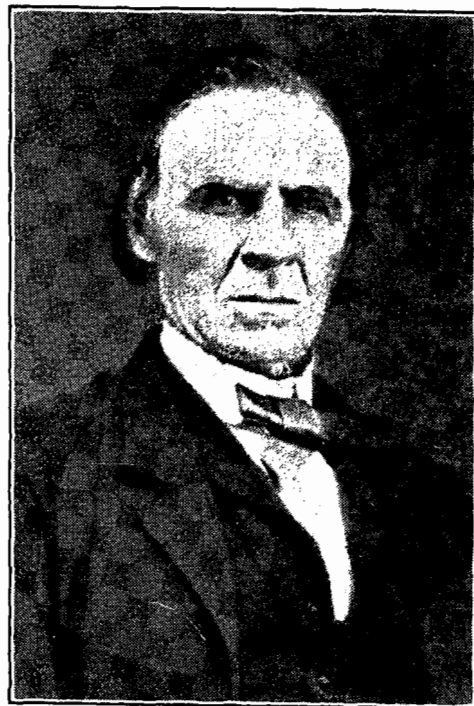
**CEPHAS NELSON. 1783-1855.**

Early settler at Lymansville, 1820.



**SAMUEL HAVEN**

Prominent citizen of Coudersport, came in 1835. Authority on local history.



**JOHN EARL, JR. 1800-1880**

Early settler on property now owned by the Elk Tanning Co. at Coudersport, about 1823. Son-in-law of John Taggart, who settled on the Allegheny two miles below Coudersport in 1816.





In the Roulet neighborhood, there were Jacob and Truman Streeter, owners of a sawmill, who took up land on the present site of the village of Roulet. They came some time previous to 1820. Russell Reed, the founder of the well-known Reed settlement between Mina and Roulet, came in 1823. His sons, Philander and James, were the first settlers on Sartwell Creek, each of three sons taking for a wife a daughter of Benjamin Burt, the other son, Frank, remaining in the Reed neighborhood. Another son, John, was an early settler in Coudersport. Reuben Card settled on the place now belonging to his descendant, Marcus R. Card, at an early date, probably before 1825.

In 1825 John L. Cartee settled in Coudersport and opened a hotel where the county jail now stands. He purchased the whole square for \$16.00. The original form of the name is Cartier (Cart-ya) and the family is of French ancestry. Captain David Ross came to Coudersport in 1827. He was a surveyor and agent for the Bingham lands, the agent for the Keating lands during this period being John King, of Ceres. Captain Ross married Mary Ann Knight, stepdaughter of John L. Cartee, soon after he came to Potter. He and his son, Sobieski Ross, were long prominent in the affairs of Coudersport and of Potter County, later becoming landholders on their own account and maintaining an office which is remembered by our older citizens. It was situated on North Main Street where the house of John Miller now stands. Among other holdings of the Ross estate were most of that part of Coudersport east of the Second Street bridge, and a large portion of what is now the South Side. Mrs. Ross outlived her husband and son, and in her old age contributed much to our knowledge of early times in Potter, through reminiscences given to Dr. E. S. Mattison, John R. Groves, and others. She was fifteen years of age when she came to Coudersport with her mother and stepfather in 1825. She has given an enumeration of the settlers living on the East and West road at this time, which I shall transcribe, adding an explanation of the exact place where each family lived, so far as I am able:—

1. Samuel Losey. Place adjoining the Tioga County line.
2. John Ives. On the present site of Galeton.
3. Keating House. The place now owned by Milo Freeman.
4. William Earl. He lived in the Keating House at this time, but this circumstance seems to have been forgotten by Mrs. Ross. His wife was Marietta Spafford, stepdaughter of Major Lyman.
5. Samuel Taggart. This name should have preceded the foregoing, but the names are here given in the order

that Mrs. Ross gives them. He lived on what is now the Bert Holcomb place. The old house stood on the opposite side of the road from the present farmhouse.

6. Silas Nelson. Now N. J. Leete & Son.
7. Cephas Nelson. Now Almeron T. Nelson.
8. Dr. Harry Lyman. Store nearly across the road from Cephas Nelson.
9. Major Isaac Lyman. Nearly on the site of the house now owned by Clyde Hall.
10. Alva Clark. Mrs. Ross does not give his first name. The place we know as the Jap Spafford place, now owned by Walter Jones. Alva Clark's shop stood on the bank of the spring run, nearly opposite to where the Pfuntner house is now.
11. John Reed. In Obadiah Sartwell's log house at Coudersport, just south of the site now occupied by Mrs. Heck's house.
12. John Peet. Now Julius S. Colcord.
13. John Earl. Site now a part of the tannery property.
14. Henry Dingman. Mill at the mouth of Dingman Run.
15. Leonard Taggart. J. M. Harris place.
16. Squire Taggart. White House, W. S. Gates.
17. Nathan Turner. Stephen Sherwood place, now belonging to Dave Trautman, just below Mina.
18. Russell Reed. Now Francis Reed.
19. John Lyman. Now the Van Kuren farm adjoining the John Lyman cemetery. The old John Lyman house burned in 1912, and a tenant house belonging to Mr. Van Kuren now occupies the site.
20. Burrell Lyman. The old Burrell Lyman house stood at the east end of what is now the village of Roulet, and was torn down by Hollis Lyman, great grandson of Burrell Lyman, in 1903. A new house was erected on the site.
21. Isaac Lyman Jr., son of Major Lyman. In Roulet. I have not learned the exact site.
22. Three families of Streeters, owners of sawmill. In Roulet, exact site uncertain.
23. John K. Burt. His place adjoined that of his father, Benjamin Burt, at Burtville, whom Mrs. Ross seems to have forgotten or confused with his son. John K. Burt was only fourteen years old at this time.
24. The Colemans. In McKean County.
25. Mr. Lillibridge (Lodowick Lillibridge), In McKean County.

Mrs. Ross certainly misses a few names in the above list. Reuben Card, and possibly one or two others who lived near Roulet at that time are not mentioned. She does not mention Reuben Clark; he seems to have been the only resident on the river road above Coudersport at this time, the Nelson Clark family having been absent in Connecticut from 1824 to 1829. She names the settlers on Ayres Hill as follows: Jacob Vanatter, William Ayres, Nathan Hinkle, George Ayres, Joshua Jackson, and one vacant house. She omits from this list Jonathan Edgcomb, but this must be a slip in memory, as other accounts state positively that he located on Ayres Hill in 1821. She mentions Thomas Bellows and Almon Woodcock as living in North Hollow. Almon Woodcock then lived on the Pfuntner farm at Lymansville and Thomas Bellows on the Harold Holcomb place. The Rossman family moved in about this time or soon after, locating on the place adjoining on the north, now a part of the Holcomb farm. Mrs. Ross says that in 1828 there were but three families in Coudersport; her stepfather, John L. Cartee, Timothy Ives, and Nathan Hinkle (possibly she means Michael Hinkle, who then lived on what is now the Court House Square). The following quotation is from Mrs. Ross' reminiscences given to Dr. Mattison in his history of Potter County, about 1887:—

“John L. Cartee, my stepfather, came to Potter County from Massachusetts in June, 1824, for the purpose of selecting a house, locating the same year in Coudersport, where he bought for \$16 a village square, whereon the jail now stands. Here, in the fall of the same year, he commenced to build a house, but scarcity of lumber and cold weather compelled him to discontinue operations. The county commissioners had cleared three or four squares, which they leased to Mr. Cartee, who sowed them to wheat. In the spring of 1825 he moved his family, consisting of a wife, stepdaughter, and little son, together with two hired men, and on May 10, they reached Coudersport, a desolate looking place, no house or building of any kind, except a small commissioners office, which had been erected the year before. [This was the building that had been Obadiah Sartwell's blacksmith shop.]

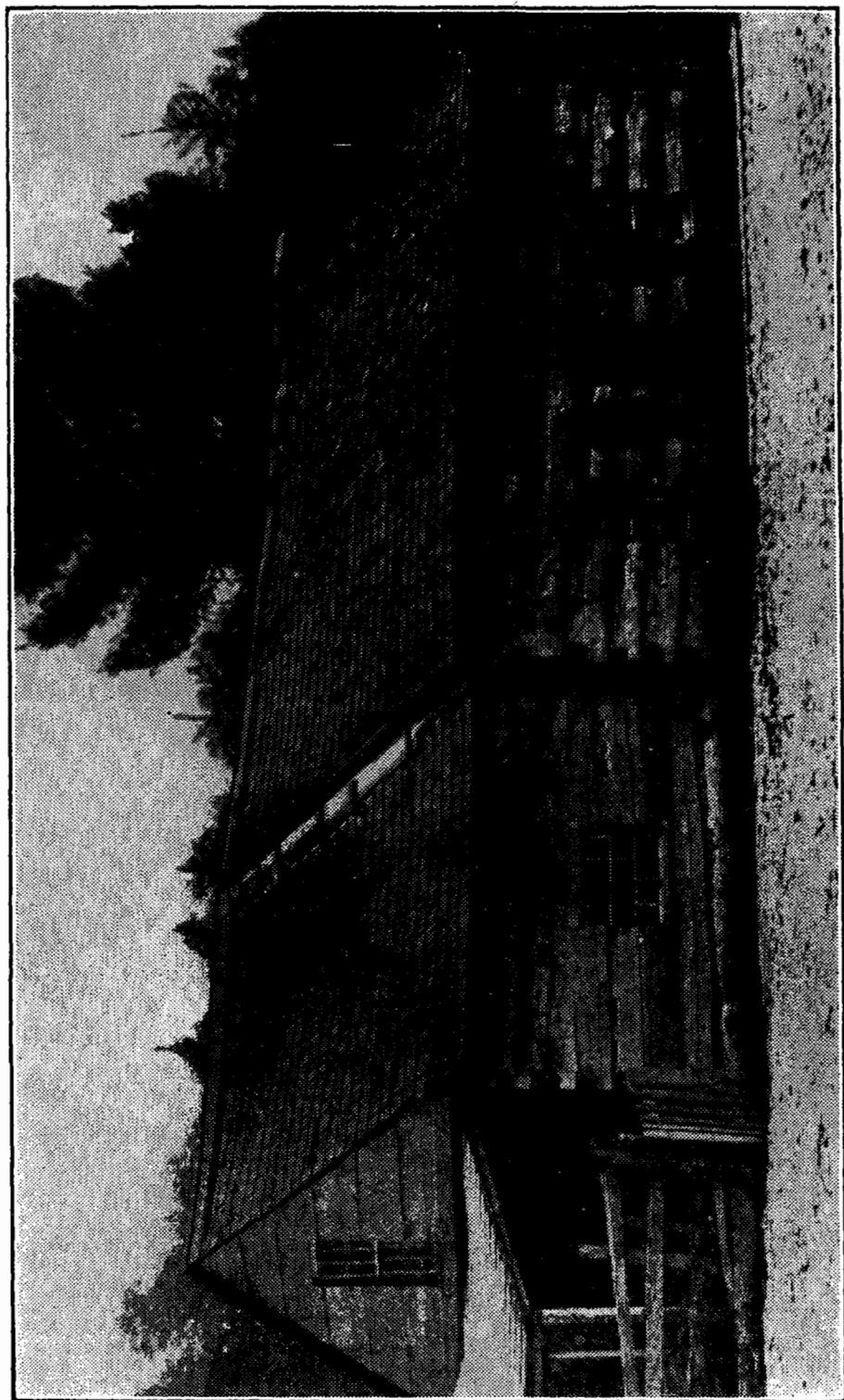
“On what is now called the south side, the Keatings had a few acres cleared with a barn erected thereon, and apart from this clearing the place was a dense wilderness, our nearest neighbor being nearly a mile west of us. The Eulalia Keating farm, as it was called until recently, is a body of land on the south bank of the Allegheny river; a portion of the village known as the South Side and containing nearly one-half the population of the whole town, is built on this farm, and on lands belonging to the Ross estate on the eastern part of this division of the village.

"Ere we reached Coudersport, we stopped for a short time at Lymansville, a thriving village founded by Isaac Lyman, who located at the place in 1809. . . . Isaac Lyman had then the best house in the county, and John Keating and his general agent, John King, used to make it their stopping-place on their annual visits, and the county elections were held there for a long time. In September, 1825, the elections were held at the house of John L. Cartee, and in 1826 and many years thereafter, John Keating and his agent made Mr. Cartee's house their headquarters in this section,

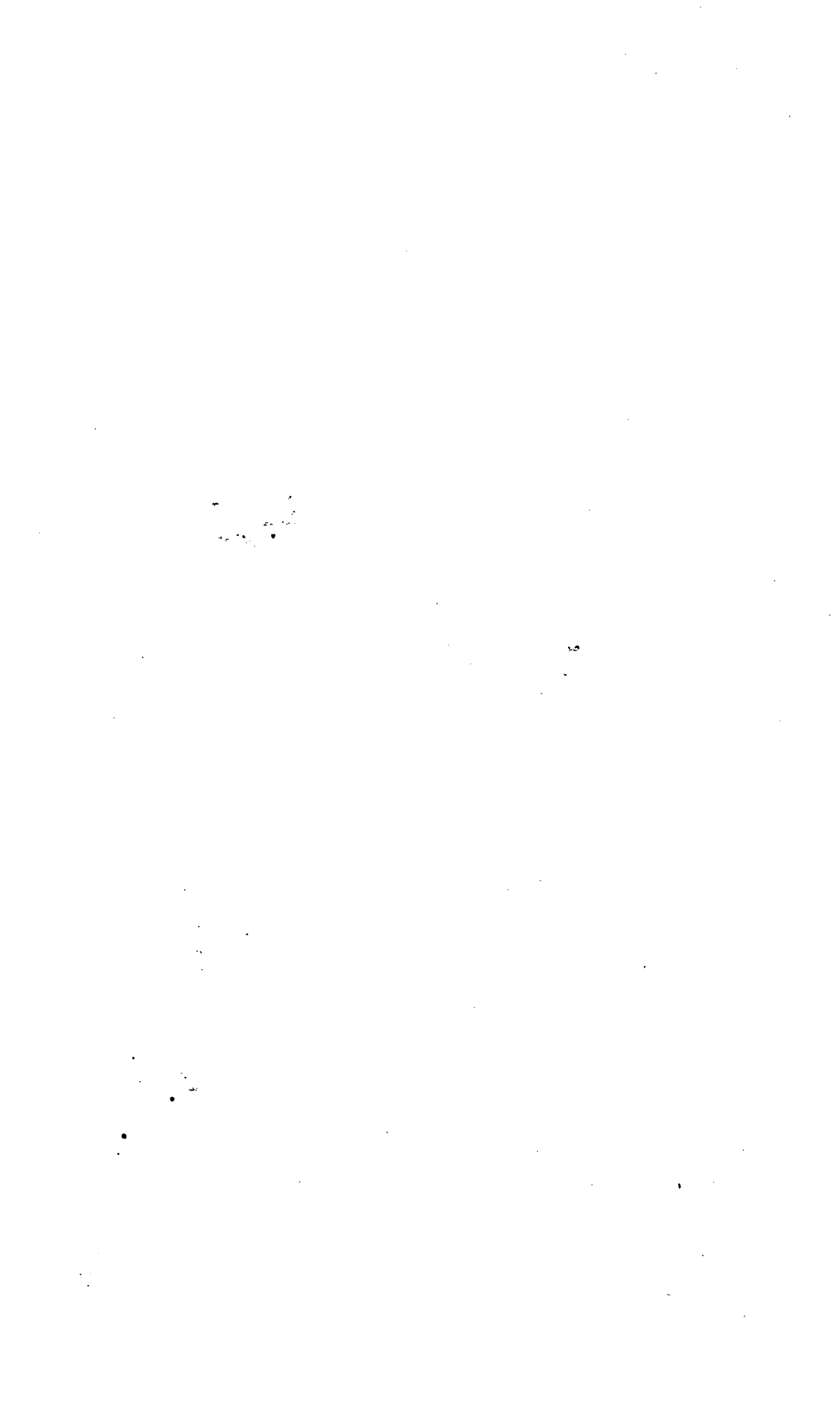
"But to return to my original narrative of the Cartee family. We had a late dinner with Cephas Nelson (son-in-law of Isaac Lyman), who had been in the county about eight years, and we reached Coudersport late in the afternoon, and set about arranging for our first night in our wilderness home, which at that time consisted of a cluster of board tents erected in the course of a few hours, and a shanty built the previous fall. There were plenty of boards and shingles on hand, but scantling, joists and rafters had to be hewed out of logs and small timber. In ten days we moved into the addition erected by the side of the large frame. We had to cook out of doors; but Mrs. Cartee, being a Yankee woman, could not get along without an oven, so soon after, a stone oven was built, and then a fireplace, although there was neither brick nor lime nearer than a distance of from forty to sixty miles.

"Mr. Cartee soon set about making arrangements for erecting a grist-mill. He succeeded in constructing a dam across the Allegheny river, and in 1826 he erected a frame building for the mill. In the fall of the same year a flood carried away the dam, and the mill was never completed. One of the millstones brought from Jersey Shore for the proposed industry is now in Mrs. Ross' grounds. Mr. Cartee was public spirited, but trying to do more than he could accomplish, he became discouraged and dissatisfied with the country, so in 1838 or 1840 he went West, only occasionally revisiting the scenes of his pioneer labor; he died in the far West about 1863."

In the foregoing quotation it will be noticed that Mrs. Ross mentions the fact that the county commissioners had had a tract of land cleared in what was to be the county seat. An act of the legislature in 1822 authorized them to clear the county court sites of timber and brush, the land cleared not to exceed 30 acres in area. John Dingman, Leonard Taggart, and either Harley or Peter Knickerbocker took a job of clearing this land, becoming security for each other. They chopped it and burned



**OLD CHERRY SPRINGS HOTEL.**  
Built by Jonathan Edgcomb, 1818. Torn down, 1875.



it, fencing it with logs. It must be noted that John Keating had conveyed to the county two thirds of the original town plot of 90 acres, reserving every third lot.

In September, 1824 Potter County was attached to McKean, and Smethport became the county seat. From this time on, Potter transacted her own business and had her own county commissioners, treasurer, and clerk, being united with McKean only for judicial purposes. The first county commissioners were Ephraim Fuller, Leonard Taggart, and John Lyman. The first county treasurer was Dr. Harry Lyman, followed by Timothy Ives in 1826.

The first store in the county was opened by Dr. Harry Lyman at Lymanville in 1824, in a log building nearly opposite the house of Cephas Nelson. The goods were hauled on wagons all the way from Philadelphia. Timothy Ives, Jr., of Bingham was elected county treasurer in 1825. He removed his residence to Coudersport, and built a store on the southwest corner of East and Second Streets, where the Stephens Block is now situated. This was the first store in Coudersport.

Versel Dickinson came to Coudersport in 1826. He taught school at Lymanville one or two terms. Mary Ann Knight also taught a term of school just preceding her marriage. No school tax was levied at this time, teachers being paid by subscription. Our State did not provide free schools in all districts till 1834. Versel Dickinson built a tavern in 1827 where the Potter County Garage now stands. This hotel was known as the Old Hickory Tavern and continued in business either as a store or hotel till it was burned in 1908, but it was much improved and enlarged by later owners. The original building still formed a part of the hostelry when it burned. This hotel will be mentioned again in a later chapter. Dickinson's name appears in several lawsuits in early times, indicating that he was a lover of litigation. He was also a famous horse-fancier, a forerunner of such later Coudersportians as Ame Velie, D. F. Glassmire, Sr., and two or three of our citizens now living who are so well known that I need not mention them by name. Versel Dickinson also built a tannery in Coudersport on the west bank of the river above the Second Street bridge. He removed to Ellisburg later in life, where he kept a store for some years. A man by the name of Crary came to Coudersport in 1829, and made a clearing on the top of the hill west of town, which was for some time afterwards known as Crary Hill. He had been assisting Luther Strong in building a mill at the mouth of Dump Hollow on the river road above Coudersport, where he had a lathe for turning wooden bowls, rolling pins, etc., and I believe also a sawmill. The race



of this mill is still easily traced. Crary built a house on his clearing, but when he found out that he had located on land that had been donated by John Keating for school purposes, he abandoned the place and moved away. Luther Strong had previously lived in Allegany County, N. Y., where he built a sawmill at Andover in 1817 and a grist mill in 1819. He dismantled these mills and brought the machinery to Coudersport. While living at Andover, he also operated a distillery.

One more settler in Coudersport deserves mention here. Noble Howland came in 1828, keeping a tavern in Coudersport, and part of the time residing on the farm now owned by his grandson, Frank Howland, where he finally settled, dying there many years afterward at the age of 86. He also built one of the early sawmills on the Sinnemahoning.

It will be seen that Coudersport, unlike most towns, was not built on the farm of some settler who had cleared up the land many years before, and realized a handsome profit from the sale of building lots. It was located as a county seat by John Keating and confirmed as such by the State legislature, and was laid out as a town plot before a single settler had arrived, or a single tree had been cut on the town site. This explains why the streets of Coudersport run with the compass, instead of being a maze of thoroughfares running in all directions, as is the case in so many other towns. The intention of John Keating was to have the public buildings located on the west hill, commanding a view of the town. But only the Academy and the first Presbyterian church were ever located in accordance with this plan. Practical considerations outweighed the aesthetic tastes of the original land owner.

Dennis Hall, Sr., came to Coudersport in the winter of 1829. His house, built the same year, stood on the lot now occupied by the residence of Dr. E. H. Ashcraft, and being yet in good condition was moved back to the river bank when the doctor built his house about the beginning of the present century. Later it was torn down and used in the construction of Dr. Ashcraft's hunting camp on the Cross Fork. It was a pity that this house should not have been preserved. There is now, so far as known to the writer, no building standing in the county that was erected earlier than 1837.

Dennis Hall was one of those men, who, like the proverbial rolling stone, gathered no moss. His grandson, Horace H. Hall, can not enumerate all the different localities in Potter County in which he lived. He had a mania for speculation, especially in land. His son, David Hall, built the first house on the South Side on the square where the house of Mort Lilly now stands.

Dennis Hall, in company with Philander Bishop, built the first tannery in Coudersport, just back of where the house of Mrs. Anna Stocking now stands. He was a picturesque and interesting character among the early residents of Coudersport. His last location was in Homer Township, where he died in 1854. He will be mentioned later in connection with the Homer settlement.

In 1820 a bridge was authorized over Portage Creek, probably the bridge near Emporium Junction, this being then a part of Potter County. A bridge was ordered the same year over the Allegheny at Nathan Turner's. This bridge was evidently at the Mannteufel place, on what we know as the old Salt-works road from Mina to Keating Summit, which was then known as Seven-mile Hollow. This road seems to have been already in use at this time, though it was not authorized by court till May, 1826. It was used by the early settlers to reach the salt springs at Big Elk Lick, the place we know as Gardeau. A man by the name of Thomas is said to have manufactured salt here so long ago as 1800. The early settlers sometimes took kettles and boiled down their own salt, but it would seem that more often it was purchased at a rude salt factory then in operation at this place.

The Salt Works Road crossed the river at the Mannteufel place, leading directly up a small hollow to the crest of the continental divide, thence around the head of Freeman Run, meeting the present road from Mina to Keating Summit near the present junction with the Odin road, following the same location to a point near the Lookoff. Thence it led directly over the high knob on what we now call the Hall place, following a location south of the present road, coming into Keating Summit down the hollow back of the old Forest House hotel. Some portions of this road may still be traced. It was vacated when the road known as the State road from Coudersport to Emporium was opened in 1861.

The first road over Dutch Hill seems to have been the one confirmed by court in May, 1826. A portion of the Angelica road was relocated in 1827. I have already mentioned the Cowanesque road, opened in 1820. A road to the First Fork of the Sinnemahoning was located in 1823. But it seems quite certain that no road was opened in this direction till several years later. The first Sinnemahoning road is known as the Old Ridge Road. It led from Ayres Hill along the ridge between Moore's Run and the South Fork of the Sinnemahoning, coming off the hill at the present site of the Rees Settlement cemetery. It has not been in use since about 1850.

Another early road, and one that is still in use, is the road from Andrews Settlement via Rose Lake and Oswayo, meeting the old road from Coudersport to Ceres at Millport. This road was confirmed in 1827. A State road across the northern part of Potter County from east to west, also extending across Tioga and Bradford counties, was authorized in 1821. According to the best information I can obtain, this road led up the North Fork of the Cowanesque, through the present sites of Whites Corners and North Bingham, down Mundy Brook to the present site of Genesee, there meeting the Angelica road. The western end of this road, from Genesee to Ceres, seems never to have been opened. The Rooks road, leading over the ridge from Sweden Hill via Newfield and Bingham Center to North Bingham, was opened in 1825. Parts of this road are still in use, but the middle section from Newfield Junction to a point west of the town of Ulysses, has long been vacated, and there have been some relocations between Ulysses and North Bingham. In the same year, a road was opened up the main branch of the Cowanesque; and a road west from Harrison Valley, described as leading from P. Stratton's up past J. Johnson's to the 16 mile tree, was opened in 1826. A road up the Eleven Mile to the State line was ordered in 1827. A road up Sartwell Creek was also among the early roads. The above list comprises most of the important roads opened during this period. A complete list of all these roads and a detailed description of each, would entail an immense amount of study and research, and would be intelligible only if illustrated on a large scale map of Potter County.

So far, we have considered only the settlements along the old East and West road in the Allegheny valley with a few on Ayres Hill. But during the period before 1833, settlements were begun in most of the townships in the county, and these we must now consider.

William Ellsworth settled at the mouth of the Nine Mile in 1828, building a double log house. Nine Mile Run is named from the fact that it was nine miles from the mouth of the run to the Keating place in Sweden township. Ellsworth kept a tavern for several years, and built a grist mill in 1829. His former home was in Tioga County, near the present site of Stokesdale. At the time of his settlement, his nearest neighbor was John Ives, who lived on the present site of Galeton. Ellsworth's house was the polling place for the townships of Ulysses, Sweden, Jackson, Pike, Hector, West Branch, Abbott, Stewardson, and part of Summit in 1829. This was before the above townships had been organized, and Ellsworth's house was used for elections to avoid the long trip to Lymanville from the eastern settlements. An-

other early settler on Pine Creek was David Kilbourne, who built a sawmill at Losey's Narrows, two miles below the present site of Galeton, in 1824. The Metzger family settled on Pine Creek at the east end of what is now Galeton about 1830.

The first settlers on the Sinnemahoning came up the river in canoes, some time from 1816 to 1822; the exact date is uncertain. John Bearfield, or Berfield, as the name is now spelled, was probably the first. He was a famous riverman and raftsman. He settled on the farm adjoining the county line, where he lived the rest of his life, and raised a family of twelve sons and five daughters, many of the sons being also noted as lumbermen and raftsmen in the days when pine lumbering was the leading business on the Sinnemahoning. Another early settler was Seneca Freeman, who settled on the farm at the mouth of the East Fork better known as the Seibert place. His father, Brewster Freeman, was one of the pioneers of Cameron County, having settled in 1817 on a farm near Emporium Junction; this was a part of Potter County at that time. Daniel Bailey settled at the mouth of Bailey Run, and according to the best authorities, built the first grist mill on the Sinnemahoning. John Nelson came up the river from Milton, Pa., and settled on the Nelson farm a mile above the mouth of the East Fork in 1824. This John Nelson must not be confounded with John Nelson, brother of Silas and Cephas Nelson, previously mentioned; the two were not related. The place still remains in the possession of the Nelson family. George Lourshbaugh settled on the place known as the David Card farm a year or two later; he remained a few years and went West. These early settlers in Wharton were famous hunters, and had some famous encounters with panthers, bears and wolves, these animals being often seen in those days. James Jordan and James Wylie were other early pioneers of Wharton.

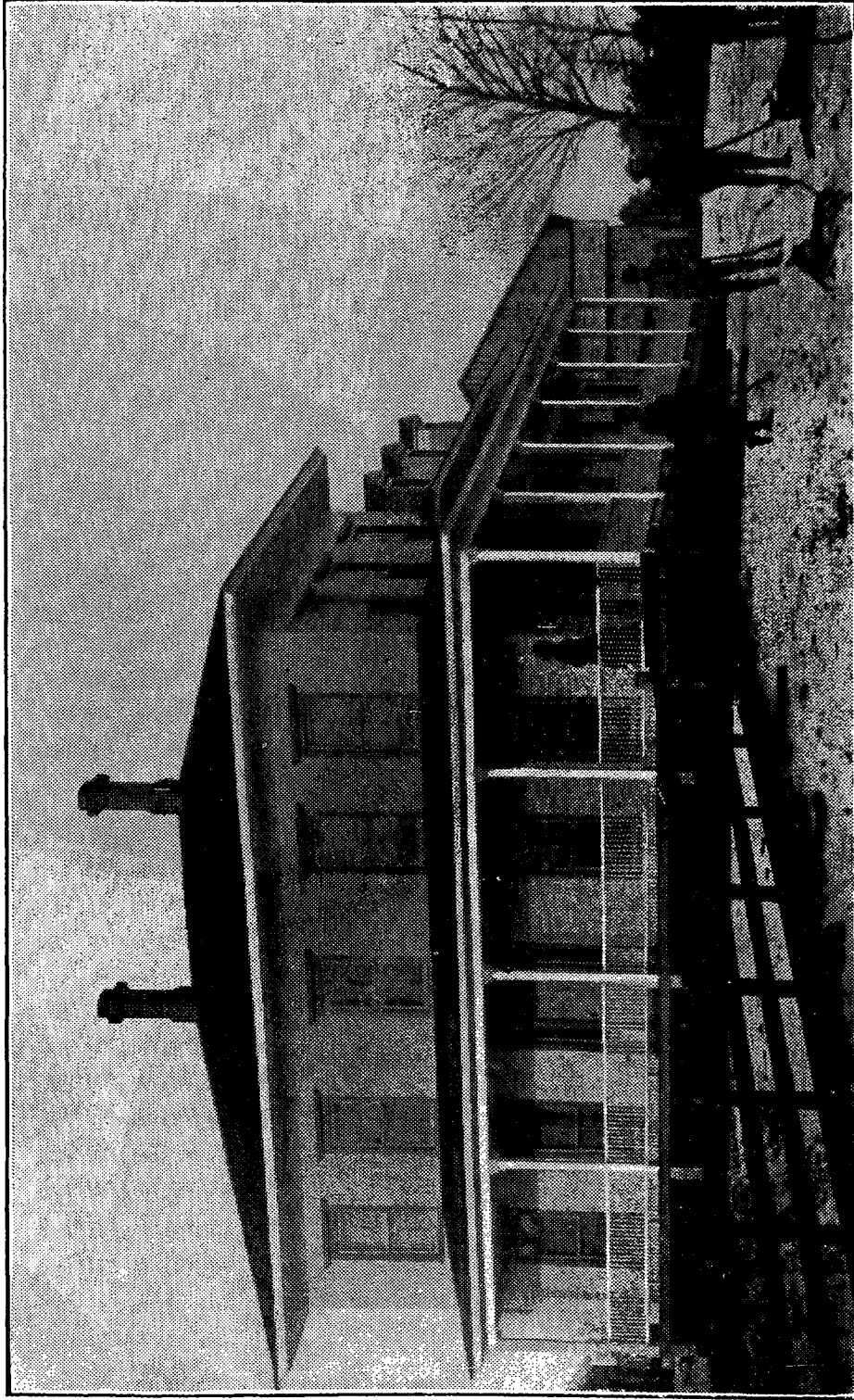
The following quotation graphically describes the life of the pioneer on the Sinnemahoning. It is taken from a letter to the Potter Enterprise, found in the issue of Feb. 11, 1875. The author is Pardon Haskins, whose father settled in Wharton a few years later than the men already mentioned.

"My father moved in by way of Ayres Hill. The roads were poor and rough, and we had to get our provisions from Lock Haven, bringing them up the river in canoes. It was the custom to make a board or timber raft, take the canoe on the raft, run down the river to Lock Haven, sell the lumber, and load the canoe with goods, pushing the canoe up the stream home; and fish, hunt, and farm the cleared land. We had no schools or churches to go to. On Sunday in the winter time, we would go skating, and in the summer fish for trout and 'rassle' for eels. There was

not a horse in the township at this time. Soon after, Archibald Logue bought a team, and the boys and girls used them on many a frolic. For hold back strips we used rags, and the lines were made of ropes. When we came into Wharton there were three sawmills. The first mill was built by Daniel Bailey on Bailey Run, and a 'corn cracker' was built some ten rods up the run. He afterwards built a mill farther down the stream. The third mill was built by Seneca Freeman on the East Fork, and the fourth mill by Noble Howland on the farm that William Smith now lives on. I am now living in Sylvania, but when my father came into Wharton in the spring and Eli Rees in the fall, not a person was living within the boundaries of this township."

The date of the Rees Settlement is given variously by different writers, but at a reunion of the Rees family, a few years ago, a short historical article was presented, which I have accepted as authoritative. According to this account, Eli Rees, Sr., settled on the upper Sinnemahoning, just above Costello, in 1830, coming from Chester, Pa. He came as agent for William Carson, who in turn was the agent for lands belonging to Samuel Webb, who at this time owned a considerable tract of land in this part of the county. Carson laid out a town plot on the land afterward occupied by the northern and eastern part of the village of Costello, and built a grist mill, but failed to attract settlers. Whether this was before or after the coming of the Rees family is not clear. Eli Rees had a family of six sons and two daughters, one the wife of John Gillespie (the name is now spelled Glaspy), who was also one of the party. They came over Ayres Hill, and were obliged to cut their road for a part of the distance. This proves that no road had been opened from Coudersport to the Sinnemahoning at this time, the earlier settlers buying supplies down the river, and seldom having occasion to come to the county seat. Eli Rees received 400 acres for himself as the founder of the settlement. His nearest neighbor was John Nelson, five miles down the stream. Eli Rees, Jr., afterward settled in Coudersport, and will be mentioned in a later chapter. Most of the Rees and Glaspy families remained, and some of their descendants still reside in the neighborhood. In 1838 Charles Wykoff settled at the mouth of Moores Run.

We must now turn to the settlement of the northern part of Potter County. It appears to be quite certain that the first settlers were those in the Oswayo valley, adjoining the present site of Shinglehouse. Most of my information regarding these settlers I have obtained from Mr. Fred N. Newton, now of Olean, N. Y., whose father, Amos A. Newton, settled on the second farm on the Oswayo above Shinglehouse in 1844. I have already men-



NEW CHERRY SPRINGS HOTEL.  
Built by S. D. Seward, 1875. Burned, 1897.



tioned the settlement of Thomas Butler, a deserter from the British army, at the mouth of the Honeoye in 1805. Nothing further is known of him. Mr. Newton tells me that the first settler he knows of in this neighborhood was the Frenchman, M. Generet, whose shingled cabin, from which the town of Shinglehouse takes its name, stood just across the line in McKean County. The shingles with which it was covered were what used to be called "shakes," riven, but not shaved, and were pinned with wooden pins to the squared pine timber of which the house was built, nails being scarce and difficult to obtain at that time. This was in 1806. The land warrant on which the town of Shinglehouse is built was owned by another Frenchman, Louis D'Orbigny, but he never settled there. The oldest settler on the Potter County side of the line was Captain Mix, who lived some distance up the Honeoye, and had a sawmill there. Mr. Newton does not know his given name, but it seems quite likely that Amos Mix, whom Almeron Nelson names as one of the viewers of the road from Coudersport to Ceres in 1812, was the same man, which would place the date of his settlement somewhere from 1806 to 1812. He was already an old settler when Amos A. Newton came in 1844. At the earliest date of which Mr. Newton has any knowledge, the settlers on the Oswayo on the road to Coudersport were as follows, beginning just above Shinglehouse: O. C. Warner, Anthony Jones (sold to Amos A. Newton), Benjamin F. Nichols, Amos D. Nichols. John S. Pearsall lived near the Sunnyside bridge, just above the present site of the picnic grove. Isaac and Arad Jones, who came from the North Bingham settlement, which I shall mention later, built a mill on the present site of Shinglehouse in early times, and a man named Hopkins had a blacksmith shop there. Wiley Humphrey built the first store on the present town site, earlier stores having been located farther down stream, near the county line. Tom Nichols and Eleazar Albee were early settlers on the Honeoye. Most of the early settlers in this neighborhood were attracted by the splendid white pine timber, which could be conveniently rafted down the Oswayo and the Allegheny, and practically all of them were engaged in lumbering. Mr. Newton says that there were probably fifty mills on the Oswayo and its branches above Ceres in his youth, and that nearly all of them ran by water-power. The Nichols family, some years before their settlement on the Oswayo, were employed in building the old Holland road in the western part of McKean County, one of the first roads opened in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

In 1827, Joseph Fessenden settled at Millport. He came from Madison County, New York, with a family of seven boys. He moved to the Knowlton place in Roulet in 1828. In 1829 he



went back to Madison County with all his sons except Joel, who settled on Sartwell Creek. In 1832, 46 persons were assessed in Sharon township, showing that the settlement had grown to a considerable size, and Elisha, Ovid, and Theodore Mix had a mill on the Honeoye. A few other names of early settlers are as follows:

Mary Gilbert, Erastus Mulkins, Harvey Fisk, Rufus Cole. Joseph Rew had a saw-mill and grist mill at Sharon Center. Joel H. Rose kept a store on the present site of Sharon Center. Benjamin Hall was an early settler on Horse Run.

The above is about all the information I have been able to gather of the early settlements in Sharon Township. Few data seem to have been recorded prior to the organization of the Oswayo Lumber Company in 1837.

The next in order of the early settlements are those in Harrison Township. The Potter County Journal of April 25, 1851, states that these are generally regarded as the oldest in the county. The present writer believes, however, that the first settlers here came a little later than those in the Allegheny valley, but that the settlements grew faster, on account of their nearness to early settlements in New York State. No road in this section was authorized by court before 1820. The earliest settlers probably came from 1812 to 1816; but no exact data have been preserved. It is probable that the first settlements were on the North Fork of the Cowanesque and at White's Corners. No dates are mentioned till 1823, when a township election was held at a tavern kept by Thomas Colvin, near the site of the old tannery at Harrison Valley, where George Michelfelder now lives. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, Leonard Bates and Daniel Rooks; poormasters, Stephen Richmond and Abner Graves; auditors, Thomas Colvin, Nehemiah Robinson, John Graves, and Phineas Stratton. The last named lived on the corner at Harrison Valley. At this time, as we shall see later, Harrison Township included parts of what is now Bingham, Ulysses, and Hector. Thaddeus Stone and William H. Warner settled in the township in 1825. John White, for whom White's Corners is named and who kept a store at this point, came about the same time. Isaac Thompson founded the settlement at Mills in 1833, and built a sawmill soon afterwards. I can only mention the following settlers, as I am not able to give locations or dates: John Ervay (settled at Harrison Valley, 1829), Samuel M. Robinson (1825) Jonathan Smith, Elisha English, Calvin Cummings, Charles H. Metcalf, Giles Hurlburt (1828). Ansel Purple, the first sheriff of Potter County, came from Harrison, where he kept a tavern, the same that was

formerly kept by Phineas Stratton on the Harrison Valley corner. Large tracts of unseated land in this region were owned by George Harrison and Charles Willing in early times.

The early settlements in Bingham township are nearly as old as those in Harrison, just described, beginning a few years before the time of the opening of the State road, before mentioned, in 1821. Theodore Doty is said to have been the first, in the northeast corner of the township. Next came Daniel Rooks (a soldier of the Revolution) about 1820, John S. Rooks, Dr. Benjamin Van Campen, Jeremiah Chapman, Truman Stevens, and William Howe. The old Howe farm is at North Bingham, which was called Jones' Corners in early times, from James Jones, who was the first postmaster. William Howe built the first sawmill at this place, receiving a bonus of 50 acres from the Bingham Estate as a consideration. Beers' History speaks of Benjamin Van Campen as "an old-fashioned Indian herb-doctor, who died about 1835." Mr. D. F. Glassmire thinks he was not of Indian blood. Before he came to Potter, he was an early settler in Allegany County, N. Y. He was a brother of Moses Van Campen, another well-known pioneer of that county.

No exact dates can be given for the coming of most of these settlers, nor is it possible to say which came first, but they may all be placed between 1816 and 1830. The Kibbe family came to Bingham in 1826. Theodore Carpenter located in the North Bingham neighborhood in 1825. Timothy Ives, Sr., was another very early settler. He came to Bingham in 1823. He became insane during the latter years of his life, the farm passing to his son, Cornelius Ives. Timothy Ives, Jr., was elected treasurer of Potter County in 1824, and has already been mentioned among the early citizens of Coudersport. Isaac Howe, a relative of William Howe, before mentioned, settled in Bingham in 1832. His father, Timothy Howe, was a soldier of the Revolution, and the ancestor of the Howes of Bingham, who have always been among the leading farmers in the county. Levi Andrews, later the founder of Andrews Settlement, was also among the early settlers in Bingham.

Another pioneer family of Bingham is that of Briggs. Ebenezer P. Briggs settled in the township in 1826. His father, Job Briggs, and three brothers, David S., Vose P., and Uriah S. were all among the early settlers, the old Briggs place being located west of North Bingham on the road to Genesee. Asahel H. Briggs, a son of Ebenezer, was known in the 1880's as a minister of the Gospel and a dealer in farm machinery.

A school was early established in the North Bingham settlement. We must remember that a school in Potter County was

at this time entirely a private undertaking, as no school taxes were levied and no board of school directors existed. Many pioneer settlements, like the one at Wharton, described for us by Pardon Haskins in a preceding paragraph, had no schools at all. The first teacher in the settlement at North Bingham was Delila Kibbe, who kept school in a barn belonging to Truman Stevens in 1826. Soon after this, a log schoolhouse was erected, and the first term was taught in it by a Mr. Sanders. There was also a school in Harrison township on the Cowanesque below Harrison Valley at an early date, perhaps before the school at North Bingham.

Farther west on the State road from North Bingham to Genesee, Alvin Spencer was one of the early settlers. In the southern part of the township George W. Daniels settled on the farm about two miles below Ulysses still sometimes called the Daniels farm, in 1827. He was an Adventist, and it is said that he once bought a wagon of Joel Raymond, another early settler in Bingham, on condition that, should Christ come, the note would be settled. Benjamin Worden settled on the well known Worden farm in the southeast of the township in 1831. David Turner settled at or near West Bingham, at some date that is not exactly given, and built a sawmill. Henry Crittenden built a mill on Ludington Run, in the south of the township, about 1830. Joshua Thompson was another early settler, in 1824. He lived a short time in the north of the township, then settled on a farm near the present site of the Jackson schoolhouse, on the road to Bingham Center. A few others will be mentioned in connection with the settlement of Ulysses.

The following excellent account of the settlement of Hector township is taken from a paper presented at a school commencement in Sunderlinville in May, 1911. This essay was written by Miss Katie L. Parker, now Mrs. Miller, and was kindly furnished to me by Mrs. Nora Covell, of Sunderlinville:—

“In the year 1823 came Everitt Rose, who was the first white man to carve a home out of the forests within the present boundaries of Hector township. Jacob Bump and Thomas Towser were probably the next two who settled in Hector, in 1825. In 1826 David and Benjamin Wilber settled in this section. There were only about 23 resident taxpayers in the years 1834-35.

“In the year 1836 Joseph Sunderlin, for whom the village of Sunderlinville takes its name, and who was the first postmaster, built the first grist mill in Hector. This was an old log mill situated at the foot of Mill Hill in the lower edge of Sunderlinville. This was replaced by a frame mill. The nails used are

said to have cost 25 cents a pound. After the mill had fulfilled its mission, Jake and Otis, grandsons of Joseph, used it for a rat-trap.

"In 1837 the first school was opened in a log house in the Dickens district by Sally Ann Harrington, who married Chester L. Corsaw, whose descendants reside in Sweden township. She received for her work eight dollars per month, and had the pleasure of boarding around. Albert Wilber, who was then twelve years of age, was one of her pupils.

"John Havens owns the first frame barn built in Hector township. Darius Sunderlin built it for his father, Joseph Sunderlin, about 1838. Darius walked to Wellsboro to obtain the nails, for which he paid 18 cents a pound. Mr. Havens tells us he remembers the first postoffice started in Hector in about the year 1845. He says that the first mail-carrier was Sam Losey, who carried the mail on horseback once a week from Pike Mills through Sunderlinville to Westfield and back in a day. Mr. Havens also says that the first school started in Sunderlinville was in a shoe shop.

"The first religious society in Hector township was the Methodist Episcopal, organized by Rev. C. P. Kilbourne in 1845. The first preacher was Rev. McEllheny.

"In 1845 Pierce and Corey built the first sawmill. As late as the year 1848 not even a spring wagon had reached the township, and about the same time the first stove was brought here. In 1853 Edward Hurlburt opened the first blacksmith shop, and in 1855 Francis Strang opened the first store in Hector. Albert Wilber tells us that in about the year 1832 the only house in Sunderlinville was Joseph Sunderlin's on the John Havens farm. As late as the year 1845 there was only a sled road to the cemetery and few, if any, horses in the township. Mr. Wilber said that as long ago as he could remember he heard the wolves howl till his hair stood straight. But he only saw three bears, and they ran in one direction and he in another. He says he also remembers when the nearest grist mill was at Ansonia. In 1840 they paid two dollars per pound for tea. He killed a great many deer and did not have to go far from home to get them.

"The first person buried in the cemetery was Lydia Wilber in 1848. Lucy Ann Sunderlin was the next to be buried there.

"William Redner tells us he used to go to school in the first school building in Hector township, which was made of logs and had an old-fashioned fireplace, and the desks were built around the wall. The seats were made by splitting logs and placing logs in them."

Mr. C. D. Tubbs, for eighty years a resident on the Genesee Fork of Pine Creek, tells me that the first settler on that stream was his maternal grandfather, George Parker, who built a cabin at the present site of Loucks Mills in 1832-33. He left the overlays of his house projecting over the door with the intent to support a rude porch. He had killed a deer one day, and for want of better storage, laid it on these projecting logs till it should be cut up and taken care of. The following night he was awakened by an excited whisper from his wife, "George! George! Something is after your deer." Hastily seizing his gun, he fired into the darkness. When the noise had subsided, he found that he had killed a large panther. Mr. Tubbs has also given me many other interesting reminiscences, some of which I shall reproduce later on.

Thomas Peabody was the first settler at Oswayo. He came in 1829, building a log house on the south side of the creek, within the present limits of the boro. His nearest neighbor was Richard Allen, at Clara, six miles down the stream, who settled here in 1832, Garrett Fosmer coming at the same time. Prior to the settlement of Peabody at Oswayo, there seem to have been no settlements farther up the Oswayo than Millport. William Shattuck was the next settler at Oswayo, apparently within a few months of Peabody. Both came from the old King Settlement at Ceres. It will be borne in mind that a road had already been opened up the Oswayo valley to Rose Lake and Andrews Settlement a few years before these settlers came. John Wells, the father of the well-known Wells family of Oswayo, came about a year later than Peabody and Shattuck. He bought a log house from one Barber, who it seems had come at some earlier date, but removed to another location. Mr. Wells built a frame house soon afterwards, the first in the neighborhood. He established an ashery, for making crude potash, "black salts," as they were called by the early settlers. Black salts were one of the few products that could command cash in those days. There was once an ashery in Coudersport, back of the site of the old Rennells shop on West street, and several others have existed in various parts of the county. The pioneers sometimes found black salts the only means by which they could raise money to pay their taxes; complaining of high taxes was as common then as now, and far better justified. Stories are told of men carrying bags of black salts for many miles on their backs to market to raise a little money, the alkali blistering their skin raw before the journey's end was reached, the kindly dealer supplying ointment to relieve the burden bearer. John Wells hauled his black salts to Rochester to exchange for groceries. Another early settler in Oswayo was Noah Crittenden,

the ancestor of the well-known Crittenden family of Oswayo. He came about 1831 or 1832, and built a sawmill in 1845. George G. Estes was another of the Oswayo pioneers.

Richard W. Allen and Garrett Fosmer have already been mentioned as early settlers at Clara in 1832. The next was Sheldon Bradley. Philip Haynes, Jacob Cole, and Samuel Wakely were other early settlers. The postoffice at Clara is the next oldest in the county. It was on the old route from Jersey Shore to Ceres via Lymanville, when the mail was carried on horseback, once a week. Richard W. Allen was the first postmaster, and served till his death in 1837. The first settlement in Clara township was, however, that of Jesse Treat, who settled on Fishing Creek in 1821.

It is stated in some reminiscences given by the granddaughter of Richard Ellis, an early pioneer, that the first settler at Genesee was one Billings, but the date of his arrival is not given. Benjamin Dolbee was another early settler near Genesee, but neither is any date given in this case. It is likely that these early comers lived on what is now the State Road towards Gold, or possibly on the north end of the Angelica road, and that they arrived some time from 1816 to 1822. Richard Ellis settled at Ellisburg in 1822, according to the account given by his granddaughter, Mrs. Charles Coats, nee Elvira Ellis, just mentioned. He received a land bonus for building a grist mill. Other writers give this date as 1826. It is not possible to say which is the correct date, but the date 1826 is given by several writers, and it seems more likely to be the true one. Richard Ellis was born at Ashford, Mass., in 1760, and served in the Revolution. He settled near the present site of Ansonia in 1811, residing there till he settled at Ellisburg. He died in 1841. At the same time as his settlement, Consider Ellis settled at the point we know as Reynoldstown, north of Andrews Settlement. He purchased his land for \$1.00 per acre, and according to the contract, was to pay no interest for the first ten years. He also came from Ansonia. It is stated that the nearest neighbors were then at Genesee Forks, thus establishing the settlements there as the oldest in Genesee township. It will be recalled that the Angelica road had been opened in 1816, before the first settlers came into this neighborhood.

In 1834, Samuel Hurd settled on the Willard Hickox farm on West Creek, now owned by Frank Hurd. He received 100 acres free from the Bingham Estate for chopping a road up West Creek to the township line, which crosses the valley near the old Harmontown pond. The original road lay far up on the sidehill, above where the Hickox and Hurd houses now stand.

Samuel Hurd is the ancestor of the Hurds and some of the other prominent families of Genesee township.

The Andrews Settlement was founded by Levi Andrews in 1833. He has already been mentioned as an early settler in Bingham township, where he lived about eight years. He located on the farm still known by some of our older residents by the name of his son, Alva Andrews. The moving trip was beset by the breakdowns and similar troubles so often met with by travelers over the pioneer roads. There seem to have been already two settlers in this part of Allegany township; John H. Rose (is it possible Rose Lake was named for him?) and Cornelius Cannon, who settled near Rose Lake and will be mentioned in the next chapter.

The Allegheny valley at Colesburg began to be occupied in 1827. Otis Lyman, a son of Major Isaac Lyman, was the first, on what is now the Metzger farm, formerly known as the Samuel Mills farm. He afterwards went West. The farm now belonging to Albert Davie was cleared by Henry Nelson (not Henry Nelson, of the Nelson family of Wharton), passing from him to his son, Ford Nelson. Three sons of John Peet, Samuel, William, and John Peet, Jr., settled on Peet brook, between Colesburg and the Judd neighborhood. At this time, there was no road from Colesburg down the valley, the road in use being the Angelica road over the hill to Lymanville. Lyman Nelson, son of Cephas Nelson, also lived at Colesburg a short time, moving to the river road below Coudersport in 1834, where he cleared the farm at Mina which we know as the Jake Swanson place. In addition to the above, the following note on the settlement of Colesburg from the pen of Samuel Haven is of significance. "In 1835 Comfort D. Felt lived with his family a short distance below the Sam Mills place, as also did Alanson Andrews, whose wife's father, Royal Cole, lived with him. He was the father of L. B. Cole, of Coudersport." From him, Colesburg takes its name.

Of special note among the settlements of this period is the Seventh Day Baptist colony on Crandall Hill, in Hebron township which is named for Clark Crandall, the founder of the colony. The story of this settlement is so well told by Sylvester Greenman, whose letter is included in Almeron Nelson's *Early Days in Potter*, that I can do no better than to quote Mr. Greenman's account. Here it is:—

"I do not know the exact date of the arrival of the first settlers. A Mr. Peabody, who lived on the farm now owned by the Estes, on the Oswayo Creek, John White and John Whitney at the mouth of the South Branch, on the farm now owned by

the family of William A. Cone, deceased, and Reuben Card on the farm now occupied by Mrs. Campbell, near the Metzger farm, were the only settlers in the township [Mr. Greenman includes here a few outside of Hebron], when in 1829, Clark Crandall, familiarly known as Judge Crandall, of Alfred, N. Y., came to look, with the view of purchasing land to establish a colony of Seventh Day Baptists. He negotiated with Dr. Rose, agent for the Bingham lands in that vicinity, now known as Crandall Hill. He did not bring his family at that time, but built a shanty on the farm where Daniel Clark now lives, brought in men, and commenced clearing land.

"In the spring of 1830 a company of about a dozen men came from Alfred to look for themselves, and were very favorably impressed with the location. One man carried back a specimen of the soil in his tobacco box to show to his neighbors. In the fall of the same year, several of this company came again, selected farms, and commenced work preparatory to moving their families.

"In January, 1831, Harry West moved his family into the new colony. The next month Jesse M. Greenman [the author's father] moved in. A few days after, Judge Crandall and Stephen Coon brought their families. The next September, Simon Smith moved in and built an ashery for making pearl ash. In February, 1832, Captain Elisha Coon moved in a load of goods, went back after his family, was taken sick and died. His widow and sons, George, Asa, Elisha, Lorenzo, and others, a large family, came on and settled on the farm now owned by Isaac Frink.

"The next spring, Foster Reynolds came in and settled on the farm now owned by his son, S. P. Reynolds. George Reynolds came in about this time, stayed a few years, and went back to Allegany County, N. Y., but after a few years he returned to Potter County, where he died.

"Elias Wells moved in about this time and settled on the Rossiter farm. Hezekiah Bently settled on the farm now occupied by Joel P. Randall, Jr. George Stillman, father of George W., Alanson, Amos R., and Joseph Stillman, settled on the farm now owned by Consider Stearns. David Stillman, a brother of George, settled on the farm now owned by J. P. Randall. Nathan Main, with his two sons, Ezekiel S. and Nathan, came from Rensselaer County, N. Y., and settled on lands now owned by William C. Reynolds. Jeremiah Hall settled on the farm now owned by G. W. Stillman.

"In the spring of 1833 William H. Hydorn came from Rensselaer County, N. Y., bought and paid for the land where he now lives, and is the only man among the first settlers who now



owns and occupies the land where they first commenced. Of the first company that came to look for land, J. M. Greenman is the only one now living. [This was in 1875.]

"Judge Crandall failed to pay for the land he had contracted for, became embarrassed, got discouraged, and left. He stopped a short time at Lymanville. From there he moved to Jersey Shore, where he stayed a few years, and then went back to Alfred, where he died a few years ago at an advanced age.

"Stephen Coon, with his family, moved to Dane County, Wisconsin, where he died. Asa Coon, son of Captain Coon, died in Hebron, while on his way home from Coudersport, where he had been after medicine for his family. He was found in the morning about one mile from home, with his body frozen. He was supposed to have died in a fit. George, the eldest son, died a few years later in Allegany County, N. Y. The rest of the boys now live in Dane County, Wisconsin, where they are prominent citizens.

"Nathan Main was killed by a tree soon after their arrival. Ezekiel S. Main moved to Wisconsin and died there. The old gentleman died in Allegany County, N. Y., a few years ago at the good old age of 91 years.

"There was a covenant made between the members of the colony that they would not use intoxicating liquors as a beverage, which has generally been adhered to. The first marriage was that of Ezekiel S. Main and Ann Jenette Coon, in 1833. The first birth was Amanda Crandall, daughter of Judge Crandall. The first school was taught by Elias Wells in the winter of 1834-35, in a log schoolhouse on the farm where G. W. Stillman now lives."

This colony has proven to be one of the most successful of several such ventures that were made in the pioneer days of Potter County. No one who has known the community of Seventh Day people on Crandall Hill can fail to be impressed with the high character of the people and their high standard of Christian living, however some of us may differ with them on the Sabbath question. Among these people have been some of our best citizens, men like Jesse M. Greenman, William H. Hydorn, and Foster Reynolds.

It is related that Nelson Clark built a sawmill in 1831, and invited men to raise the frame, as was usual in those days. He was opposed to the use of liquor, and refused to furnish whiskey at the raising. The men of Coudersport and Lymanville demurred, and finally refused to turn out; but word was sent to Jesse M. Greenman. He brought all the men of the Hebron colony, and Mr. Clark's mill was raised without liquor. It remains to

indicate the present owners of the farms mentioned in the above article, which was written 59 years ago. Judge Crandall's first shanty, built in 1829, Mr. Greenman tells us was on the place which we know as the Nelson Clark farm, at Clark Corners on Crandall Hill. The farm was bought soon after by Daniel Clark, who had just then returned from Connecticut. The Isaac Frink farm lies just beyond the Five Corners cemetery; we know it as the Al Frink place. The S. P. Reynolds place now belongs to Alva Thompson. The Rossiter farm, mentioned by Mr. Greenman, we know as the Sheldon place, at the head of Sheldon Hollow. The Consider Stearns place is now owned by Don Stearns. The J. P. Randall farm is now the property of Roy Kenyon. The W. C. Reynolds farm belongs to Fred Snyder. The G. W. Stillman place is now the farm of Arthur Mattison. The Hydorn farm is now the farm of Willis Brock. The Greenman farm, on Greenman Hill, is still well known by that name, though it passed from the family ownership many years ago. Jesse M. Greenman located at first on the place we know as the Charles Gorham farm, but becoming involved in the embarrassment of Clark Crandall, moved afterwards to Greenman Hill.

The settlement at Ulysses has been well described for us in two articles written by women who were themselves among the earliest settlers in this neighborhood. The first of these articles was written by Mrs. Minerva Hacket Parish, a daughter of John Hacket, who settled in Ulysses township in 1827. Only one settler preceded him, Stephen Brace, who came a few months before and located on what Mrs. Parish describes as the Crowell farm. It is situated about a mile southeast of the present town of Ulysses, on a cross road leading directly east from the Fox Hill road. It was then located on the only road that passed through this section, the old county road from Coudersport to the Cowanesque. This road followed a course that has been so long vacated that a correct description of its course is now very difficult. It followed the ridge from Fox Hill to a point near Harrison Valley, skirting the present site of the village of Ulysses on the hill east of the town. John Hacket at first moved into a hunter's shanty that Mrs. Parish says was on the Charles Monroe farm. This place lies southeast of the village, about a mile distant. In 1828, Mr. Hacket moved to the place he occupied for the rest of his life, which includes that part of the village lying west of Main Street and north of the present State Highway to Coudersport. At the same time, Miles Thompson moved into the shanty vacated by Mr. Hacket, remaining a short time and then settling in Harrison township. Ashbel Monroe settled in 1828 just over the hill from Ulysses in Bingham township, on the present State road from Ulysses to the

Cowanesque. In February, 1830, Nahum Miles came from Veteran, N. Y., and settled on a farm a mile south of Ulysses, on the Fox Hill road, where he kept a postoffice and hotel. Dr. Keeler had already located at Brookland in 1827.

Here we will take up the story of early days in Ulysses given by Mrs. Lavinia Lewis, the wife of Orange A. Lewis, who settled in Ulysses in 1831. He was one of Potter's most prominent citizens, being elected Sheriff of Potter County in 1841, and Associate Judge, then the highest judicial office in the county, in 1851. He gave his life for our country in the Civil War, and lies buried near Harrison's Landing, Virginia, in an unmarked grave. The reminiscences I shall quote were written by Mrs. Lewis for the Potter Journal in 1875. They are so well written that I have reproduced most of the article verbatim. It is as follows:—

“There were five families living in the town of Ulysses when we moved in, the last of February, 1831. Ashbel Monroe lived on the farm now owned by Mr. Ferris, John Hackett on the farm now owned by Dan Baker, Nahum Miles where Mr. Leet now lives, Mr. Brace on the south part of the farm now owned by Atlas Bennett, and one Mr. Cushing—I think Hosea—lived at what is now called Brookland. Several other families had moved in, got discouraged and gone away.

“Miles Thompson lived in the winter and spring of 1830 on the farm now owned by Charles Monroe, but went back that season to Harrison Valley. Leonard Brace, a son of the old gentleman, lived during the winter of 1828 on the place where Lorenzo Drake now lives. He drove in eleven head of nice cattle, and undertook to keep them entirely on browse. For some cause he lost them all or all but one, before the ground was bare, and left the county, thoroughly disheartened. In fact he was never again so well off as when he came to Potter County in the spring of 1828.

“Dr. Keeler lived at Brookland. Mr. Lewis went through in April and stopped at his house through a shower. It was open on all sides, and but one side roofed. There was a good fire against the logs on the open side; on the other, the family were huddled up to keep dry. There was a bag half full of potatoes, and these were the only eatable thing. The Doctor sat under cover with his hat on, fiddling for dear life, looking as happy and independent as a lord. They had gone before we moved in.

“There were several other families that came and went, staying a longer or shorter time, according to the amount of clear grit in their composition. There were two roads through

the county at the time we came; the old county road from Coudersport that ran through Brookland and on to the Cowanesque turned off near Mr. Miles', and went east of most of us, and came out near Mr. Ervay's on the Cowanesque. The Rooks road went through the town about two miles north of us into Bingham and out to the State road.

"Before we came, the settlers had cut a sled road through to Harrison Valley. It was quite a road when the ground was frozen, but in summer it was just awful. The roads were a great hindrance to the settlement of that part of the county. A great many men from New York State got discouraged coming in, and did not even look for farms. They said if they once got here they never could get away again.

"It was a pretty hard place for a poor man to begin to make a home. If we wanted a few bushels of grain or potatoes, we went to Knoxville, for as many as two years, and when we raised grain, we had to go there to get it ground for five or six years. Our nearest regular physicians were at Whitesville or Knoxville, but somehow we had little need of them. Mr. Hosea Cushing put up a sawmill a little below Brookland in the summer of 1830, which was a great convenience. His brother Samuel came in about that time, and most likely some others that I have forgotten. Clark Crum landed in Potter the same night that we did, staying with Ashbel Monroe, and we with Mr. Hacket. Mr. Crum took a farm about a mile north of ours in Bingham township; he had money enough to pay for his land and hire it cleared. He was a noted hunter, and made hunting his principal business.

"Mr. Lewis had been out here the summer before we moved, and chopped and logged four acres, with only one half day's work with a team. He cut the house logs and got it put up to the joists, and left it for want of help. The next spring he fixed it up for living. We had a good shingle roof, part of a lower floor, no upper one; hung up a blanket for a door, and moved in. There was a large hemlock stump right before the house, and by it we did our cooking until the last of October. Most of our neighbors built fires against one side of their room, but we disliked to smoke up our new house.

"The wolves were very plenty that summer, and we heard them almost every day and night, but game in the woods was so plenty that they did not molest any one. The bears would take a hog whenever they could find one, and did a great deal of mischief that first season.

"Mr. Thomas Halleck and wife, his son Noah and his wife, came that year and took land about three miles west of us on

the Rooks road. They put up a nice house of hewed logs, and got things in good shape to live before winter. Old Mrs. Halleck was an excellent hand among the sick, and for several years was our only dependence in time of need.

"In the spring of 1832 or 1833, Mr. Willis Young came and settled near Mr. Halleck. He brought money to buy a team and his bread until harvest, but before he could use it, some straggler came in their absence from the house, and took all but ten cents.

"Jesse Lewis, my husband's father, came in the spring of 1832 and took a farm adjoining ours on the south. They lived with us the first summer. The mother was a very feeble woman. She seemed better for a few weeks, but grew worse and died in August. I think she was the first grown person buried in the town. We cleared a piece on the west end of our farm to bury her, and it became the burying ground, used for years after.

"Lawton Wilcox came that spring to the place Miles Thompson left, and stayed about two years. Peter Evans took the same place in 1834, but worked for Ashbel Monroe while he stayed on it, and for some years after. A good many people had come in by this time and settled in different parts of the town, Rufus Freeman about four miles toward Brookland, Daniel Raymond at or near Raymond's Corners, Walker Smith near Mr. Freeman, and many others. No one seemed to mind going into the woods alone, for there were sure to be neighbors very soon. The land was good, could be had for 12 shillings an acre, and three years without interest. Poor men with only just enough to bring them in there came one after another, when they would be obliged to go right out to work to keep their families from starving.

"Luckily for them some of the first settlers were getting able to pay in provisions for labor. When a man came to look for a farm, he brought his family with him, and went in with somebody he had heard of; then, with some friends, went off to find a good location. When he was suited, all the neighbors turned in with a bee, cut logs, put up a house, and got it ready for use in a hurry. Most of the floors were made of basswood plank, split out and pinned to the sleepers with wooden pins, and then hewed down smooth. They were very good floors.

"Mr. Elijah Crippen came in 1833, and took a piece of land next to ours on the west. Nearly all the new and some of the first settlers had large families of children, and they began to talk about a school. They put up two house bodies, but neither would accommodate all, and they were not finished. In 1834, it was thought best to have a schoolhouse somewhere, and for

want of a better place it was decided to have it in our chamber. Our house was 18 x 20 feet, and the chamber was very high up to the eaves. In the morning we turned the bedsteads up against one side, piled beds and bedding onto them, placed boards around on some sap buckets, and school could commence. There were enough scholars to make a pretty lively time. Joshua Thompson, living in the edge of Bingham, sent three, Ashbel Monroe two, Peter Evans four, John Hackett three, Nahum Miles two, Mr. Crippen four, father Lewis one, and we had one old enough to play go to school. The children were very quiet and well-behaved, and learned quite fast. The school was a success and not long afterwards, a house was built on the spot where Abram Bennett now lives, which lasted many years. About this time, Anson Burt came and settled in the valley now called Burt Street. Charles Parish took a farm near there soon after; the woods were broken into on all sides of us, and the men, that is the most of them, meant to stay. But no one can tell the amount of homesickness and privation suffered by the women in those first years. Poverty and sickness are hard to bear when amongst friends; how much more so when out of sight and sound of human sympathy. But here let me say that the early settlers of Ulysses were, one and all, always ready to divide provisions or clothes with those more needy than themselves, and to do their best to help in sickness; but families were so far apart that there was much unrelieved suffering. It was some years before hardly any one house was in sight of any other.

"In the summer of 1833, Henry Crittenden came in from Cortlandt County, N. Y., and built a sawmill on the creek about three miles below Mr. Young's. He brought his mill irons and workmen with him, and soon had his mill in running order. He put in a good sawyer, and went back that same fall. Several families came in late, and took land at and around Kibbeville, and two or three miles farther south on the Rooks road.

"That spring (1834) father Lewis and his boys, Albert and Orange, put up a large barn. They cut their road through the windfall for over half a mile, and drew the timber and shingles from Crittenden's mill. Every man in town but one was there and some from Bingham Center and Turner Creek. The men came so far that they got only fairly ready to work before dinner. They worked till dark, then had supper and sat around till the moon was high enough to shine over the tops of the trees, and then put it up to the purline plates. We made them a camp bed on the floor and most of them stayed. As soon as it was light enough, they went to work, finished it up, put on

the rafters, and all came in and took breakfast before going home. That was the first frame barn in town, but immediately after, Mr. Monroe built his and Mr. Miles put up a horse barn.

"About this time they began to talk about laying out new roads and straightening the old ones. There was considerable travel through that part of the county towards Coudersport. Almost all the goods that were sold in Coudersport were hauled through from Lawrenceville on wagons. The teamsters generally stopped with Mr. Miles, that being the only public house in town. I presume a good many of them remember to this day the spicy conversation they had with the old lady. All this time our nearest postoffice was at Spring Mills. Every letter from the old home cost 25 cents, we being in another state, but those well-filled sheets of large foolscap were well worth the price we paid, when we think of the delight we felt in the receipt and reading of them.

"The fall after father Lewis put up his barn, Ashbel Monroe and Orange Lewis agreed between themselves not to furnish liquor for raisings or bees of any kind. The men came such long distances to help one another, that they thought a good substantial dinner would be much better, and would not in any case come amiss. There was considerable talk about the men that were too stingy to furnish whiskey doing their own lifting, and so on; but with a little good management, the foundation was laid for a peaceable, prosperous neighborhood. Mr. Miles had always sold whiskey by the drink, but scarcely ever in large quantities, and when he moved away in 1837, there was for years no place where it could be got, nearer than Spring Mills."

Two brothers of Jesse Lewis were among the early settlers of Ulysses. James Lewis came within the first few years, and William Lewis in 1839. He was a millwright, and was among the men whom Henry Crittenden, mentioned in the above article, brought to build his sawmill near the present site of West Bingham. The Lewis family of Ulysses also includes some of the family of a fourth brother, Seth Lewis, uncle of the well-known Seth Lewis, lawyer, editor and leader of his community, who was a son of William Lewis. Mrs. Parish tells us that James Hawley built a mill two miles northwest of Lewisville in 1835, and that John Hackett built a mill the same year.

The above narrative brings the history of Ulysses down to a date a few years later than the period assigned to this chapter, but I have presented it as above to avoid breaking the stories of these times as told by Mrs. Parish and Mrs. Lewis, which are among the best of the narratives that have been given to us direct from the pen of a pioneer. We have now considered



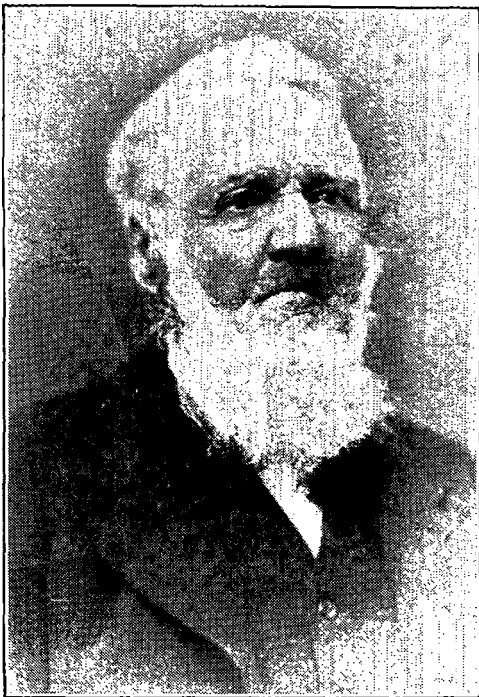
**NELSON CLARK**

Came to Potter with his parents, 1816. Prominent citizen of Eulalia township. Active in the Underground Railroad.



**JESSE M. GREENMAN**

First of the Seventh Day Baptist settlers in Hebron township, 1830.



**DANIEL RAYMOND**

Pioneer settler at Raymond's Corners, 1836.



**WILLIAM CROSBY. 1801-1867.**

Early settler in Wharton and Homer townships. Prominent citizen of Coursport, 1834-1856.





the settlements of the period that ends with the organization of Potter as an independent county. There remain some other events of this period that claim our attention.

The Jersey Shore Turnpike Company was organized and stock subscriptions opened in 1816. Among the subscribers were John Keating, Thomas Stewartson and George Vaux, all of Philadelphia and among the owners of the unseated lands in Potter County. The rest of the stockholders were capitalists of Lycoming County. The road was to be operated as a toll road in five mile sections, each section being opened as the work progressed. The pack trail from Ceres to Jersey Shore had been laid out by Joseph Williams in 1807, and a wagon road opened in 1811 and 1812. The purpose of the new company was to make the road into a highway suitable for the main line traffic route that it was in those days. The construction was let by contract in sections, beginning with the south end, the road having been authorized as a toll road by an Act of the Legislature in 1816. Construction began about 1825, and the total mileage built was 69 miles. Perviance Baldwin, of Troy, Pa., built 44 miles on the southern end of the toll road, this being completed in 1828. Work was then suspended, but was resumed in 1832. John L. Cartee, Ezra Hitchcock, and Jonathan Edgcomb were some of the contractors engaged on the Potter County section of the turnpike. Alvin Rennells was also one of the men engaged in this work. The last section was completed in November 1834. It remained a toll road till 1860, being an ordinary township road thereafter. The toll charge for each five mile section was 12 cents for a four wheeled vehicle drawn by two horses, 3 cents for a horse or mule without vehicle, laden or unladen, with proportionate rates for two wheeled vehicles, cattle, sheep, and hogs, two oxen being the same as one horse. Since the toll road was 69 miles long, it would have cost a man \$1.68 to go through with a horse team and wagon, a sum which meant something to a traveler at that time. Mail stages paid no toll.

Two sections of the Jersey Shore turnpike have been relocated since its opening in 1834. The Coudersport end formerly ran from Lymanville south across the Howland farm to Jonathan Edgcomb's, following the present route of the Tidewater Pipe Line thence to Turnpike Hill. The relocation to the present route was made at some date near the middle of the last century, and the only portions of this end of the old road now open as public roads are the reach from Lymanville to Howland's and another section on Ayres Hill from a corner near the VanWegen farm to the Ayres Hill schoolhouse.

The other relocation is on the south end of the road, beginning at the top of the long hill 6 miles northwest of Waterville and meeting the old location at the crossing over the New York Central R. R., a few miles this side of Jersey Shore. This relocation was made by the State Highway Department in 1919. The original cost of the road was \$49,400, of which \$8000 was covered by an appropriation made by the State legislature. There was a roadhouse in early times at Herod's, where the Lycoming County Country Club now stands, the only human habitation between Cherry Springs and Jersey Shore. The Jersey Shore pike still traverses a wilderness, as it did 100 years ago, but sassafras, sweet fern, scrub oak, and huckleberry bushes have taken the place of the majestic pine forest of former days.

Religious meetings began in the central part of Potter County in very early times. John Peet, the pioneer, sometimes preached in the absence of an ordained minister. Elder Davenport, an itinerant Baptist, who first came about 1816, was perhaps the first regular clergyman to hold services in the county; he came from Massachusetts, holding meetings at Lymansville and Smethport. Some of the early converts to his preaching were Burrell Lyman in 1820 and John Lyman and wife in 1821. Both the Lymans remained steadfast churchmen of the old school the rest of their lives. Father Conant, a Methodist preacher whose home was at Priestville, now Westfield, Tioga County, was another early evangelist. He was called Father because he dressed like a Catholic priest, wearing a gold chain with a pendant cross around his neck. The first Methodist meetings were held at Coudersport in 1823 by Rev. James B. Roach, and the beginning of the Coudersport Presbyterian church was in 1832, with Rev. Isaac C. Bliss as pastor. A Baptist church was organized in Ulysses in 1833 at the house of Edmund Brace. Orange A. Lewis sometimes occupied the pulpit when no regular minister could be had. Father Conant visited Ulysses as well as Lymansville. Another early preacher of some note was Rev. Thomas Sheardown, a Baptist of English birth, whose field was chiefly in Tioga County. Between 1830 and 1836 he held services at various intervals in the eastern part of Potter County. He made no regular appointments, traveling through the woods on horseback or on foot, pioneer fashion, holding services whenever opportunity presented itself.

In 1827 occurred the death of Major Isaac Lyman. Probably no man in our history has left a plainer stamp on our county than he. His faults were neither few nor small; it is proved beyond the least doubt that he was a bigamist. At his death,

his second wife, Laura Lyman, contested successfully with his third wife, Patience Lyman, for the pension to which she was entitled as a widow of a soldier of the Revolution. But Major Lyman was well adapted to the tasks of the pioneer. His house was a place of hospitality for all who entered, rich or poor, and was not, like the Old Hickory Tavern at Coudersport and several other early road-houses, a den of drunkenness and a pest house in the community. Major Lyman was a brave soldier and a hardy pioneer, to whom his descendants are loyal even to the present day, and a roundup of such of them as are now among our citizens will compare favorably with a similar appraisal for almost any of our other pioneers. Despite his faults, Major Lyman will be justly remembered as one of the builders of Potter County.

An incident of our early history told to me by Mr. Monta C. Burt is worth relating here. Burrell Lyman had at some time near the death of his father, Major Isaac Lyman, become security for the county treasurer, who had absconded with the public money. The name of the defaulter I am not able to give. Burrell Lyman was in imminent danger of losing all his property, when the timely award of a pension to his mother, Laura Lyman, as a soldier's widow, helped Mr. Lyman through this time of ill fortune.

As before stated, Potter County was detached from Lycoming in 1824, and united for judicial purposes with McKean County, thus reducing the length of the journey necessary to attend county court. The next township organized after Roulet, whose history has been already related, was Harrison, in February, 1823. The original township was much larger than it is at present. It measured 9 miles 99 rods north and south, and 8 miles 28 rods east and west, including parts of what are now Bingham, Ulysses, and Hector. The next township was Wharton, organized in 1826. This township also far exceeded its present limits. The boundaries were as follows: From the southwest corner of Potter county (now in Cameron County) North,  $15\frac{1}{4}$  miles, thence East 5 miles, thence South 5 miles, thence East 10 miles, thence South  $10\frac{1}{4}$  miles, thence West 15 miles. The township thus included, besides the area it now occupies, most of Sylvania, all that part of the county that was cut off when Cameron was organized, most of what is now Portage township, and part of Keating, including the present site of Keating Summit. The township is named for Isaac Wharton, early landowner. In 1828 a board of viewers, consisting of John Lyman, Joseph Reio, and Theodore Doty, was appointed by court to divide the north half of Potter County into townships six miles square. The

names of the townships as originally given were as follows: First row, Sharon, Chester, London, Bingham, Harrison. Second row, Milton, Nelson, Denmark, Ulysses, Hector. Third row, Roulet, Eulalia, Sweden, Jackson, Pike. The view was confirmed by court, February 26, 1828. In 1830 the following names were changed: London to Genesee, Denmark to Allegany, Chester to Oswayo, Sweden to Pine Creek, this last change not being retained. The name Milton was changed to Clara in May, 1836. The date of changing the name Nelson to Hebron is not recorded.

These new townships were organized at intervals as they became sufficiently settled to make organization feasible. On the confirmation of the view, the townships of Bingham, Ulysses, Hector, Pike, and Jackson, were attached to Harrison, and Sharon, Clara, and Oswayo were attached to Roulet, the remaining new townships, Hebron, Allegany, Genesee and Sweden, remaining attached, as before, to Eulalia. In December, 1828, Sweden township was organized, with Ulysses, Jackson, and Pike attached. Sharon township was organized at the same time, with Clara and Oswayo attached. The organization of the other townships followed in the order given: In February, 1830, Bingham, Oswayo, and Genesee, with Allegany attached. Hector, in September, 1830. Pike, in February, 1832, with Jackson attached. Hebron and Ulysses, in December, 1832. Allegany, in 1835. Thus in 1833 the three northern tiers of townships were all organized as at present, except Allegany and Jackson, and the townships of Harrison and Roulet had been reduced to their present boundaries. The southern half of the county remained attached to Eulalia, except Wharton, which then occupied a much larger area than it does at present, as described in a previous paragraph. The names of the northern townships seem to have been selected at random by the landowners in Philadelphia, except that those of Oswayo, Genesee, and Allegany were early changed to correspond with the rivers of Northern Potter. Harrison is believed to have been named for George Harrison, an early landowner, and Bingham is named for William Bingham. Ulysses is said to have been named by Charles Parish, an early settler, for his former residence, a place of the same name in New York State. The name Clara is the only one whose derivation I can not find out.

Potter County in 1833 had made much progress since 1820. Every township in the northern half of the county had at least a few settlers, and there were settlers on the Sinnemahoning as far up as the mouth of Moore's Run. Roads had been opened to all the principal districts except a few of those which contain few inhabitants even today. The population of Potter had

increased from 186 in 1820 to 1265 in 1830, and settlement was still going on apace. Several grist mills and sawmills had been built, and as we shall see in a later chapter, lumbering was beginning to assume some importance as an industry.

Lymansville was still the metropolis of the county. It was no longer necessary to make the long trip through the wilderness to Williamsport to transact legal business, and Potter was on the eve of organization as an independent county. Schools had been established in most of the settlements, soon to be extended over the entire county and to be authorized by the laws of the State. Two more postoffices had been established; one at Roulet in 1824, and one at Jones' Corners, now North Bingham, in 1826. There were now stores at Coudersport and Lymansville, and probably two or more in the north of the county. Being "on the county" was not unknown in those days, bills for relief being on record as far back as 1815, and lands were sold at tax sales as frequently as they are now, many owners of unseated lands not being able to retain their holdings. But the inhabitants of Potter were generally industrious and efficient, steadily gaining in wealth and prosperity. Potter County was still in the backwoods, but was well started on the way out.

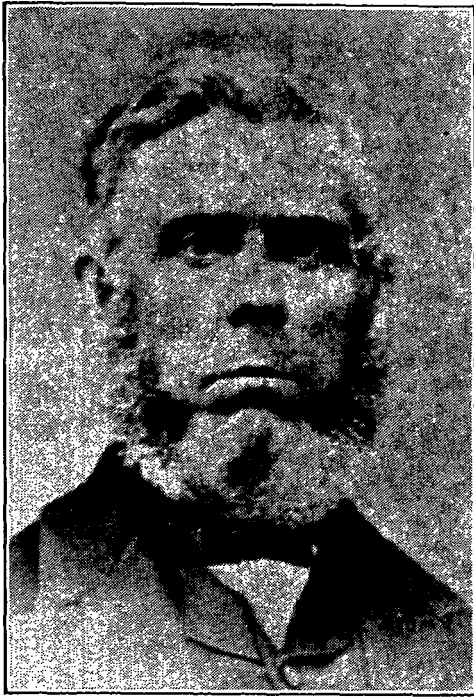
## CHAPTER IV

### FIRST YEARS AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTY. 1833-1848

An act of the State Legislature, April 8, 1833, entitled Potter to full status as an independent County. Steps were at once taken to erect a court house and to organize the county for legal business. The county commissioners at this time were W. H. Warner of Harrison; Samuel Cushing, of Ulysses; and Elisha Mix, of Sharon. The intention of John Keating had been to have the court house located on what is shown on the older maps of Coudersport as the Public Square, situated on the hill west of town, between Third and Fourth streets, cutting off Hill street, the eastern boundary of the square being about half way between West and Hill streets. But the county commissioners wisely decided that a central location on level ground would be much better. Only one man lived on the court house square, Michael Hinkle, a blacksmith. The Commissioners bought his house, which was moved down Main street to a position about where the J. C. Penney store now stands. It was occupied for many years by Samuel Haven, and was burned in the fire of 1880. The whole of the Court House square was purchased by the Commissioners for \$16.00.

The old stone court house, completed in 1835, stood north and west of the present building and faced Main street. The building contract was let to Timothy Ives and Almon Woodcock. The man who did most of the stone work was Cornelius Cannon, who died a few years afterwards. He had bought and paid for a piece of land near Rose Lake in the Woodville neighborhood, but his widow could not raise money for taxes, and was forced to allow it to be sold at a tax sale. Most of the carpenter work on the court house was done by Foster Reynolds, of Hebron, who was a skillful mechanic, and built several houses and mills of that period. The jail occupied a part of the same building.

The first term of court in Potter County was held in September, 1835. Timothy Ives and Seneca Freeman presided over court as side judges. Several lawyers from adjoining counties were admitted to the bar, and considerable routine business incident to the organization of court and other official business in the new county, was transacted. Ansel Purple, of Harrison, was the first sheriff of Potter County. His portrait and commission of office are among the relics belonging to the Potter County Historical Society. The first divorce case came into court in May 1830—Samuel Fosmer versus Dorcas Fosmer, followed next day



**DR. AMOS FRENCH**  
Pioneer physician. Came to Couders-  
port 1838



**SABRA FRENCH**



**GEORGE WEIMER**  
and  
**EVE WEIDRICH WEIMER**  
Settled at Roulet, 1830.



**CHRISTIAN SCHADENBERGER**  
and  
**MARGARET WEIDRICH**  
**SCHADENBERGER**  
Settled near Mina, about 1832.

These two families, with Jacob Weidrich and family, were the first European immigrants to settle in Potter County.





by another, James Hawley versus Catherine Hawley. At the same term of court, the first liquor license was granted to Samuel B. Strait, who kept a hotel on the present site of the Potter County Garage. The first criminal case was tried in February, 1837, Abel Cummings being accused of larceny and acquitted.

The first Potter County lawyer to be admitted to the bar was L. B. Cole, at the first term of court, September, 1835. L. F. Maynard was admitted in 1840. Crosby W. Ellis came to Coudersport from Wayne County about 1840 and opened a law office in a building erected by F. B. Hamlin in 1836. It stood on the present site of the Grabe furniture store, and was torn down when this store was built. Wales C. Butterworth studied law in Ellis' office, and was admitted to the bar in 1842. Charles B. Cotter was also admitted to practice the same year. Another young law student in Ellis' office was destined to play a major part in the affairs of Potter County and ranks as probably the greatest figure in our history.

John S. Mann was born February 29, 1816, at London Grove, Chester County, Pa. At the age of 15 he was working a farm belonging to his paternal grandfather. In 1824 his father moved to Montrose, Susquehanna County, where he taught a select school for several years. John S. Mann came to Ceres in 1835, where he surveyed land and taught school. Failing health led him to take a sea voyage, and he taught a few months in Texas. He returned to Montrose, and studied law with Judge Jessup. During the winter of 1840-41 he taught school in Olean, N. Y. He came to Coudersport in March, 1841, and it was then that he became a student in the office of Crosby W. Ellis. He was admitted to the bar in the winter of 1841-42, and married Mary W. King, daughter of John King of Ceres, in 1842. From this time on till his death in 1879, he is so closely identified with the history and progress of Potter County, that the incidents of his life will take a prominent place in the pages that follow.

Another prominent citizen came to Coudersport from Warren in 1844 to practice law. This was Isaac Benson, who was prominent in the affairs of the county during the latter half of the 19th century, and is well remembered by many of us now living.

The first president judge who held court in Potter County was Nathaniel B. Eldred of McKean County, for whom the village of Eldred is named, whose first appearance in our courts was at the February term, 1837.

We must now return to the regular narrative of our history. On March 21, 1834, occurred the most terrific wind storm that Potter County has ever known. The town of Lymansville was almost completely demolished, the water blown out of the mill pond, and logs bedded in the road torn up. At Roulet, some

damage was done, but it was not so great as at Lymansville. Large areas of timber were blown down, as the storm swept in a northeasterly direction across the county. Boards and debris from Lymansville were found in New York State, thirty miles distant. At Ulysses the damage was nearly as great as at Lymansville. Mrs. Lavinia Lewis tells us that the track of the storm was from half a mile to a mile and a half in width. There were several hairbreadth escapes. The house of Anson Blackman was wrecked by a tree falling on the roof. A few cattle were lost in the woods and never found. But all accounts agree that, despite the damage done, no human lives were lost in this storm. Traces of the windfalls then made in the timber may be seen even at the present day. Trees that sprouted on the upturned roots of fallen timber which long ago rotted away, knolls and hollows resulting from the uprooting of the original evergreen timber, and the like, still bear testimony to the great wind storm of 1834. A poem was written by Burrel Lyman describing the storm, and published in a Smethport paper at the time. It is so long that I have not deemed it worth while to reproduce it here.

The following picture of Coudersport in 1835 is from the pen of Samuel Haven, and is found in the Potter County Journal of May 25, 1904. Mr. Haven was then 90 years old, and was living in Buffalo:—

"I came to Potter County on the 20th of March, 1835, and began clerking in the store of Versel Dickinson in Coudersport. It was then the only store in Potter County, the nearest ones being at Smethport, Ceres, Whitesville or Spring Mills, and Jersey Shore. The following persons were then living in Coudersport:

"John L. Cartee, wife and son; David Ross, wife, two sons, and a daughter; Michael Hinkle, wife, and a hired man; Timothy Ives, wife, father, one daughter; Ebenezer McDougal, wife, and wife's son, Jackson Lyman; William Crosby, wife, two sons, and one daughter; Isaac Strait, wife and one son; Versel Dickinson, wife, one son, and one daughter; Lewis B. Cole, wife, one son, and one daughter; Philander Bishop, mother and two brothers; Dr. Daniel N. Hunt, wife and one daughter; Louisa Andrews (Mrs. Dickinson's sister); Samuel Haven.

"The population of Coudersport in 1835 was 47. There were more people in Lymansville, two miles east of Coudersport, in October of that year, numbering 53 persons, as that settlement was a little older. There were in 1835 two public hotels in Coudersport, one near the site of the present jail, kept by John L. Cartee, and the other nearly opposite on Second and East streets, called the Coudersport Hotel, and kept by Major Isaac Strait. There were two unoccupied store buildings, one owned by Judge Ives, and the other by Versel Dickinson. There were also store

rooms in the Coudersport Hotel, and in Major McDougal's house at the corner of Main and Third Streets, and in the house built by Dennis Hall at the corner of Third and East Streets. Besides these, there were ten other dwelling houses in the town, two of which were vacant.

"Mr. Hinkle had a log blacksmith shop near his house on East Street. The first old stone court house was up to the lower window sills, having been commenced the year previous and finished in September, 1836."

The date Mr. Haven here gives for the completion of the court house seems to be erroneous, since Almeron Nelson tells us that court was held therein in September, 1835, with which the official records agree. The error may be due only to the printer.

It will be of interest here to locate some of the houses of the people mentioned by Mr. Haven and some others that existed in Coudersport from 1835 to 1848. L. B. Cole lived on the southeast corner of West and Fifth Streets; his house was torn down in 1888. L. F. Maynard, the next oldest lawyer in the county, built the house now owned by Mrs. Anna Stocking, where he lived for several years. Later, he sold this house to Benjamin S. Colwell, and built the one adjoining, now owned by Mrs. Margaret Wentworth. The Ross land office stood where the John Miller house is now. Captain David Ross was a near relative of David Wilmot, famed as the author of the Wilmot Proviso, who himself lived in Coudersport with his sisters at one time, later moving to Towanda. His father, Randall Wilmot, also lived in Coudersport at one time. It seems to be proved that David Wilmot's brother-in-law, Wales C. Butterworth, built the house where they resided. This house was on Main Street, where the high school building now stands, and was built in 1851. It was purchased by the school board from E. N. Stebbins in 1890, and used as a schoolhouse for a couple of years before it was torn down. Timothy Ives or his son-in-law, N. L. Dike, built the house where Dr. Jacobs now resides in 1842; which of them built it is a matter of dispute. A tannery was built in 1837 on the corner of East and Fourth Streets, where the A. F. Smith house now stands, by David Wilmot and his brother-in-law, Appleton Butterworth. This building was remodeled into a sawmill by Metzger & Stevens in 1872. It was torn down in 1885. William Caldwell built the first hotel where the Crittenden now stands in 1840.

Dr. Amos French came to Coudersport in 1838. He built a house where the Presbyterian church now stands; the Galusha house, adjoining on the north, was also built by him. Dr. French was the second physician to locate permanently in Coudersport, if we count Dr. Harry Lyman, at Lymanville, as the first. He was an excellent type of the old time family physician, always

ready to go where needed, day or night, over roads that could be traveled only on horseback, and often receiving little in return.

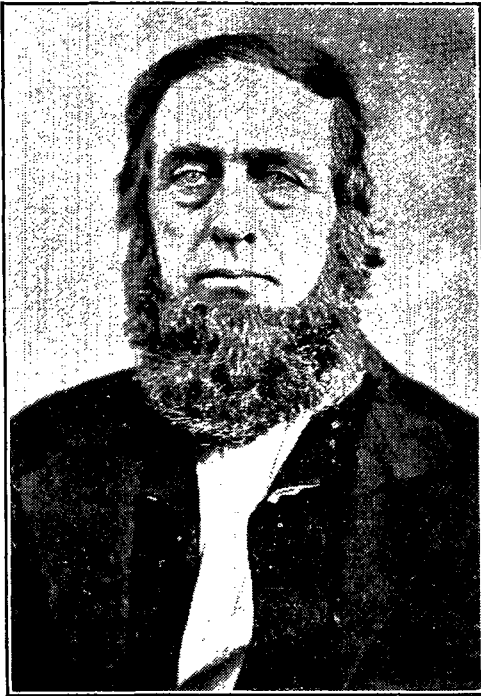
Another prominent citizen of Coudersport in the 1840's was William T. Jones, who came in 1842, and opened a store in a building erected by Nelson Clark near the corner of Main and Fifth Streets, taking his brother, Arch F. Jones, as a partner. He afterwards opened a branch store in Wharton, and moved his Coudersport store to the corner now occupied by Will Harris' garage, on Main and Second Streets, where he had erected a store building. Like most Potter County merchants in those days, he hauled his goods on wagons from Dansville, N. Y., the opening of the Erie Canal having made that the most convenient way to ship goods from the eastern cities. It is said that Will Jones was too liberal in extending credit to needy persons, and that this caused the downfall of his business, most of the firm's property eventually falling into the hands of his brother, Arch F. Jones. Will Jones died poor in 1889. Many men made a living in those times by hauling goods from Dansville to Coudersport. Among the men engaged in this work were Abraham Kimball, George Nelson, Michael Snyder, and Alanson Crowell.

Dr. Andrew Stout came to Ulysses in 1844, the first regular doctor in that part of the county. The first store in Ulysses was opened by Collins Smith in 1839. A postoffice was established at Harrison Valley in 1836, with Thomas Colvin as postmaster. A store was opened there by Richard Goodman in 1846, and continued till his death in 1856, and by his wife several years longer. Kelsey Stevens, the ancestor of a well-known family, settled in 1849 on a farm 1½ miles north of Harrison Valley.

The Oswayo Lumber Company was organized in 1837, and built mills at Millport, to be mentioned in a later chapter. Joseph Mann, who came into control of the company's business in 1845, and kept a store at Millport, was a brother of John S. Mann. He held the office of associate judge from 1851 to 1860. He moved to Coudersport in 1865 and died there in 1884.

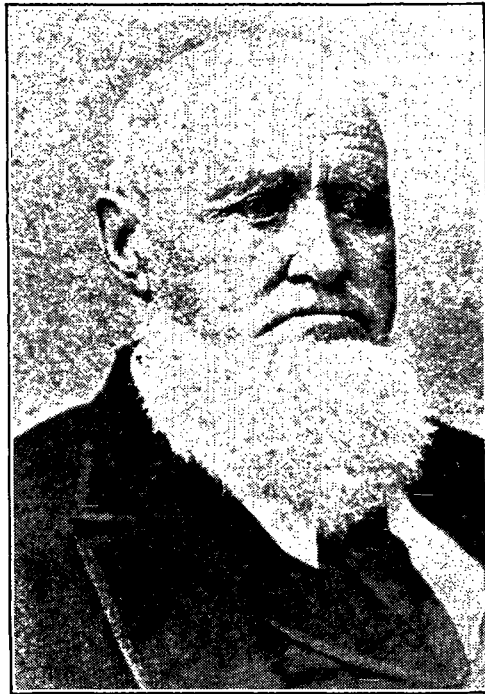
The first man to represent Potter County in the Assembly was Lewis B. Cole, in 1839, already mentioned as the first resident lawyer in the county. He was followed in 1844 by Lewis Mann, another brother of John S. Mann. The next assemblyman was Timothy Ives, elected in 1847.

On August 11, 1838, occurred the first murder in Potter County. Joshua Jones of Genesee township shot his wife in the early morning while lying in bed, killing her instantly. He told his neighbors that she had committed suicide, but his story was not believed, and he was arrested and lodged in the county jail. At the December term of court, 1838, he was brought to trial and



L. B. COLE

First Potter County lawyer to be admitted to the bar, and first representative of Potter in the Assembly.



ALMERON NELSON

Came to Potter with his parents in 1820. Prominent citizen of Lymansville, and in later life a leading writer on Potter County history.



JOSEPH MANN.

Early lumberman in the Oswayo Valley, and active participant in the Underground Railroad.



ELOISE A. DUTTON MANN



adjudged guilty of murder in the first degree, Judge Nathaniel B. Eldred of McKean County presiding. The jury consisted of the following persons: Charles Gorham, Hosea Cushing, Gardner H. Olmsted, Daniel Clark, D. F. Ellsworth, Orange A. Lewis, Isaac W. Jones, Robinson Nelson, Hiram Taylor, Clark Crum, Horace Hopkins, and Zera Benedict. We will let Almeron Nelson, one of the two men who recaptured the criminal, tell the rest of the story:—"Just two weeks before his execution, Jones broke jail, and nearly the whole population of the county turned out to assist Sheriff Thompson to recapture him. It fell to the lot of the undersigned, in company with William Hill of Genesee to learn the whereabouts of the prisoner; and in the darkness of the night, in the shelter of the woods, we arrested the criminal near the house of Isaac Van Orman, of whom I learned where Jones was secreted, and delivered him to the sheriff. He made a desperate and determined effort the next morning to get hold of a gun which the writer of this communication had with him, but he did not succeed. In the month of May following his conviction, Jones was hanged by the neck in the jail yard constructed for that purpose near the west end of the old stone court house. Miles Thompson was then sheriff of the county, and it was his official but dreaded duty to launch the prisoner into eternity; and he often talked about it to the day of his death. Jones made a full confession, acknowledging his guilt and the justice of the verdict of the jury."

A reward had been offered for Jones' apprehension, but he had been arrested before the notice appeared in print. He was hanged May 31, 1839, in the presence of a large crowd of spectators. Dr. Amos French attended as official physician. Only one other man was ever hanged in Potter County, Charles Brewster in 1906, who was sentenced by Judge Ormerod for the murder of his step-father, Marshall Stryker. Miles Thompson, who was sheriff of Potter County at the time of Jones' execution, was the second man to hold this office. He settled in Harrison township in 1827, lived in Ulysses a couple of years, and moved back to Harrison. He afterwards moved to Stewardson township, and built a mill at Cross Fork, where he died some years later. His son, Samuel Thompson, who once occupied the farm at Frinks station later owned by Emil Mosch, and who spent the latter end of his life in Coudersport, was well known by many people now living.

On March 29, 1837, an academy was incorporated at Coudersport by an Act of the Legislature. The following were the original board of trustees: John Lyman, John Taggart, Timothy Ives, Jr., Orange A. Lewis, Seneca Freeman, Charles Lyman, Lewis B. Cole, F. B. Hamlin. The following year, the State Treasurer was authorized to pay \$2000 to the trustees of the Academy to



build and equip a school, and the county commissioners were at the same time authorized to use all money and other property then held by them in trust for school purposes. This made available \$500 in money and 150 acres of land that had been donated for a school by John Keating when Coudersport was established as the county seat in 1807. A State appropriation of \$200 per year was granted at first, which was increased to \$300 per year in 1851. The Academy was built on the well known location on the hill at the corner of Fifth and Hill Streets, and the first term opened in September, 1840, with Prof. Greene Maxson of Alfred as the principal—the first high school in the county. Such schools were not free in those days, nor did they become so till more than fifty years afterwards. The tuition fee was then \$1.50 a term, with extra charges for certain subjects. William H. DePuy followed as principal in 1843. Then came John B. Pradt, Asa W. Smith, W. B. Slaughter, H. J. Olmsted, F. W. Knox, the last two afterwards prominent among the business men of Coudersport. John Mann, father of John S. Mann, was employed to teach mathematics in 1844. Many students attended from a distance, and the Coudersport Academy stood high among the schools of that day. Many names that afterward became well known were on its roll of students, among others F. A. Allen, afterwards principal of the Mansfield State Normal School, and several times an instructor in the Potter County Teachers' Institute.

In 1842 a district schoolhouse was built in Coudersport on the northeast corner of Fifth and West Streets, and continued to be used till 1869, only one teacher being employed. This building is not now standing. The average attendance in this school in 1844 was reported as 48. In 1844 is reported a school convention in Coudersport, every township being invited to send delegates. It will be borne in mind that the southern townships, except Wharton, had not then been organized, and contained few settlers. Eulalia reported, besides the Coudersport school mentioned above, 35 pupils at Lymanville, and 25 in the north district. Sharon reported five schoolhouses and fairly good schools. None of the other townships reported to the convention at all. Indirect information to this convention tells us that in Hebron there were three schools, one building a good one. Pike township had two schoolhouses, both in very bad shape. No school at all was held in one of them, and the one teacher employed used profane language. Ulysses then had five log schoolhouses, not very good, and the term of school was six months. Wharton had one good school and an empty schoolhouse that had not been used for two years. No information at all regarding schools in other districts of the county was elicited at this convention. Another convention was called in March, yielding the following additional data: Bing-

ham reported five schoolhouses, inconvenient and poorly located. Harrison reported seven schoolhouses, very poor. Oswayo reported one, and Roulet three, with a fairly good school six months in the year. The other townships in the county seem not to have been sufficiently interested to send any report. But we must remember that communication was slow and travel difficult in those days.

In 1839, the first newspaper appeared at Coudersport, the Potter Pennon. The proprietors were Timothy Ives, William Caldwell and Byron F. Hamilton. The printer was Franklin Corey, and the newspaper office stood on the site of the old Thompson drug store, now occupied by the Oilwell Supply Co. I know of but one copy of this paper now in existence; it contains the advertisement offering a reward for the recapture of Joshua Jones, the murderer, and belongs to Mrs. Eva D. Thompson. This paper was merged into the Democratic Republican in April, 1842, a few copies of which are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Milo Lyman. The name was changed to the Potter Pioneer in May, 1843. Mr. W. W. Thompson tells us that the name only was changed, the paper remaining under the same proprietorship though suspended for four weeks. It was published at this time by Charles B. Cotter, and continued in existence till 1850.

The reader will search in vain through the pages of the Potter Pioneer and other newspapers of that period for news columns like those in the local papers of today. The paper contains only four pages, not so large as those to which we are accustomed. The first page is entirely occupied with what we should now call magazine features, including now and then a poem by some Potter County writer. Many issues contain hardly any news items, such as are found usually being on the third page. The second page often contained political propoganda, and most of the advertising appeared on the third and fourth pages. The editor had a hard time to get along with his paper. In the issue of Jan. 5, 1844, he reports that his subscription list had shrunk to 150. The next May it had fallen to 120. An exhibition at the Academy was regarded as a noteworthy event in those days, and the one held in the spring of 1844 is reported quite fully in the issue of March 8 of that year. The following review of the news items and advertisements in the issue of July 28, 1849, is a fair sample of what the paper usually contained. The following business cards are found, all of Coudersport:—

Versel Dickinson, Justice of the Peace.

James E. Pierce, Attorney and Counsellor at Law.

L. F. Maynard, Attorney at Law.

L. M. Burson, Attorney and Counsellor at Law.

John Mann (father of John S. Mann), Justice of the Peace

Dr. Amos French, Physician.  
Isaac Benson, Attorney at Law.

Other advertisements are:—

Albert B. Goodsell, Rifle and Fowling-piece Manufactory.

W. B. Grenell, at the store formerly occupied by Timothy Ives. Dry Goods, Hats and Caps, Ladies' Muffs, Buffalo Robes, etc. All kinds of furs, Peltry, Grass seed, and most Kinds of Farmers' Produce received in exchange, and Cash not refused for Goods.

John T. Bailey, Fancy Articles. Among other items mentioned are Ladies' Pins, Earrings, Muffs, Shawls, Dress Goods, Linen Tablecloths, Fancy Boxes, Razors, Accordeons, and an Assortment of Woodenware.

There is a half column advertisement of the Coudersport Academy, Mr. Asa W. Smith, principal, Mrs. C. M. Smith, preceptress. Tuition per term, \$1.50 to \$4.00. Extras: Drawing, \$2.00, Oil Painting, \$4.00, Piano Forte, if a class of six is formed, \$8.00. Board in private families, \$1.00 to \$1.50 per week.

A national fast day is recommended by Z. Taylor, President of the United States, on August 1, for prayer to the Almighty to assuage a plague of cholera then at its height. President Taylor also announces the death of Ex-president James K. Polk. No local news items are found in this issue, though a few occur in the paper from time to time. The Potter Pioneer was Democratic in politics.

Several more pioneer settlements were made during this period. The beginning of the settlement of German immigrants in Potter County was in Roulet. The first of these were a party from Alsace, which at that time belonged to France, but these people are more properly designated as Germans. The following account of this first colony of European immigrants in Potter County was prepared expressly for this work by Miss Mabel Weimer, herself the granddaughter of George Weimer, one of the original colonists:—

“On March 18, 1830, George and Eve (Weidrich) Weimer, Jacob and Sally (Der) Weidrich, and Christian and Margaret (Weidrich) Schadenberger, with Mr. Schadenberger's parents, Balthasard and Elizabeth (Kaufman) Schadenberger, and another Weidrich brother who went to Canada, sailed from Havre, France, because they could not make a living in their native country, and because they did not want their sons to be drafted into the army.

“The captain of the ship on which they sailed took them nearly to the Gulf of Mexico, where he intended selling them as slaves. They found this out and were about to throw him overboard, when he promised to land them at Philadelphia, which he did June 19, 1830, after being on the water ninety days.

"After landing at Philadelphia they came to Jersey Shore to a land agent, who brought them to Potter County. They lived in a barn on the old Joshua Jackson place on Ayres Hill for several days.

"George Weimer was born at Inglesby, France, and was married to Margaret Lehman, to whom two children were born. After the death of his first wife, he married Eve Weidrich, to whom sixteen children were born, five of whom, with the two children of the first wife, sailed with them. One child was born, died, and was buried at sea. Mr. Weimer was a baker by trade, and had baked bread for Napoleon and his army. He came to Roulet and bought a farm from one of the Streeters for \$1.50 per acre. He made and sold baskets here. Three of his sons served in the Civil War: Michael, Martin (killed in the battle of the Wilderness), and John.

"Jacob Weidrich married Sally Der, and they had four children when they sailed. He was a weaver by trade, and earned sixpence per day. He also came to Roulet and purchased a farm from the Streeters.

"Christian Schadenberger married Margaret Weidrich, and they located on Eagle Street, Buffalo, living later in Black Rock and in Welland, Canada. Thence they came to Potter County, and located on the farm we know as the Fred Schadenberger place, between Coudersport and Mina. This farm was formerly settled by William Ayres and was sold at sheriff sale. The place contained 53 acres and was purchased by Mr. Schadenberger for \$35.00. Christian Schadenberger, Jr., later purchased the place now owned by his son, Frank Schadenberger, direct from the land agency for \$2.00 per acre.

"These families suffered many hardships, being obliged to go either on foot or with ox teams to Jersey Shore to get their corn made into meal. For their coffee they burned wheat; for tea, they gathered and dried raspberry leaves. For saleratus, they burned and powdered corn."

The Yentzer family also came from Alsace and settled in the Roulet neighborhood at some date a little later than the immigrants whose story has just been given.

The Allegheny valley between Coudersport and Roulet also attracted many of these Germans, their descendants being among the best farmers and best citizens of our county today. Three brothers of the Lehman family, Gottlieb, Philip, and Jacob, arrived at New York in 1837. Gottlieb came to Potter County in 1839, locating soon after on the place now belonging to his nephew, John P. Lehman. He removed to Ulysses in 1861. Philip Lehman located on the well known Lehman farm below Couders-

port in 1841. It remained in possession of the family till a few years ago, when it was sold by Carl Lehman to Rathbone Knox. Philip Lehman's brother-in-law, John P. Brehmer, located at the same time on the farm now belonging to Fred Lehman. Jacob Lehman bought a 50 acre farm on Sartwell Creek, the father, George Lehman, coming in 1841, and living with Jacob. Another son, Frederick, came in 1854, settling near his brother Jacob on Sartwell Creek.

Some of these Germans settled on Sweden Hill, together with some other early comers. The first man to locate on the hill road from North Hollow to Neeffe Corners was Conrad Hollenbeck, who settled on the farm now owned by Arch W. Snyder in 1835. Michael Snyder settled on the same place in 1842, Hollenbeck removing to the place across the road that we know as the William Snyder farm, where he remained till about 1858. He then traded with William Snyder for the farm on Baker Creek in Hebron township that we now know as the Schutt farm, formerly owned by Benjamin Tassell, where he lived till his death in 1872 at the great age of 106. Johnson Chase came to Sweden township in 1838. He lived for two or three years on the farm now occupied by Ed Gross, removing later to the well-known farm at Chase Corners. Jacob Snyder, father of Michael, settled beyond Neeffe Corners on the road to Brookland at some early date.

Edward Neeffe settled on the farm now owned by Fred Neeffe in 1840. A brother, Gustav Neeffe, settled at about the same time on the farm we call the Big Charley Neeffe place, now belonging to Ed Gross (it seems that by this time Johnson Chase had moved to Chase Corners), and another brother, Julius Neeffe, settled at Neeffe Corners on the place now occupied by Leigh Neeffe. The Neeffes were also natives of Alsace. Edward Franke and Christian Hundredmark were other early German settlers on Sweden Hill, the former on the place known as the Ed Franke place, and the latter on the place we now call the John Jacobs farm, where Hundredmark opened a blacksmith shop in 1844.

The first grist mill in Sweden township was built by B. T. Hoxsie on the farm now belonging to Joseph Klesa, at some date before 1850. There was also a sawmill at this point or just downstream from it, which afterwards became the property of A. G. Lyman and was operated by him for several years.

Daniel Raymond settled at Raymond's Corners in 1836. There was no road open here at this time, the nearest being the Rooks road, some three miles distant. Daniel Raymond's father, Amos Raymond, was a soldier of the Revolution; he died at the age of 95 at the home of his son in August, 1852. He was the last Revolutionary soldier in Potter County. Most of the members of the



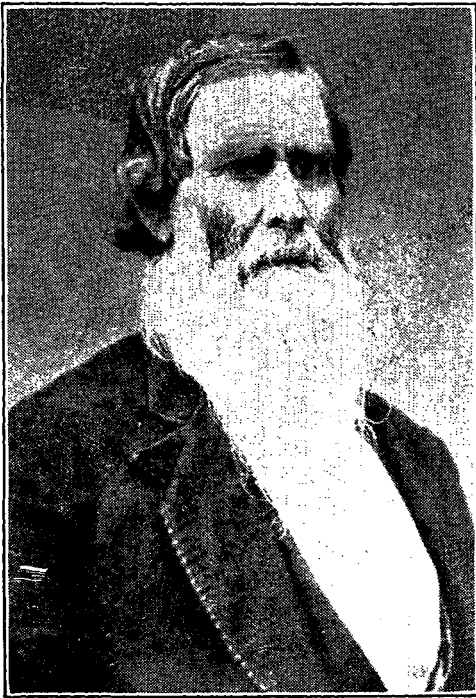
**DAVID WHITE**

Prominent citizen of Sweden town-  
ship. Settled on Dry Run, 1851.



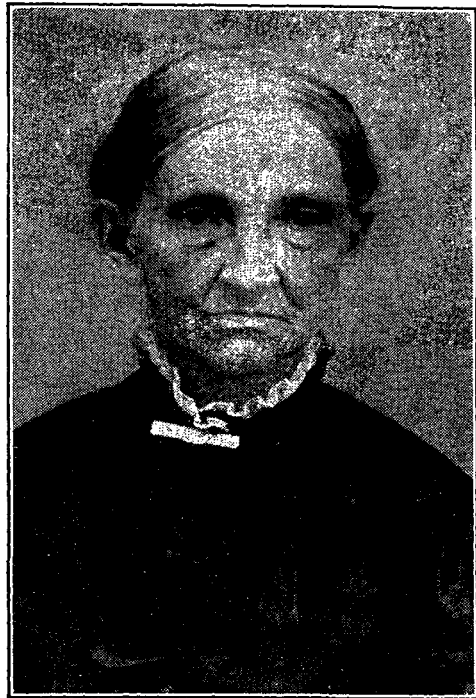
**PHILIP LEHMAN**

Early German settler in the Alle-  
gheny Valley below Coudersport,  
1842.



**PLINY HARRIS**

First settler in Keating township,  
1849.



**D. SOPHIA HARRIS.**



Raymond family have lived to a great age; Daniel Raymond was 99 years, 10 months and 15 days old at the time of his death. His sons, Amos, Asa, and David, have all been prominent citizens of our county. It has been supposed that there are five Revolutionary soldiers buried in Potter County, Amos Raymond being one. The others are Major Isaac Lyman; John Ives, the pioneer settler at Galeton; Daniel Rooks, early settler near North Bingham; and Timothy Howe, also of North Bingham. The name of Richard Ellis of Ellisburg increases the number of Revolutionary graves in Potter County to six. There is some doubt about the exact number of these graves. The above list is not complete, and with regard to one or two of the names just given, absolute proof is lacking.

Some settlers of note came into the south of Allegany township during this period. G. W. G. Judd settled on the farm now belonging to Denny Goodenough, near the Judd schoolhouse, in 1836. His wife was a sister of Norman Dwight, well known as a business man and lumberman in Hebron and Allegany townships during the years following the Civil War. A sister, Miss Mary Dwight, is remembered as a teacher of the same period. George Nelson, a son of Silas Nelson, already mentioned in the last chapter, settled at Colesburg in 1838. Later in life he kept a boarding house in Coudersport, his residence being the Wales Butterworth house on the present site of the high school building. During his residence at Colesburg, he built a sawmill, hauling lumber to Dansville, N. Y., to reach a market. Harry Lent settled in 1835 in what is now the Ford Hill neighborhood, moving in 1839 to the mouth of Baker Creek. His son, Morris Lent, later settled on the farm now belonging to Harry Lent, on the river road between Frinks and Colesburg.

The Irish settlement in Genesee township was founded by Martin Moran. He landed in New York May 1, 1840. He was the first Irishman that came to work on the Erie railroad at Wellsville. The road did not begin construction till some time afterwards. Mr. Moran and several others were thrown out of work. The contractor, himself an Irishman, arranged to purchase lands in Genesee township for himself and several others of his crew. As it turned out, he did not himself take part in the new settlement, but Moran and several others kept on. He and his son built a shanty, into which he moved in February, 1842. The building then had a chamber floor, but no roof. In the spring of 1842 other settlers came. Some of them were John Burke, Ira Leach, and James Osborne, the last a Yankee. A little later came Patrick Moran and John Chambers. It is stated that none of these early settlers had more than \$50 in money, and one, a married man with four daughters, had only



\$5. He afterward became well to do. Dennis Maginnis, the father of the Maginnis family of Genesee, came in 1850. In this year, a church was begun, and finished not long afterward. It was the first church ever erected in Potter County, unless the tradition of a log church erected by the Baptists of Ulysses some time in the 1830's has a basis in fact.

Ezra H. Pritchard built a shanty about 1825 in Homer township, on the banks of the South Fork; it stood on land which is now a part of the Franz Klesa farm. Aside from the settlement on Ayres Hill, he was the first settler in Homer. He was a bachelor during his residence in Homer, but married late in life. He remained a few years, and then moved to Stewardson township, near the bridge over Kettle Creek on the Jersey Shore Pike, where he lived the rest of his life and died at an advanced age in the latter years of the 19th century. He was a wagon maker by trade, and a very skillful workman, but was so much occupied with hunting that he seldom did any work of this kind beyond repairing breakdowns for travelers on the pike, after he had moved to Stewardson. He was one of the high lights among the many famous hunters that made their homes in Potter at that time; wiry, active, and alert; kindly and hospitable, one of the best types of the pioneer hunter. It would seem that he had already moved away before the next settlers arrived in the Homer neighborhood.

Most of the information I have on the early history of Homer township is obtained from an article by Elvina Peet Rees, found in the Potter County Journal of March 27, 1924. Mrs. Rees is a daughter of Jacob Peet and a granddaughter of the famous pioneer, John Peet. Her parents moved to Homer township in the spring of 1846, settling on the farm now occupied by William Russell. She states that there were three settlers already in the neighborhood: John Baker, Sr., on the farm now belonging to George Mitchell; Solomon Foster, who lived on a part of the Peet farm, and his father-in-law, John Palmer, who lived on what is now the Ben Baker place, formerly the Hiram Chesbro place. John Palmer was a mechanic, and had a little shop where he made chairs, spinning wheels for wool and flax, and the like. Asa Lathrop was the next settler. He came soon after Jacob Peet, locating on the Franz Klesa farm, not far from the site of the Pritchard cabin already mentioned. He had just before this time been keeping the Old Hickory Tavern at Coudersport. In 1842 a road had been opened directly west from Jonathan Edgcomb's over the hill, striking the present main road at what we know as the Will Hartwick place, now occupied by Stephen Kelly. Solomon Foster's shanty was situated on this road. One of the next comers was Dennis Hall, Sr. His house was also situated on this road, and stood nearly across the valley from

the present site of the Homer cemetery. Abel Crosby took up a farm over the hill, now owned by his grandson, Herbert W. Crosby, about 1848. His father, William Crosby, came a few years later, and built a small tannery, one of the first in this part of the county. William Crosby came to Potter about 1828, locating at first in Wharton Township, just below Bailey Run. He then moved to Ayres Hill, moving to Coudersport on the day of the great wind storm of 1834, which wrecked his load of goods. He remained in Coudersport about twenty years, and kept a shoe shop there for a considerable length of time. His last days were passed in Homer, where he died in 1867. At this time or just before, Orange and George Strong built a small mill on the stream flowing across the Crosby farm, but their mill was not profitable, and they moved away. Two other sons of William Crosby, Alonzo and Orson, were prominent among the earlier citizens of Coudersport. Another, Ostrander Crosby, fell in the service of the Union during the Civil War.

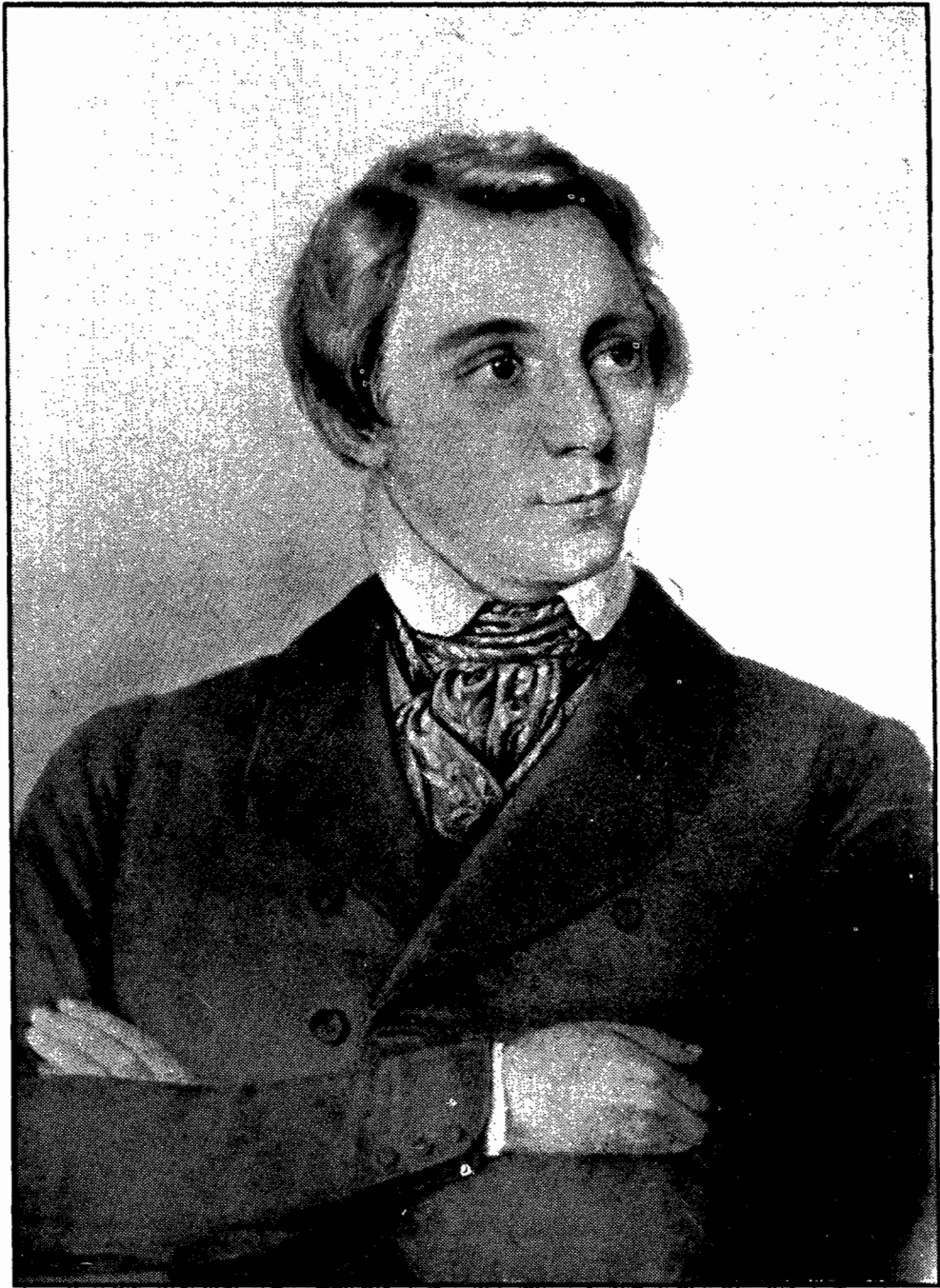
David Colcord, brother-in-law of Jacob Peet, came into the neighborhood a few years later, having come to Coudersport in 1842 to attend the Academy. He occupied the farm which he later sold to his brother, Albert Colcord; he moved to Cameron County in 1868. This farm is situated just over the line in Eulalia township. Giles Gustin built a sawmill on the South Fork just below the present Homer township building. He afterwards went West. He was also a carpenter and joiner, and built some of the early houses in Coudersport. The Gustin farm was the one now owned by Alvin J. Quimby. James H. Quimby built a grist mill on the place now occupied by Frank Monroe. Another early settler was Lemuel Hackett, on the farm now belonging to Earl Russell. John Leonard was the first settler on the farm now owned by Reuben H. Russell.

A few scattering settlers located at other points in the southern half of the county during this period. I have already mentioned the settlement of Ezra H. Pritchard at the Kettle Creek bridge. In May, 1843, Francis French settled at Oleona, at the place afterwards occupied by Henry Andresen. Mrs. French was a famous character and one of the hardiest of pioneer women. She hunted and trapped by her husband's side, and sometimes even worked on the log drive. On one occasion she was in the woods alone with her gun, and was treed by a pack of wolves. She shot five, when the shots were heard by her husband and he came to the rescue; the rest of the wolves became frightened, and ran away. Andrew Jordan, of the famous pioneer Jordan family, was another early settler on Kettle Creek. Miles Thompson built a sawmill at Cross Fork about 1845. A few settlers also came into West Branch town-

ship before 1848. Levi Ives was the first, about 1835, a mile and a half above Galeton on the West Branch. He was killed by a falling tree soon after. The next settler was Erastus Crippen, on or near the same site. The Conables, Knickerbockers, and Wetmores were some of the early settlers near the present site of Germania Station, on the West Branch.

During this period, the possibility of a railroad within reach of Potter County began to appear. The early merchants were obliged to haul their goods on wagons either from Jersey Shore or Dansville, N. Y., the latter place being generally preferred after the opening of the Erie Canal. The construction of the Erie railroad began at Binghamton, N. Y., in 1835, and progressed slowly for many years. A route was surveyed in 1844 with the assistance of John King, of Ceres, by which the proposed railroad would have followed the Genesee River from Wellsville to Stone Dam, thence down the Honeoye, the Oswayo, and the Allegheny, to Shinglehouse, Portville, and Olean. This route would have been by all means preferable to the one that was adopted, through Belmont, Friendship, and Cuba. It was rejected because of the asinine stupidity of the Pennsylvania Legislature in laying oppressive taxes and restrictions on railroads. The Erie was forced to pay \$10,000 per year for passing through the northeast corner of the State, and some ultra conservatives were inclined to look on railroads as a damaging innovation. Had this opposition not been encountered, the Erie Railroad would have passed through Potter County, Shinglehouse would have been our first railroad point instead of Wellsville, and Ceres or Portville, instead of Olean, would have become the metropolis of this section of New York and Pennsylvania. Such were the results of the short-sightedness and stupidity of our State Legislature in 1844. As it was, the railroad was not completed till several years later, and then came no nearer than Wellsville. A petition signed by a large number of prominent Potter County men was sent to the Legislature in February, 1850, asking that the railroad be allowed to pass through Potter and McKean Counties, and that the \$10,000 annual tribute exacted from the Erie for passing through Wayne and Susquehanna counties be repealed, but this petition was barren of results.

Several more townships were organized between 1840 and 1848. There is no official record in the Prothonotary's office of the organization of either Portage or Homer townships, but the records show that both these townships held elections in 1843, thus proving that they were at least partly organized before the elections of that year. Portage township was at first five miles wide and included the entire southwestern corner of the county west of Wharton, the north line of Portage reaching Roulet township, and the western part of what is now Keating town-



*W. B. Bull*



ship being included. The entire population of Portage then resided in the district from Sizerville to Emporium Junction which is now a part of Cameron County.

Homer township included, besides its present area, the eastern portion of Keating and the western portion of Summit townships. The north line of Homer was originally nearly a mile south of its present location. It was changed at some early date in order to accommodate the early settlers on the south side of the continental divide which separated them from the Allegheny valley. The name of the township is said to have been suggested by some of the early settlers, who came from a place of the same name.

Stewardson township was organized in 1844. It is named for Thomas Stewartson, one of the early landowners, the form Stewardson being a corruption. The township contained nearly as great a population then as it does at the present day, if we except the occupants of the summer camps that now line the Kettle Creek Valley from Oleona to Cross Fork. West Branch township was also organized in 1844, the only settlers at the time being a few families near the present site of Germania Station. At about the same time, Jackson township was organized. It had been previously attached to Pike, and was annexed to Ulysses in 1875.

In 1847, a petition was granted to divide the township of Clara, the western half to constitute a new township, to be called Pleasant Valley. The reason for this was, that the settlements in the two sides of the township were entirely distinct, and not to be reached from each other by any public road without a long detour through another township. For practical purposes, this is still the case, the only road directly connecting the valleys of Fishing Creek and Sartwell Creek being the Fisk Hollow road, which was not opened till the early part of the present century, and is little used.

A few other buildings in the county that were erected between 1833 and 1848 are still standing, besides those already mentioned in the account of the early houses of Coudersport. Fires have destroyed many that would otherwise still be in use. The oldest house in the county, so far as I am able to find out, is the one on Ayres Hill built by Jonathan Edgcomb in 1837, now belonging to his granddaughter, Mrs. Derna Bloomer. It is still in good condition, and has been the family home for 97 years. It was built in better fashion than most other houses of that day. Jonathan Edgcomb insisted that it should be covered with rough boards before being clapboarded, though this was not then usually done, as before the forests were cut, the winter winds were not felt as they are nowadays, and fuel cost nothing but the cutting.

A few more fine old houses are standing in the village of Roulet. The house of Milo Lyman, according to the account given me by the family, was built by his father, Leroy Lyman, about the time of his marriage, which means that it dates from about 1845. It is a superb example of the old-time home, retaining the charm that is only acquired with age, and, though it is now equipped with modern conveniences, it has not been spoiled, as so many old residences have been, by the mania for modernization. Its old fashioned fireplace has required a few minor repairs, but still sheds its cheerful glow on a winter evening, as it did nearly 90 years ago. The clear pine lumber of which the house is built was cut from trees that stood near by, on the land now occupied by Mr. Lyman's orchard. Mr. and Mrs. Lyman tell me that the Jacob Weidrich house at the lower end of Roulet village, now belonging to Chauncey B. Goodrich, is a few years older than theirs, and that the old Yentzer house, just below town, is about the same age, lacking possibly a year or two. I am not able to give examples of the older homes in the north of Potter County; a few may be in existence that were built prior to 1850, especially some in the town of Ulysses, but I have not learned exact locations and dates. The old hotel of Chester Corsaw in Sweden township is still standing and occupied as a farmhouse. It was built in 1845.

The period from 1833 to 1848 holds several milestones of progress in Potter County. The organization of Potter as an independent county in 1833, and the completion of the first court house in 1835; the opening of the Coudersport Academy in 1840; the publication of the first newspaper in 1839: these are some of the most important events of this period. Coudersport had risen to the status of a town, had passed Lymanville in population, and was on the eve of organization as a boro. Ulysses had begun to assume the position it long occupied as the chief town in Northern Potter. Millport had become a lumbering town of some importance. Only a few pioneer settlements remained to be made. Long trips to points outside the county to purchase supplies were no longer necessary for any but the merchants. Railroads had begun to be surveyed, and were soon to be near enough to make the long trips to Dansville and Jersey Shore a thing of the past.

But some conditions that existed at this time seem very strange to us to-day. Matthew Ostrander, who lived in Potter, during the 1840's and died in 1896 at the age of 92, in giving some reminiscences of these times, says that he had served on juries when they were too poor to buy candles, and were obliged to deliberate in the dark. He hauled all the lime from Jersey Shore for the first court house in 1835. He had seen a man rotten-egged in Coudersport for lecturing against slavery.

Cash was not generally expected by merchants in exchange for their wares; all of them took produce, and hauled it to a distant market. County orders were subject to a heavy discount, and there was seldom any cash in the county treasury. Many scalps of wolves, panthers, foxes, etc. were brought in for the bounty paid by the State; this is one of the major items on the books of the county treasurer, amounting to \$473.75 in 1847. Yet the people of Potter were steadily forging ahead. Such men as John S. Mann, Orange A. Lewis, Isaac Benson, and Gaylord G. Colvin were beginning to be recognized as leaders, and a Free Soil newspaper was about being established, to continue even to the present day.



## CHAPTER V

### THE PERIOD PRECEDING THE CIVIL WAR. 1848-1861

In 1848 occurred the organization of Coudersport as a boro. The original 93 acre town plot that had been laid out in 1807 comprised but a small portion of the Coudersport of to-day. It extended north and south from Seventh Street to Allegany Avenue. Its eastern boundary ran nearly through the bridge over the Allegheny on Second Street, and it extended on the west one square beyond Hill Street. These were the boundaries of the boro at its organization in 1848. The boro limits were extended in 1851, making the northern and southern boundaries the same that they are at present, but the east line then crossed the Lymansville road near where the house of W. S. Norton now stands, and the west line remained as it had been, running east of the Eulalia Cemetery. This was the extent of Coudersport Boro till 1895. The population of Coudersport by the census of 1850 was 234. The only estimates given for any dates previous to 1850 are, first that of 1825, when the family of John L. Cartee was the only one in town, and second, in 1835, when Samuel Haven tells us there were 47 people in Coudersport. Potter County contained 6048 people in 1850. Several of the northern townships then exceeded Coudersport in population.

On February 8, 1851, the first train came into Wellsville over the Erie railroad, then called the New York and Erie, and within a year, regular service began to Dunkirk on Lake Erie. Few events that have occurred in the history of Potter County have transcended this one in importance. The long and tedious trips to Jersey Shore and Dansville to make connection with the world outside were now definitely brought to an end. An obstinate legislature had defeated the efforts of the progressive citizens of Potter to bring the railroad within their own borders, but the improvement in transportation was so great that this was little thought of, and men's minds at once turned to a railroad through the county seat. So long ago as 1853, a move was made to incorporate the Jersey Shore and Buffalo railroad. This road was never built, and it was to be 21 years before any railroad came nearer than the Erie at Wellsville, but far-sighted men even then knew that a railroad through Coudersport was sure to come, sooner or later. The first train ran from New York to Buffalo in November, 1852, and construction began about the same time on the Sunbury and Erie, which was laid as far as Lock Haven in 1859.

An incident of mercantile competition in the days preceding the opening of the Erie railroad is worth relating here. Merchants in Potter then generally received their goods by way of the Erie Canal, which is frozen over in winter and not open for traffic. Thus merchants were often delayed in putting in a spring stock of goods. Freight rates sometimes amounted to \$1.50 per hundred. It is easy to see that there could be but little sale for any kind of goods for which a satisfactory substitute could be produced at home. Early in the season of 1848, John S. Mann, who had by that time opened a store in Coudersport, ordered his spring stock of goods from Philadelphia via the Pennsylvania Canal. He had to send teams to Jersey Shore to bring his goods, but by this route, the canals were open so long before the ice was out of the Erie canal that Mr. Mann had his goods on sale before his competitors were able to get theirs from New York.

In 1848, when it became certain that the Erie railroad would soon be in operation, agitation began for a plank road from Coudersport to Wellsville. It was proposed to organize a stock company, and build a toll road. Several of our best public men of that day strongly advocated the building of such a road, and offered to take large blocks of stock. These men persevered for five or six years. Among their number were John S. Mann, F. L. Jones, W. T. Jones, Charles Lyman, H. Leet, and Orange A. Lewis. There was difference of opinion as to the route that ought to be followed, each man naturally preferring that it should pass through his own neighborhood. John S. Mann advocated a \$20,000 bond issue by the county. But this proposal did not meet with general favor, especially from townships like Harrison, not lying on any of the proposed routes. Ulysses also did not favor a bond issue. The project was finally abandoned by its sponsors in 1854 as hopeless.

While the agitation for a plank road was at its height another idea was taking root in the minds of another group of citizens, namely, that Potter County was much in need of a new court house. This project was opposed by most of the best citizens, but it so happened that it was favored by the county commissioners, who at that time were Chester Andrews, Almeron Nelson, and Charles Monroe. Meetings were held at several principal points in the county, and petitions signed, praying the Commissioners not to erect a new building. The question was to be submitted to a grand jury, but the county commissioners were aware that public sentiment was against them, and dispatched word post haste to Harrisburg, where Timothy Ives represented Potter County in the Assembly. Through his influence an act passed the Legislature authorizing the county commissioners to build a new court house in Potter County, just two days ahead

of the date set for the meeting of the grand jury. Thus did the commissioners gain authority to build a court house against the will of the people. The job was let to William Bell for \$14,500. He was not the lowest bidder. Dr. Amos French bid \$14,000, Jacob Reckhow, \$14,300, and Haliday, of Warren, \$14,050. It is hard to understand why Bell was awarded the contract, unless there was some private understanding that never came to light. At all events, the work was thoroughly done. The building was erected in 1852. The bell in the tower is the gift of Timothy Ives, and was tolled the first time for the death of his daughter, Mary Ives Dike, who died in October, 1853. The bell had not yet been hung, and was tolled with a hammer. The clock in the tower was donated by H. H. Dent, whom I shall introduce hereafter, and was installed in 1854. The pitch of the roof was originally only one half what it is now, and the tower was much lower, surmounted by a hemispherical dome. We older folks still remember the Court House as it looked in those days, before the remodeling of 1888. It still retains many of the original architectural features. The stone are native rock, carefully selected and cut by hand, entailing an amount of labor which would now be regarded as out of the question. The roof trusses are of the old fashioned king-post type, with truss beam 62 feet long, hewed from the pine forests that then stood near by. They are as stanch to-day as when they were hoisted in place. The first term of court in this building was held in December, 1853.

Eli Rees, Jr., had charge of the carpenter work on the court house. Walter B. Gordnier, then a young man, came to Coudersport as his assistant. John Ryan, Sr., was another skilled workman who came at this time. He was an immigrant from County Galway, Ireland, and was one of the first masons employed on the building.

Thus the court house was built against the will of the people of Potter County, and contrary to the judgment of men who had the good of the community at heart, and most of whom believed that the interest of the people would be served by bonding the county to build a plank road to Wellsville. But the verdict of Time has completely reversed their judgment and vindicated that of their opponents, despite the fact that those who were thus defeated in their undertaking were a group of the very best citizens of the county. Several plank roads had just then been built north of the State line, and it was expected that they would serve a purpose like that of the concrete highways of the present day. But in a few years the plank became worn out and rotten, and repairs were so expensive that within the next 25 years, about all of these roads were torn up. It was not for that gen-

eration to construct roads that should bear traffic the year round. But the court house, though it then seemed an immense structure far beyond the needs of the county, is a monument to the foresight of its builders.

During the years from 1840 to 1850, when liquor was freely sold in Potter County, the little town of Coudersport witnessed many drunken brawls and disgraceful scenes that disgusted the better class of citizens. John S. Mann, himself a total abstainer and aggressive temperance worker during his lifetime, was the leader in the movement to do away with this blot on the community. In the fall of 1851, two associate judges were to be elected, and license or no license became the issue of the campaign. The dry candidates, Orange A. Lewis of Ulysses and Joseph Mann of Millport, won. From that time till May 1900, no license to sell liquor was granted in Potter County. The next election of associate judges was in 1856; Joseph Mann was reelected and Gaylord G. Colvin of Harrison was the other successful candidate. In 1861 G. G. Colvin was succeeded by Charles S. Jones of Coudersport. All of these associate judges refused to grant license.

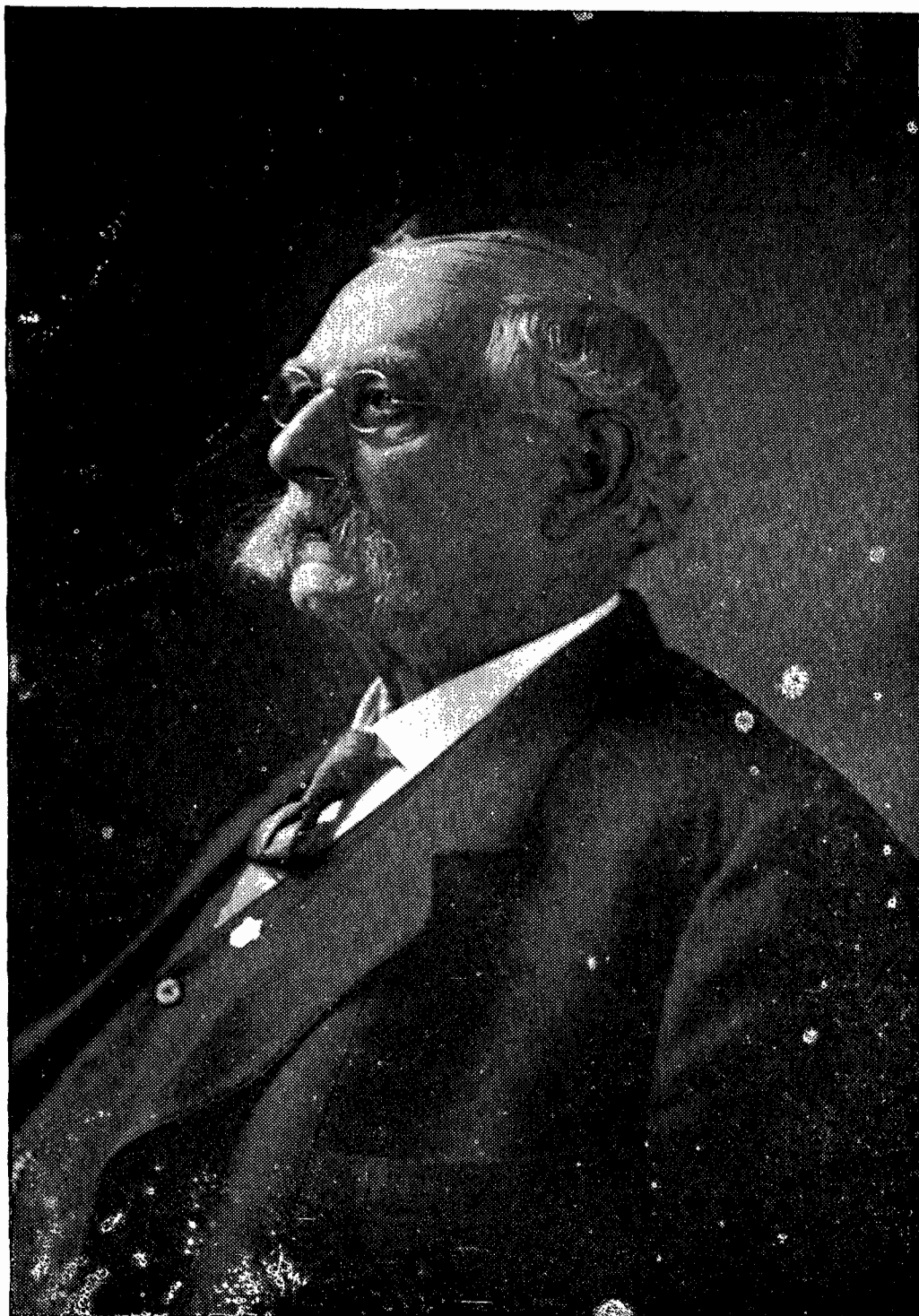
Several more settlements were made from 1850 to 1860, these completing the roster of pioneer settlements in Potter County, except two or three of minor importance that belong to a later chapter. The most noted pioneer settlement of this period is that of Ole Bull, the famous Norwegian violinist, and his colony. This episode of our history has been very fully and ably described by several other writers, and I propose to recount only its main incidents.

Ole Bull's purpose was to found a Norwegian colony in America. He purchased 11,144 acres of land of John F. Cowan on Kettle Creek. He arrived with a colony of about 30 people in the middle of September, 1852, and more came later. The colonists came by wagon from Wellsville, in groups so large that they could not be entertained in the hotels at Coudersport, and private citizens were called on to assist. Four villages were laid out: New Norway, New Bergen (Cartee Camp), Oleona, and Walhalla (Ole Bull's Castle). These colonists were not well fitted for the work of founding a settlement in the wilderness. Many of them fell sick, and there was much distress during the winter. In the spring of 1853 it became known to Ole Bull that the title to his land was not good, since there had been reservations before the date of his deed that covered nearly all the sites chosen by the settlers. Ole Bull became discouraged and most of the settlers went away. A few remained by reason of sickness, death in the family, or other causes, and a few descendants of these settlers are dwellers in Potter to-day. It is claimed by

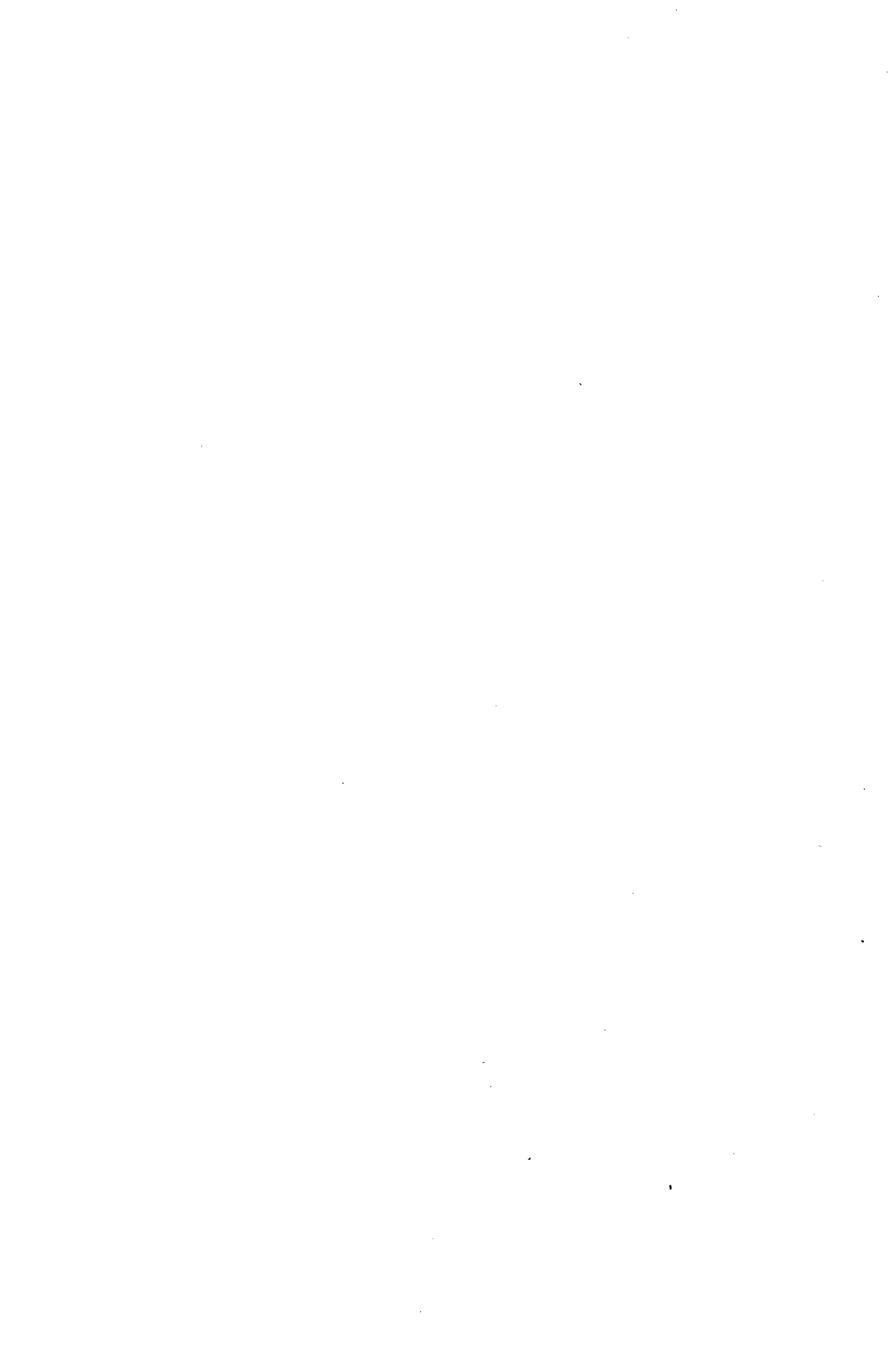
some writers that part of Ole Bull's purchase money was refunded to him, but the People's Journal of that date tells us that he lost \$70,000. It has been vigorously asserted by Dr. George P. Donehoo and others that the failure of Ole Bull's colony was due to his own incompetence and unfitness to be the leader of a pioneer settlement. There is a good deal of truth in this statement. Ole Bull was already making plans for settlements in adjoining counties on a still larger scale, and was, as the saying is, carrying too much sail for his ballast. But it is equally true that he was imposed upon and taken advantage of by unscrupulous persons, of whom John F. Cowan was one. Some contemporary has said of Cowan that "he would as soon pick the bait out of a steel trap as to have any dealings with him." A letter from a Williamsport man who had known John F. Cowan, published in the Journal of June 29, 1904, represents him to have been a smooth tongued swindler, wholly unworthy of confidence and thoroughly detested by every man who knew him.

Ole Bull never resided in the castle he had built on the well-known site; it was afterward torn down and the lumber used in building the Joerg house. He did not have the genius as a financier that he had as a musician, and he was handicapped besides by an imperfect command of English. It is unlikely that in any case his colony would have been a complete success. Yet we can't help being sorry that he didn't get a square deal.

Another colony in the southeast of Potter followed close on the departure of Ole Bull's Norwegians. William Radde of New York undertook at this time to found a settlement of German immigrants. He canvassed among the Germans in the mining districts and in the large cities. He secured land in Abbott and Stewardson townships, and laid out towns at Germania and Cross Fork, dividing his land into 25 acre lots, one village lot being thrown in with each purchase. The settlers arrived late in 1855 under the leadership of Dr. Charles Meine. Some came from Tioga, Pa., then the nearest railroad point to the east, and some over the Jersey Shore pike. Winter weather had arrived in advance of the settlers, and considerable hardship followed, but the newcomers stuck to their task. The founder had far-fetched ideas as to the dignity and importance of his station, and erected an ornate land office at Germania. The settlement at Cross Fork never materialized; it had been named Victoria. Many of the early settlers at Germania were political exiles from the European war of 1848. The settlement proved a success, and some locations were taken on the lands formerly occupied by Ole Bull, and eventually some in the Kitzmeyer neighborhood in West Branch township. This community has remained mostly German. The first hotel was kept by one Briesenick, and Mr. M. J. Handwerk tells us that the first store was built by S. D.



**DR. CHARLES MEINE**  
Founder of the settlement at Germania, 1855  
Courtesy of Mrs. J. C. Breunig



Seward of New York, the same man who built the new Cherry Springs hotel. The man who kept the first store was Fred T. Suhr.

Before the time of either the Ole Bull or the William Radde colonies, there were a few settlers on Yochum Hill. Peter Yochum, Adam Yoh, Solomon Bolich and Daniel Conway were the pioneers of this community. I can not give any precise dates; the settlement was probably made between 1840 and 1850.

Another group of German settlers came to the central part of the county at nearly the same time as those just mentioned. Adolph Fournes, the first of these, settled on the well known Fournes farm on Dutch Hill about 1854. The road at that time ran from Coudersport up Ross Hollow, and the Fournes buildings were conveniently situated near this road. John Ehrhardt at first settled on the farm now belonging to Tom Harris. Later he moved to the place in Homer township now belonging to John Walaski, and Christian Breunle, Sr., located on the place he had left. In 1863, Franz and Ignatz Griesel took up the farm on the crest of the hill, and Christian Breunle, Jr., had the farm now belonging to O. B. Geer. The farm now belonging to Joseph Guenther was originally taken up by Edward Fournes, a son of Adolph Fournes. Later, Mr. Fournes moved to the Odin neighborhood, and the farm became the property of Joseph and Gustav Guenther, while a third brother, Benjamin, settled in the valley on the south side of the hill. Gottlieb Fickler cleared up the farm now generally known as the Adam Hartwick place, adjoining the Crosby homestead in Homer, coming in 1854; he afterward moved to Coudersport. The place now belonging to the Kellner brothers was cleared by Jacob Braitling, who afterward moved to the lower end of Coudersport and opened stone quarries that still bear his name, purchasing the land from D. C. Larabee. Many of these German immigrants were, like those at Germania, political refugees from the war of 1848. Many of them were skilled at some trade that they had learned in the thorough manner that is characteristic of the German people. Adolph Fournes was a plasterer, Christian Breunle a marble cutter, Ignatz Griesel a harness maker, Richard Bendel a tailor, Gustav Guenther a plasterer. These and other German families that came later have proved a worthy addition to the community of Coudersport and vicinity.

A new influx of German settlers in the Roulet neighborhood also took place at this time. The Teuscher family, some of whom settled in Sweden township, and the Kimms, Fischers, Brauns, Eimers and Noethers, all of whom settled on Lanninger Creek, near Roulet, and the Dehns, who settled on Sartwell Creek, belong to this period, as well as some other families that I have not named. I am not informed as to the exact date of the arrival



of these settlers, but most of them belonged to the tide of German immigrants who were political refugees from the war of 1848, and several families, like the Ficklers and other settlers near Coudersport, came from Saxony.

A few years earlier than the settlements just described the settlement of Keating township was begun. John Nelson, the pioneer of Wharton township, or one of his sons, made a small chopping near the site of the old Grange hall in the Odin neighborhood, but did not settle there. John Keating, being anxious to attract settlers on Freeman Run, offered land to the first five settlers for one dollar an acre, with choice of locations. Pliny Harris came first from Ulysses township, where he had settled in 1840, coming from Chenango County, N. Y. He made a small clearing and built a cabin in the fall of 1848, into which he moved in February, 1849. A small lot including the site of the original log house is still owned by his granddaughters, Misses Marjorie and Gladys Beebe, but the main part of the farm passed from the ownership of the family many years ago, and is generally known by the name of the purchaser, the late John B. Bundy. Jason Lewis was the next settler, coming in the summer of 1849. He was a traveling Universalist preacher, and the work of clearing up the farm was largely left to his sons. Leonard Jewell, a brother-in-law of Pliny Harris, built a saw-mill on what is now the Bridges farm in 1853, receiving a bonus of 50 acres from John Keating. He was then a widower. Soon after his second marriage in 1858, he settled here and remained till 1867, when he removed to Turtle Point. Eleazar Z. Dingee, another brother-in-law of Pliny Harris, was the next settler in 1854. The supervisors of Homer township assisted Pliny Harris to open a road to his clearing from what is now the Ben Baker place in the Inez neighborhood; this road was eventually extended to meet the Saltworks road at the head of Freeman Run, and was long the only road in this section.

There was a hunter's shanty at Keating Summit, on the present site of the railroad cut, occupied by John Latham, a wooden-legged veteran of the War of 1812, which may have been built before the settlement of Pliny Harris in the eastern edge of Keating township; the exact date when it was built is not known, but Latham was certainly living here in 1856. Elijah S. Flinchbaugh was at Keating Summit as long ago as 1854, and built a shingled hotel on the site of the old Forest House in 1856, giving the place the name of Shinglehouse, afterwards changed to Forest House. Samuel Story came here a year or two later than Flinchbaugh. The present road from Mina to Keating Summit was opened by the State as a stage road from Coudersport to Emporium in 1861, the Salt-works road being vacated.

N. V. Jackson kept the Forest House at the time this road was built, and Miles White became the proprietor in 1864, remaining for ten years. There were few settlers here before 1872.

The settlement at Austin was founded by E. O. Austin, who came from the north of Harrison township, where his parents had settled in 1841. He came to Austin in 1856, cutting a road through from Costello, which was then called North Wharton. He had no near neighbors for a year or two. Some of the early settlers on the road towards Costello were John Everett, L. D. Ripple, and a man named Burdette, who owing to a discrepancy in surveying the new township line between Portage and Sylvania in 1871, successfully defied for several years the attempts of the assessors to locate him in either township, and paid no taxes. George Turner was the first settler in that part of Austin just north of the E. O. Austin farm about 1857. John Brownlee settled on the well-known Brownlee farm near Costello the same year that E. O. Austin founded the settlement at Austin.

Four new townships were organized as a result of the settlements just described. Abbott was organized in 1851 from territory formerly annexed to Eulalia; Summit, in 1854, from parts of Sweden and Homer and some unorganized territory; Sylvania, mostly taken from Wharton, in 1856, and Keating in 1856 from parts of Homer and Portage townships. Abbott township is named for Thomas B. Abbott, the first postmaster at Cartee Camp. The derivation of the other names is obvious. Cameron County was organized in 1860, taking off an area comprising part of Portage and Wharton townships in Potter. The entire settled part of Portage became a part of Cameron, the township thus losing its place in Potter for a time.

Some settlers of note came during this period to neighborhoods already partly occupied. Among these was David White, who settled on Dry Run in Sweden township in the fall of 1851, bringing his family in February, 1852. He came from Burlington township, Bradford County. The following account is given me by his great-grandson, William Rafford White of New York City.

"The children of David and Martha White were: Rodney, at one time a representative of Potter County in the State Legislature; Nancy (Mrs. Charles Wygant); Frederick, who as a young man removed to Missouri; Delevan; Warren, who married Anner Watson and was the father of William C. and Albert of Sweden Valley, Frederick of Kendrick, Colorado, and Clayton of Buffalo; William, who now in his eighty-seventh year lives at Carrolton, Missouri; Martha (Mrs. Clark Chase); Frank, who lives on Ayres Hill; Mary E. and Milton E. (twins). Milton resides at Sweden Valley.

"Throughout his life, David White was deeply interested in public affairs. In politics he was a staunch Democrat, and frequently took an active part in public matters. In 1872, while carrying a considerable sum of county funds to Galeton, he was held up on the road near Brookland by two robbers, who felled a tree across the road to stop his horse. The highwaymen seized the county funds and Mr. White's watch as well. Later one of the robbers was arrested and part of the money recovered.

"David White lived the latter years of his life at Coudersport. He died at the age of eighty at the home of his son Rodney in Roulet."

To the above account it may be added that Rodney L. White was the senior member of the firm of White & Lyman, who kept a store in Roulet in the 1870's, and that William C. White, a grandson of David White, has served a term as Commissioner of Potter County.

We must again take up the thread of history in the central part of Potter County. John S. Mann was now the agent for the Keating lands and William McDougall for the Bingham lands. The old Bingham office, a one story brick building now used as a residence, is still standing on the corner of Main and Fifth Streets. Mr. McDougall afterward removed to Oswayo, where he kept a store, and Giles B. Overton became the Bingham land agent in Coudersport. He was a young man and single when he came; he was later married to one of the sisters of David Wilmot. Another man came to Coudersport in 1853 who became a prominent figure during the period of excitement preceding the Civil War. This was Henry Hatch Dent, who came from Charles County, Maryland. He was the grandson of a Revolutionary soldier, a graduate of Yale, and had studied law with Francis Scott Key, the man who wrote The Star Spangled Banner. He married a daughter of John Adlum, who was one of the heirs of the Bingham Estate. She died in 1849. A dispute arose among the Bingham heirs, involving the ownership of much land in Potter County, and Mr. Dent, owing to his interest in these lands as his wife's heir, came to Coudersport, as before stated, in 1853. He purchased a tract of land on North Main Street, including the square where the Episcopal Church now stands and several lots adjoining, and built several houses; at least one of these is now standing, and is occupied by Frank Niles. Mr. Dent was a kind-hearted man, possessing much public spirit, and scrupulously honest. But he was a Southern aristocrat, with the manner and bearing of titled nobility, and a strong pro-slavery man. These circumstances were very damaging to his reception by the people of Coudersport. The town then contained (as we shall soon see) a station of the



**HENRY ANDRESEN**

Secretary of the Ole Bull colony.  
Early lumberman and storekeeper on  
Kettle Creek.



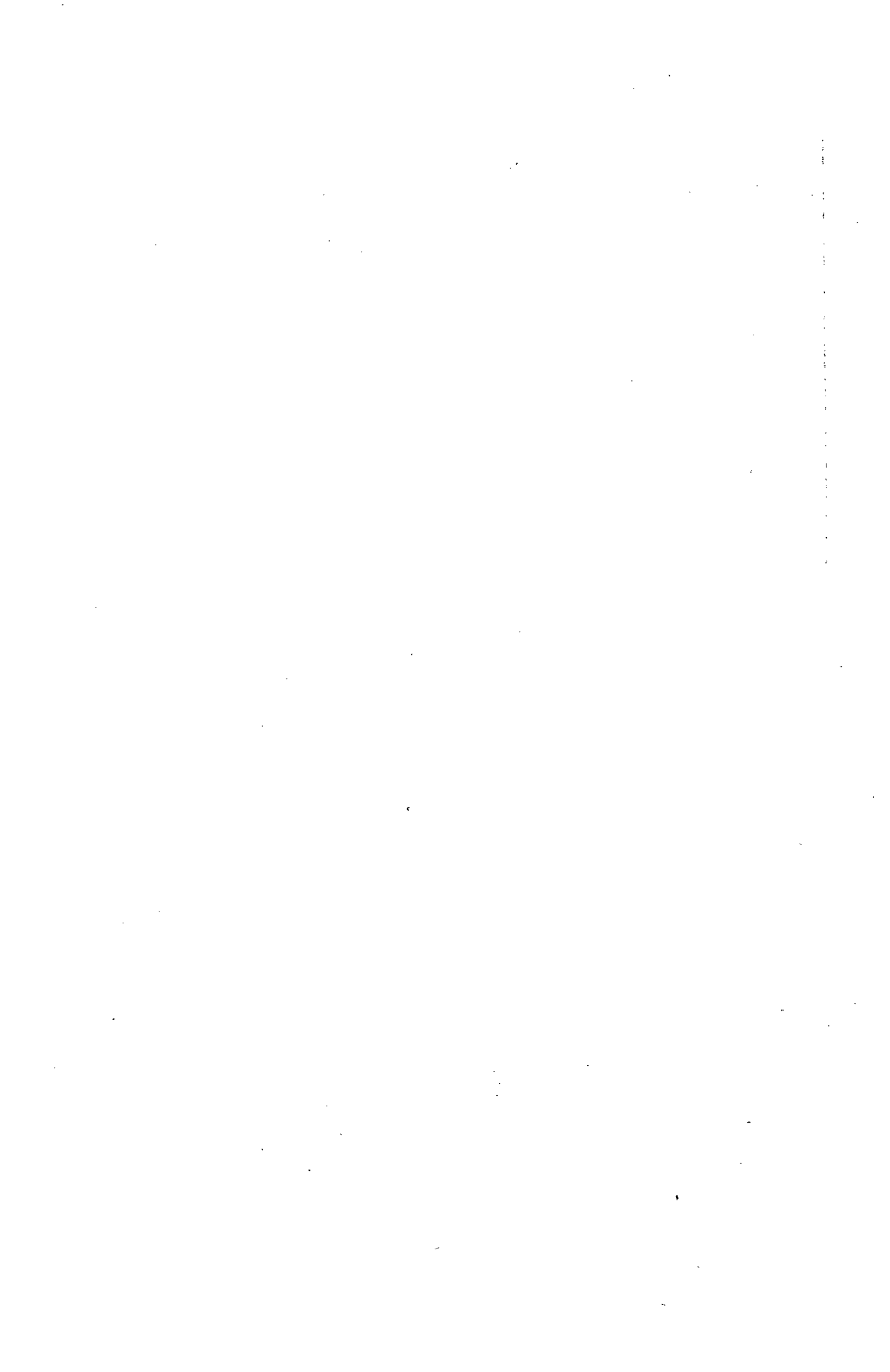
**EZRA H. PRITCHARD**  
and  
**MRS. PRITCHARD**

Famous pioneer hunter and early  
settler in Homer and Stewardson  
townships.



**THE DAVID HALL HOUSE**

First house on the South Side of Coudersport. Stood  
about where the residence of Mort Lilly is now.



Underground Railroad, and was led by a group of some of the strongest Abolitionists to be found anywhere in the Northern states. Mr. Dent's good qualities were overlooked. On one occasion he was accosted on the street by Giles B. Overton, whom I have mentioned. Some reflections on Overton had recently appeared in the Highland Patriot, a newspaper controlled by Mr. Dent. What followed is described in the people's Journal of February 21, 1856 by Mr. Overton himself. Overton charged Dent with the aspersion on himself—which, by the way, may have been only too well founded, for Overton was known to be what we now call a "sporty lad", and his interests as agent for the Bingham lands naturally brought him into conflict with Mr. Dent. Dent made no reply and attempted to walk around Overton, when Overton knocked him down with a blow of his fist and mauled him with a cane till he had used it up. We can not commend G. B. Overton for such behavior, any more than we can endorse H. H. Dent's views on the slavery question and his ultra-aristocratic airs of superiority.

Mr. Dent was nominated for Congress on the pro-slavery ticket in our district in 1854, but was defeated. In October, 1858, a barn belonging to Mr. Dent was burned, and there is little doubt that it was the work of an incendiary. Things became so unpleasant for him in Coudersport that he removed to Brookland, near to some of the tracts of land which he held as one of the Bingham heirs, this occurring during the Civil War. Here he cleared and improved a large estate, buying out all former settlers, except one, the owner of the store (I am sorry I can not give his name) who at the time obstinately refused to sell at any price. It is quite evident that Mr. Dent possessed the Southern idea that a broad estate and spacious grounds are essential to a country home. At least three houses now standing at Brookland were built by him; they are easily distinguished from other Potter County houses of that period by their peculiar style of architecture. He also founded the Episcopal church at Brookland. The present edifice was built by his heirs in his memory in 1888, after Brookland had ceased to be the family home.

Mr. Dent's fine qualities would be better appreciated in our community to-day. It was his misfortune to differ in opinion with the best Potter County men of his day, and he lacked adaptability to the customs of the North. His character is warmly defended by Mr. Lucian Bird, who was in the employ of Mr. Dent and knew him well. Mr. Bird was himself a strong anti-slavery man. As stated in a previous paragraph, Mr. Dent was the donor of the clock that still keeps time in the Court House tower; it cost him about \$300.

It is time that we should speak of the newspapers of this period. The Potter County Journal was founded by William McDougall in January, 1848. It was announced as the organ of Free Democracy in the county; it became a Free Soil paper on the organization of that party in Potter County. John S. Mann became the editor in 1850, and the name was changed to the People's Journal. Edwin Haskell entered the employ of the paper in 1852. He left Coudersport in 1854, to return and become the proprietor of the Journal 29 years afterwards. Addison Avery was associated with the Journal as publisher from January 1854 to 1856. Mr. Mann then sold the paper to Thomas S. Chase, and the name was changed to the Potter Journal. Mr. Chase remained the proprietor of the Journal till the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. He was then obliged to sell out on account of failing health, and the paper was purchased by M. W. McAlarney.

The organ of the Democratic party in 1848 was the Potter Pioneer. This paper ceased publication in 1850. In February 1851, appeared the Potter County Union, with Miles White, proprietor, and Charles Lyman, editor. It lasted about two years. A few numbers of it were lately found by Mr. W. D. Fish in the A. B. Mann house and a few are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Milo Lyman. It was succeeded in 1854 by the Highland Patriot, DeWitt C. James, editor; this paper was controlled by H. H. Dent and his friends. Mrs. Eva D. Thompson owns a few specimens of it and Mr. W. D. Fish has one issue. Its successor was the Northern Democrat, edited by Charles B. Cotter, formerly of the Potter Pioneer. This paper ceased publication a year or so before the outbreak of the Civil War.

All this series of newspapers from 1839 to 1860, the Potter Pennon, the Democratic Republican, the Potter Pioneer, the Potter County Union, the Highland Patriot, the Northern Democrat, may be regarded as one paper, since they followed one another in succession, and were controlled by the same group of Democratic politicians, chief of whom were Timothy Ives, Charles Lyman, and H. H. Dent. The Civil War swept this political ring forever from any place of influence. The Journal was from the first an opponent of slavery and a champion of progress and reform. From 1860 to 1872 it was the only newspaper in the county. Without the knowledge it affords of the events of these times, many pages of Potter County history could never have been written.

A great advance was made in education in Potter during this period. It was in 1854 that our first County Superintendent of Schools was elected, M. R. Gage. He was followed by J. B. Pradt, 1855-1856; Joel Hendricks, 1856-1860; Seth Lewis, 1860-1862. The principals of the Coudersport Academy during this period

were J. B. Wentworth, H. J. Olmsted, F. W. Knox, J. Bloomingdale, Joel Hendricks. In April, 1855, the first teachers' institute was held in Potter County. Enough teachers attended to encourage the sponsors of the Institute to keep on till it became a regular feature. The instructors at this first institute were C. H. Allen of McKean County, and Prof. F. A. Allen, afterward Principal of the Mansfield normal. J. Bloomingdale, Principal of the Coudersport Academy, and Thomas G. Smith, a graduate of the New York State Normal School, also assisted as instructors. Pennsylvania had no normal schools at that time. The next Institute was a local affair in Sweden township, held in the fall of the same year. The next County Institute was held in November, 1857, with Rev. C. M. Blake, Rev. A. McIntyre, and Supt. Wisner of McKean County as instructors.

In 1859 the old Lewisville Academy was erected in Ulysses. This school was another famous center of education in our county in the last century, ranking second only to the Coudersport Academy. It was erected by subscription. Some of the chief contributors were Burton Lewis, Seth Lewis, Orange A. Lewis, D. C. Larrabee, A. B. Bennett, Benoni Pearce. The frame of the building was blown down by a heavy wind storm the same day it was raised. D. C. Larrabee and a Mr. Swift were on the frame at the time, but escaped with minor injuries. The frame was at once rebuilt. The school was opened in September, 1859, with Prof. J. A. Cooper as principal. He was followed by Seth Lewis.

In the fall of 1860, Teachers' Institute was held at Ulysses, inaugurating the custom that endured till 1888 of alternating the Institute between that place and Coudersport. The chief instructor at this session was Prof. Charles W. Sanders, author of the well-known Sanders' Union Readers and Spellers, one of the most advanced and progressive educators of his day. Few people are now aware that our Teachers' Institute was once honored by his presence as chief instructor. Prof. Sanders laid special emphasis on the importance of correct spelling; it were well if some of our teachers of the present day would imitate him in this regard. On the occasion of the Institute at Ulysses, he offered a Webster's Dictionary as a prize in a spelling contest among the teachers and students present. This prize was won by Miss Mary Bishop of Andrews Settlement. Prof. Sanders autographed it with an original bit of verse. Miss Bishop was only 14 years old, but this triumph was the means of her obtaining a teacher's certificate; such decisions lay then mostly within the discretion of the County Superintendent. The Bishop family has furnished Potter County with several prominent teachers; Stella, afterwards Mrs. John Coulston; Mary, Mrs. Ralph Nelson; Sarah, Mrs. Horace H. Hall; Kate, Mrs.



Wm. Currier; Carrie, Mrs. Henry H. Kies, besides B. F. and Ira Bishop, prominent citizens of their community, and the younger members of the family, Mr. John Bishop and Miss Nettie Bishop. John C. Bishop, the father of the family, moved to Allegany township in 1853, clearing up the well-known Bishop farm at Andrews Settlement.

Prof. Charles W. Sanders again conducted Teachers' Institute at Coudersport in 1869. He is remembered by a few of our older people who were then teachers or students.

Teachers received low wages in those days. The Journal says that in April, 1856, the average wages of female teachers was \$3.00 per week. A teacher of this period who does not sign her name gives some reminiscences in the Journal of October 22, 1902. She received her first certificate when she was 15 years old, at the first Teachers' Institute in April, 1855. For her first term of 13 weeks she received an order for \$19.50 which she was obliged to trade out at a discount. She taught her last term in 1864. The highest wages she ever received was \$12 per month.

In 1850 was opened the first public library in Coudersport. It was begun by a few women who organized a sewing circle to earn funds for the purpose. Some also contributed books from their private collections. The first librarian was Mrs. Mary W. Mann. The library contained nearly 200 volumes in 1853. In 1856 the number had increased to 304. The women who founded this library were: Mesdames Sarah Mann, Mary W. Mann, Mary A. Ross, Mary R. Jones, Amanda McDougall, Sabra French, Jane Wilmot Butterworth, Alice H. Brown, and Miss Ellen Wright. This was the beginning of Coudersport's public library of today. At a later period, Miss Chrissy Metzger was librarian, and kept the books in her millinery store. A list of the books the library then contained is found in the Journal of May 17, 1850. Few of them are read at the present day. Homer's Iliad; Views Afoot, by Bayard Taylor; Poems, by Whittier; these would be recognized by a book lover of the twentieth century. The other titles in the list are now obsolete.

During this period the first churches were erected in Potter County. The Presbyterians were the first in Coudersport to erect a building. Their organization dates back to 1832, when Rev. Isaac C. Bliss was the pastor. He remained but a short time, and the church was without a minister for several years. Services were held in the old Cartee House at this time. In 1847, Rev. David B. Brown became the pastor, remaining as such till 1853. During this time, the old church was erected, the minister doing much of the work with his own hands. It stood on the southwest corner of West and Fifth Streets; this square was the one originally donated by John Keating, and designated

for public buildings. The location was not satisfactory, and in 1869, the building was moved to the site it now occupies at the southeast corner of Main and Fourth Streets, and the steeple added. For some years after the building of the new church in 1903, this building was occupied by the W. C. T. U. It was purchased by John F. Stone and Alfred W. Dodge in 1915, and was then enlarged and remodeled into Recreation Hall, as it remains today.

Rev. D. B. Brown seems to have left the ministry at the close of his pastorate. He remained in Coudersport, and built and operated a foundry just north of where the silk mill now stands; his house stood opposite on the west side of the street. He built a telescope that excited much interest among the students at the Academy and the people of the town. He seems to have been possessed of varied talents and resources, and was doubtless a man well worth knowing. He died in 1906.

The Methodists can boast an older organization. Their meetings began in 1823, held by Rev. James B. Roach, who covered a large territory in Potter and adjoining counties. Their first class was organized in 1831, in the Cartee House; the old Court House was often used for religious meetings after the new one was built. The first Methodist church was dedicated in 1855, during the pastorate of Rev. S. Y. Hammond. It stood on a part of the site of the present building, the west half of the present church lot being then occupied by a store building erected in 1854 by D. W. Spencer; this building now stands on the river bank on East Third Street, and is owned by Arch Baker. Eli Rees was the builder of the old Methodist church. He also built several houses of that period, and had a carpenter shop where the silk mill now stands. It was afterward remodeled into a hotel. It was partially burned and was torn down in 1913. The old Methodist church was torn down when the new one was erected in 1893.

The oldest church building in the county was that of the Catholics at the Irish Settlement, erected about 1849. It was later burned, and was rebuilt at Genesee. A Methodist church was built at North Fork in 1856. A Baptist church was built in Ulysses in 1858; this also burned at a later date. A Methodist church was built in Oswayo in 1859. A Baptist church in Harrison Valley was built in 1860 and dedicated in June, 1861. It was remodeled in 1902, but the original part of the building is still in use. Without doubt it is the oldest church in the county in which services are still held.

In 1852 the Potter County Agricultural and Horticultural Society was organized. Gaylord G. Colvin, of Bingham was the first president, and the managers were Alva C. Taggart, Almeron

Nelson, L. D. Spafford, Sobieski Ross, and Arch F. Jones, all of Coudersport and Eulalia. Later, one vice-president was appointed for each township in the county. The first county fair was held on the Court House square in 1858. For many years this annual exhibition of farm products was an important event, and did much to promote good farming in Potter. It seems to have been suspended for a few years during the Civil War, but was afterwards revived and continued till nearly the close of the century.

In March, 1851, Samuel M. Mills purchased the hotel on the present site of the Crittenden, then owned by L. D. Williams. It had been built by William Caldwell in 1841. Mr. Mills remained the proprietor till March, 1856, when he sold to D. F. Glassmire, taking in exchange Mr. Glassmire's farm and hotel at Colesburg. The hotel continued under the proprietorship of Mr. Glassmire till the fire of 1880, and enjoyed a reputation second to no public house of its period in this part of the State.

The old hotel on the site of the Potter County Garage was built by Nicholas Schoomaker about 1850, a part of the building being the old hotel of Versel Dickinson, built in 1828. Mr. Schoomaker kept a store, the building not being used as a hotel till some years after the Civil War, when it came under the proprietorship of Dan Baker and John M. Covey.

The old Roulet House was built in 1852 by Washington Johnson. It was purchased by William Boyington in 1859, and he and Mrs. Boyington remained the proprietors during their lifetime. It was one of the most famous hotels of the last century. It burned in February, 1915. The first store in Roulet was opened in 1859.

The Lyman House, in Ulysses, was another noted old-time hostelry. It was built by Chester Lyman, a son of Dr. Harry Lyman, near the middle of the last century. It passed through several changes of proprietorship, being kept at one time by Burton Lewis, and later by Perry Brigham. The building is still standing, but has long since ceased to be used as a hotel. One or two houses of this period, originally belonging to Orange A. and Jesse Lewis, are also still standing in Ulysses.

Some of the well-remembered citizens of Coudersport who started in business near this time were Dr. O. T. Ellison, who came, a young man, in 1856; H. J. Olmsted, who came as principal of the Academy, and started in the hardware business in 1857; and Nelson H. Goodsell, who came here as a carpenter and joiner in 1856. The old planing mill, which burned a few years ago, was built by Mr. Goodsell during the Civil War, and was the first establishment of its kind in the county. Mark Gillon opened a tailor shop in Coudersport in 1858. He came

from County Mayo, Ireland, and was married in England just before he sailed with his bride for America. He met G. B. Overton, agent for the Bingham lands, in Wellsville, and Mr. Overton induced him to locate in Potter County. He lived two or three years at the Irish Settlement, where the young couple lost their two oldest children in infancy. From 1858 till a few years before his death, Mr. Gillon remained in business in Coudersport, except that from 1878 to 1882 he removed his shop to Port Allegany, while his family remained in Coudersport. In later life, his daughters became partners in the business, and they have developed it into the ladies' furnishing store that it is at present. No other mercantile business in Coudersport dates back nearly as far as the Gillon store, the next oldest being seventeen years younger.

In 1858, Ira Canfield and Harry Lord built the old Keystone grist mill, torn down only a few years ago, though it ground its last grist in 1903. It was a busy place in former times, when every farmer had grist to be ground, and many of them raised wheat for their own flour. The mill was at first run by a huge overshot water-wheel; but this wheel required an immense quantity of water, and was replaced within a few years by two turbine wheels. F. W. Knox and Capt. Arch Jones became the owners of this mill at about the close of the Civil War, Canfield having gone West.

In 1853, Collins Smith built the first brick store in Coudersport, on land now occupied by the Masonic Temple. It was torn down in 1889 by Isaac Benson, to make way for the house he built that year, which is now a part of the Temple. Several houses were built in Coudersport at this period, some of which are still in use. The house now belonging to J. C. Breunig was built by Thomas B. Tyler, at some time before the Civil War, and afterwards was owned by Charles S. Jones. The house now belonging to J. Walter Wells was built by J. B. Smith, one of the old-time merchants, who had a store on the Joerg corner, and later was purchased by Joseph Mann, whence it has come down to his granddaughter, Mrs. Wells. Abiathar Rounseville came to Coudersport in 1841, and built the house now owned by W. F. Schutt in 1852; this was the Rounseville home for many years thereafter. The old Ross land office on the site of the John Miller house was built the same year, also the house now belonging to the Misses Doerner, which was built by Miles White. The house now owned by W. F. DuBois, known as the Judge Olmsted residence, was built by Dr. Hiram Heath, who was a close friend of John S. Mann, and whose wife was a sister of Collins Smith. Mr. Mann's house was built in 1857; it stood on the southeast corner of the same square, on the corner of Main and Third Streets; it was moved off by Robert Olmsted

some twenty-five years ago, and afterwards torn down. Mr. Mann built a store opposite to this dwelling the same year, on the site now occupied by the Oilwell Supply Co. Mechanics from Williamsport and Philadelphia were brought to Coudersport to work on these buildings. Among these was Jacob Jenkins, a plasterer, who remained in the county and located on Jenkins Hill, in Eulalia township, on the crest of the Continental divide. The place is now unoccupied. The first home of the Mann family was on West Street, on the site now occupied by the A. B. Mann residence. The old octagon brick house on North Main Street now belonging to Theodore Metzger was built by John M. Hamilton in 1856.

In April, 1853, the Journal gives the following list of mechanics in Coudersport: William Crosby, shoe shop; J. W. Smith, tinner; Eli Rees, carpenter; John Reckhow, carriage maker; Benjamin Rennells, blacksmith. In 1851 there were seven stores in Coudersport, one at Lymanville, one at Pike Mills, two at Wharton, three in Ulysses, one at Oswayo, one at North Bingham, three in Harrison township, one of these being at White's Corners, one at Ellisburg, and four in Sharon township at Millport, Sharon Center, and Shinglehouse.

Several new postoffices were established during this period, and some new stage routes opened. The following stage lines were running at Coudersport in 1860: To Wellsville daily, William Van Buren, driver. To Jersey Shore, semi-weekly, Nathan Woodcock; Abram Kimball also drove this route for many years. It was a three day trip with dinner at Cherry Springs, an overnight stop at Andresen's hotel at Oleona, and another stop at Herod's. To Smethport semi-weekly, G. McClelland. To Sinnemahoning weekly, Barclay and Brainard. To Ceres semi-weekly, a Mr. Cooper. To Ulysses weekly, George Nelson. Besides the lines just named, several others were running in the county whose terminals were at points other than Coudersport.

Several of these old-time stage-drivers will be remembered by people now living. William Van Buren, the driver of the Wellsville stage, became in later years the proprietor of a hotel in Coudersport known by his name. It has already been mentioned as having been built about 1850 by Nicholas Schoomaker, and was burned in 1908. William Van Buren was a relative of President Martin Van Buren.

But a long trip was generally pretty slow work in those days, notwithstanding that railroads had been in existence for 25 years, and came as near as Wellsville. Thomas S. Chase, the editor of the Potter County Journal, made a trip to his old home at Titusville, Pa., which he describes in the Journal on his return. He started from Coudersport at noon, December 26, 1858. A friend of his who had a horse and buggy drove to

Olean, arriving at 8 P. M., and Mr. Chase and his friend went to a hotel for the night. At 6 A. M. the next morning he left Olean on an emigrant train, the only train going west that day. He arrived at Dunkirk, N. Y., 65 miles from Olean, at 11:40 A. M. Left Dunkirk at 2 P. M. on the Buffalo and Erie R. R., arriving at Erie, 45 miles from Dunkirk, at 4 P. M. Left Erie at 5 P. M. by stage, which he describes as "an excruciatingly miserable one horse hack", reaching Waterford, 15 miles from Erie, at 8 P. M. He left Waterford at noon the next day in what he says was a much worse conveyance than the one of the day before, arriving at Meadville (22 miles) at 6 P. M. He spent the next morning visiting friends in Meadville. At 10 A. M., he left Meadville for the home of his parents in Titusville, arriving at just supper time, it being his third day on the road. The route was varied somewhat on the return trip, but the journey took about the same length of time. Had Mr. Chase been making this trip in 1934, he would have driven over concrete highways from Coudersport to Titusville in three or four hours.

For some twenty years preceding the Civil War, Potter County was infested by a gang of criminals, or rather, two gangs, one of horse thieves and one of counterfeiters. Even the meager news items found in the papers of that period make frequent mention of horse-thieves in Coudersport, and Potter County came to be spoken of in the adjoining country as a "horse thieves' heaven". The horse-thieves and counterfeiters worked in collusion, and there is good reason to believe that a few officials of the county were also involved in these schemes of lawlessness and robbery. Such charges were freely made in the Potter County Journal, but it appears that though these charges were well founded, the grafters were too sharp to be caught. Horse-thefts and petty thievery were frequently reported, and in July, 1854, Titus Losey was convicted of counterfeiting and a Vanatter boy, confined for stealing, broke jail and escaped. On September 10, 1857, a team of oxen were stolen from H. L. Bird, of Sweden Valley. He followed the trail of the thieves to Williamsport, where the oxen had been sold to a butcher, who seems to have been unaware that he was buying stolen property. One ox had already been slaughtered, and the other was under the knife. Mr. Bird succeeded in recovering \$75, all the money the butcher could produce. After much trouble and expense, one James H. C. Coe was arrested and lodged in jail at Coudersport. He was convicted of the crime, and sentenced at the March term of court, 1858. He then deliberately walked out of the court room to freedom, unhindered by the sheriff or any one else. This of course could not have happened without collusion on the part of some official.

In April, 1868, a quantity of counterfeit bills was found by workmen engaged in tearing down the wall under the store of D. F. Glassmire. The bills had been secreted in the wall, and showed signs of having lain there for a long period. Counterfeit money was found later in a house belonging to W. B. Gordnier, on the site of the house now owned by Otto Freeman, east of town; this also showed signs of age. It had been placed there by John Crittenden, who had occupied the house and had been convicted and sentenced several years before.

A famous outlaw of this period, whose name was a household word when our grandfathers were young, was Abram or "Brum" Rohrabacher, who made his home at different times in various places in the eastern part of the county. He was a brawny, broad-shouldered fellow with the strength of an ox, and was seldom if ever beaten in a fight or wrestling match. He came from the Finger Lake region of New York State, and it is said that he ran away from this neighborhood to escape justice for knocking a man off the wharf into Cayuga Lake. He belonged to the gang of horse-thieves I have just mentioned. He had some good qualities, despite his horse-stealing proclivities, and was a famous log-driver and raftsman. Mr. Owen Metzger tells me that his father once had a heifer stolen. He suspected Rohrabacher, but since he had no proof, said little about it. Twenty-five years afterwards Rohrabacher confessed the crime of his own accord, saying he had always been ashamed of it. It has been related to me that a party of these thieves once stayed overnight at the hotel of Amos Northrup at Harrison Valley, their identity not being known to the landlord. They departed early the next morning, and a pair of new woolen blankets from their bed were missing. They were afterwards found cut in pieces several miles from the hotel. The thieves had used them to muffle their horses' feet so as to elude pursuit. Whether Brum Rohrabacher was one of their number, I have not learned.

What I shall now say rests on evidence that is open to some question, but which has every appearance of the truth. The horse thieves of the period from 1840 to 1860 had a place of business in a hollow emptying into the Genesee Fork of Pine Creek above West Pike. This they reached by leading their horses up the bed of the creek, leaving the main road at a barnyard adjoining the stream, the place being occupied by a man who was himself one of the gang. In this woodland retreat, a skillful operative colored the horses so that they would not be recognized. Other members of the gang led them away and sold them in Jersey Shore or Williamsport. Orange A. Lewis of Ulysses spent years in collecting evidence against these outlaws. At last, in 1861, he was in possession of proof that would

have secured their conviction, and, it is said, also had assurance from some corrupt official that the prosecution would not be halted in the courts. Just then, the Civil War broke out, and several of the leading outlaws enlisted in the Union army. Mr. Lewis consulted with John S. Mann and Isaac Benson, and it was agreed that, in the circumstances, no action should be taken.

The above record, as I have stated, may not be absolutely true in all its details, but probably is not very much at variance with the facts. But the activities of these thieves were not yet at an end. At least some of them were members of the notorious Widger gang, convicted and sentenced in December, 1862. Captain William D. Widger, the ringleader, was dishonorably discharged from the Union army after a short term of service. The following account is from the Potter County history published by Beers in 1889, and is corroborated by information from other sources:—

On his return to Potter County, Widger, in connection with a brother, organized a band of outlaws. The other branch headed by Paul Howard, was known as the Howard gang. A brother of Paul Howard was one of its members. Their stealings were of a varied nature, as they seemed to be impelled to take anything that touched their hands. It is said they began by stealing honey, then sheep and cattle. This last business was carried on in a very thorough manner, slaughtering the animals stolen, and selling the meat in lumber camps, or shipping it, and salting down barrels of meat that they could not dispose of in the fresh state. The robberies extended to washings from clothes lines, dry goods, hardware, and cutlery. At last people became suspicious of some members of the gang, and when William McDougall's store at Oswayo was burglarized of a quantity of dry goods, etc., a search was instituted that resulted in the finding of the stolen goods in a box sunk in the ground at the head of Sheldon Hollow, near Nelson Clark's, about three miles from Coudersport, then in the midst of the woods. Ephraim Bishop discovered a quarter of mutton stolen by one of the gang, by moving a chair in which the thief's wife sat, much against her will, the mutton dropping from beneath her skirt. He also helped to find some beef buried in the garden of another of the gang, and was with the party who found the case of stolen goods in the woods. A grindstone stolen from John S. Mann was also discovered. The entire band was captured, and one of them turned State's evidence, which sent the rest of the gang to the penitentiary.

It was believed that this gang was also guilty of the murder of one Patterson, an army chaplain, during the war. He had returned from the front with from \$1500 to \$2000 of the soldiers'



money that they had sent home. Patterson was last seen starting from Moore's hotel in Olean with a stranger. He was thought to have been murdered by the Howard gang near the Five Corners in Hebron township, and buried in the woods. The supposed grave was discovered by Sarah Cole, a daughter of L. B. Cole, but she was so frightened that she did not report the incident till long afterwards.

On November 19, 1860, Eli Rees and Dan Reed were traveling through the woods near the Lookoff in Keating township, the purpose being to view a piece of land, with a view to purchase. Eli Rees was shot and killed by his companion. Reed was arrested and tried, but he claimed that the shooting was accidental, and that the trigger of his gun had caught in the brush. He was acquitted for lack of evidence to disprove his story.

But it is almost certain that this act was intentional. It was so believed by many people at the time, it being thought that Reed committed the crime to pay off a grudge. He is known to have had some differences with Eli Rees. His half-brother, Jacob Reed, generally known as Old Jake, was heard to comment on the incident some years afterwards in this wise:—

“If Dan should go into court and swear on a stack of black cats—if he'd swear on a stack of Bibles as high as the moon that his shootin' Eli was an accident, I'd turn right around and tell him he was a blankety-blanked liar. I don't doubt but what Eli needed to be shot, but I can't see as Dan had any call to do the shootin'.” Old Jake Reed was himself a man who had few enemies; he was given to periodical “sprees”, but was not inclined to be quarrelsome or to harbor a grudge. That Dan Reed was capable of such a crime is proved by an incident that occurred 22 years later, in December, 1882, which may as well be related here, as showing what kind of a man he was.

His old mother lived in the house of one Bill Blarigan, a near neighbor of the Reeds, who had married a daughter of Old Jake Reed. His shanty stood in a clearing now deserted, just below the mouth of Reed Run, in Roulet township. He lived principally by petty thievery, plying a boat up and down the river and sneaking into people's back yards. He built a lean-to on his shanty, of single boards without battens, containing no stove and but little bedding, and in this hovel he and Reed forced the old woman to live. Both of these brutes regarded her as a nuisance, and deliberately conspired to freeze her to death, in which design they succeeded, she surviving only four days after being put in such quarters. A warrant was sworn for the conspirators by two residents in the neighborhood, but proof of their intention was lacking, and they were acquitted. That this

act was intentional, there is, however, incontrovertible proof, though it was not produced till years afterwards, when those involved in the crime were no longer living. These conspirators hatched their scheme in the house of Bill Sherwood, another of the same ilk, and were overheard by Sherwood's wife. She would have been glad to see justice done to her husband as well as to the other two criminals, but was so frightened that she dared not report anything. The present writer obtained the story direct from Mrs. Sherwood, who outlived her husband by many years. Of its truth there can be no question.

Potter County was one of the foremost of northern communities in the agitation against slavery. Our county was the first in the State to be carried by the Free Soil party, which occurred in November, 1853. The Journal was from the first an outspoken champion of the cause of Abolition. Editorials on this subject frequently occur, and in some of them is given a list of names of prominent citizens which the editor identifies either as Free Soil or Hunker and Pro-slavery. The Free Soil party gained in numbers, and at the outbreak of the Civil War only a few prominent men were classed as being supporters of slavery. Chief among these was H. H. Dent, of whom I have already spoken. Another was Judge Timothy Ives. This accusation is sustained by people still living whose memory goes back to the bitter conflict that culminated in the Civil War. Judge Ives' acts when treasurer of Potter County and when he represented Potter in the Assembly are openly criticized, not only by the editors of the Journal but by one or two other citizens in letters to that newspaper, who openly charge him with corruption and dishonesty. I do not assume to pass judgment on these charges.

A Fremont club organized in 1856 had the following officers: President, Arthur G. Olmsted; Vice-president, Jacob Reckhow; Secretary, G. B. Overton; Corresponding Secretary, L. F. Maynard; Treasurer, Nicholas Schoemaker. \$100 was contributed from Potter this year to aid the free settlers in Kansas, the story of whose struggle is familiar to all students of United States history. Several Potter County men were among these brave Kansas settlers, and several letters from Kansas are found in the Journal at this time. As a measure of caution, the writers of these letters were not named. In 1856, Potter County gave a majority of 443 for Fremont.

During these years, the Underground Railroad was in vigorous operation in Potter County, the house of John S. Mann at Coudersport being a principal station, and that of John King, at Ceres, being another. Nelson Clark, of Eulalia, Ephraim Bishop, who lived at the head of Steer Brook, on the farm now owned by George Saulters, and Joseph Mann at Millport, were also stockholders in the famous Underground Line, of which W. W.

Thompson gives us an excellent account in his Historical Sketches of Potter County. Mr. Mann had a room constructed especially for secreting negroes on the second floor of his store building on Main Street. It was partitioned off the rear end of the chamber in such a manner that a person going upstairs in the usual way would have been unaware of its existence. There was no door into the main chamber; the room could only be entered from a garret over the lean-to, and the only entrance even here was made to look exactly the same as the surrounding wall, and boxes were generally piled across it. Another room, curtained off the main chamber, was made to appear like a hiding place, and negroes were kept here a short time to give a scent, in case they were tracked by bloodhounds, and then transferred to the secret room, leading their pursuers to believe that they had gone further on. We may be sure that many negroes found refuge here. Mr. Thompson tells several interesting stories of the Underground Railroad that I cannot reproduce without being open to the charge of stealing his whole article on this subject, and tells them extremely well.

Mr. Mann was possessed of much practical wisdom, and so skilfully did he evade the officers in pursuit of runaway slaves, that not a single instance is known of a slave ever being apprehended in Potter County, though in several cases the escape was a narrow one, the slave sometimes being hidden within a very short distance of his pursuer. It goes without saying that those interested in the Underground Railroad observed the utmost secrecy, and the habit seems to have taken so strong a hold that they were never able to shake it off, even when slavery had become a thing of the past, so that many interesting stories of close pursuit and hair-breadth escapes were never told.

Two vicissitudes of Nature that occurred during this period are worthy of note. The wind storm of September, 1856, was second only to that of 1834 in the amount of damage done. Large areas of timber were blown down, and fires were started by embers borne from burning fallows by the terrific gale. Twenty-nine buildings were burned between Coudersport and Wellsville and six on the river below Coudersport. A rain storm about 7 P. M. stopped the fires. This storm was a gale, not a twister or cyclone, like that of 1834, and seems to have covered the greater area of the two.

On June 5, 1859, occurred a killing frost that is still remembered as being the worst of its kind that ever occurred in Potter County. The month preceding had been warm and moist, and crops were in a thriving condition. All was destroyed. The corn crop was a complete failure, as were most kinds of garden produce. Fields of clover wilted and fell before the bright sun of the day following. Even the leaves on the trees were killed.

The period from 1848 to 1861 is marked by several events of the first importance in the progress of Potter County. A newspaper had been founded under the auspices of our best citizens, advocating the abolition of slavery and the eradication of the liquor traffic; this newspaper was to continue thereafter as a champion of reform and progress. The academies of Coudersport and Ulysses had attained a high rank among the educational institutions of that day, and our Teachers' Institute had been conducted by a scholar of national reputation. The first churches had been built. The liquor traffic had been outlawed, not to return for the rest of the century. The last of the large areas of original forest had been invaded by settlers. A railroad had been built within a day's drive of the county seat, and two more railroads were projected, one of them already under construction and assured of completion within a few years. Anti-slavery sentiment was exceedingly strong, led by the most masterly minds that our county has ever produced, and Potter had been the first county in the State to be carried by the Free Soil party. An advocate of slavery had been driven out of Coudersport by the force of public sentiment.

The northern half of the county still predominated in population, Ulysses containing more people than Coudersport. Lumbering, as I shall relate in a later chapter, had become an important industry. An agricultural association had been organized. Prosperous, progressive, and strong in the vigor of youth, was Potter County on the eve of the Civil War.

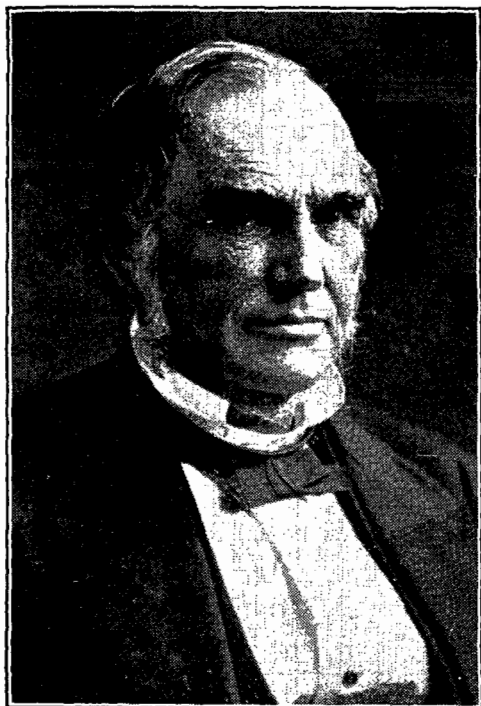
## CHAPTER VI

### POTTER COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR. 1861-1865

In attempting an account of the part that our county played in the war that saved the Union and brought about the abolition of human slavery in our country, I propose to depart somewhat from the usual lines followed by the historian. A list of Potter County soldiers of the Civil War, even if it could be obtained, would be too long to be included in any readable account of the war, and if combined with the numbers of each Potter County regiment, the battles in which each was engaged, and similar official data, would result in a mere mass of statistics which, however valuable it might be for reference, would be shunned by the ordinary reader. It will not be possible for me to mention by name all of our brave boys who took part in that great struggle for Freedom. I shall undertake rather to tell the story of the war from the point of human interest, following the items in the Potter Journal from week to week, even as these columns were once eagerly scanned by members of Potter County families who had a son or brother at the front. The Journal is the only Potter County paper that existed during the war.

During the spring of 1861, Thomas S. Chase, the proprietor of the Journal, offered his paper for sale. He was slowly dying of consumption (they call it pulmonary tuberculosis nowadays), and his waning strength caused the suspension of the paper with the issue of March 21, 1861, no purchaser for the paper having yet been found. On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired on, and on April 15, President Lincoln issued his first call for 75,000 volunteers. Potter County hastened to respond, and excitement rose to fever heat. Thomas S. Chase arose from his bed, and calling on the fast waning strength that yet responded to the will of its owner, printed an issue of the Journal that bears the date May 1, 1861, of which very few copies now exist, one being owned by the writer. It consists of a single page, and is devoted entirely to war matters. Colonel—afterwards Major General—Thomas L. Kane, of McKean County, commander of the original Bucktail regiment, had already come to Coudersport to recruit men for the service. He was accompanied by Dr. S. D. Freeman, of Smethport, and F. B. Hackett, of Emporium. The story of the first enlistment in Potter is thus told in the special issue of the Journal:—

“On Friday the 19th inst. some of our citizens issued a call for volunteers from this county, and on Monday ten names were enrolled; on Wednesday 23. The success thus far induced



**JOHN S. MANN**

**MARY W. MANN**

Leading characters in Potter County history



**THE JOHN S. MANN HOUSE**

Built 1857. Stood on the northeast corner of Main and Third streets. The site is now vacant.



a more extended effort, and that day Col. G. B. Overton, acting in behalf of the Governor, issued a call requesting volunteers to meet at this place next Friday for the purpose of mustering into service. Several of our citizens started in different directions to post calls and solicit enlistments. On Friday afternoon 21 volunteers arrived from Pike, West Branch, and Ulysses, under Col. Kilbourne, and shortly afterward 18 came from Sharon. At dusk that evening 74 were on the roll, and on Sunday morning 100 men were enrolled who actually started with Col. Kane, the gallant and energetic enlisting officer for the counties of Potter, McKean, Elk, and Cameron, to whose undaunted courage and unremitting labor the State is indebted for 300 as brave and worthy volunteers as will enter its service. Col. Kane and Col. Overton are both entitled to the warmest acknowledgment of the Government for their efficiency and promptness in this cause.

"On Friday evening, Col. Kane arrived here from Shippen, where he had that morning started some 30 or 40 volunteers from Cameron County. He was received by the volunteers and citizens of this place with three rousing cheers. In the evening, he began swearing in the men, and on Saturday morning determined to send off a portion of them by way of Shippen. A detachment of 29, inclusive, were placed under charge of Sergeant E. D. Lewis, of Ulysses, and after some exercises in the Court room which we will detail elsewhere, were placed in wagons, kindly furnished by those who had teams. They started in high spirits, amid the tears of their friends and the cheers of their remaining comrades and our citizens. The Coudersport Brass Band, in their handsome new wagon, accompanied them to the point where the road leaves the river [Mina] about five miles below this place. They arrived at Shippen at 11 o'clock P. M., and the next morning proceeded to the First Fork in wagons, where, on the arrival of the other detachments, they would embark on rafts for the P. & E. railroad station at Rattlesnake."

Following the above account, the Journal describes the presentation of a flag to the regiment by the ladies of Coudersport, at a public assemblage which took place just as the soldiers were about leaving for camp, as above described. The court room was jammed with people, and many outside were not able to get in to witness the ceremony. Cols. Kane and Overton were present at the head of the company. The flag was presented to Col. Overton by Henry J. Olmsted, in behalf of the ladies, with an appropriate speech, ringing with patriotism, to which Col. Overton responded in a few well-chosen words, emphasized by expression of "That's so" from several of the soldiers. A short address by Col. Kane followed. A squad of 29 men then started in the



wagons that were waiting. Col. Kane hurried to Ceres, where he administered the oath to 26 volunteers from McKean county, returning to Coudersport at 3 A. M. on Sunday. Religious services were held at 9:30 that morning, after which the remaining 71 men left for camp; Col. Overton himself going via Wellsboro and Towanda to take leave of relatives. A large quantity of shirts, haversacks, and provisions were furnished by the women of Potter County, besides bandages and lint, all the sewing being done by hand.

This issue of the Journal contains a partial roll of the volunteers enlisted at this time, who formed one of the original companies in Col. Kane's famous Bucktail regiment. Other companies enlisted later in the war were called the New Bucktails. Several well-known names appear on this list, in which almost every neighborhood in the county is represented.

On June 13, 1861, appears the next number of the Potter County Journal, with M. W. McAlarney as proprietor. He remained as such till May, 1867, thus being the editor of the only Potter County newspaper throughout the war.

A drill company had been formed by Potter County men at the time of the enlistment already described, so as to be ready for any further calls for men. In the Journal of August 7, 1861, appears the following advertisement:—

For the Union!! Sharpshooters, attention! Sober, Active Marksmen between the ages of 18 and 45 are wanted to fill up Company I of the Kane Regiment. This regiment has already received honorable mention from Gen. McClellan, and under the command of Col. Charles Biddle and Lieut. Col. Kane has been successful in three engagements with the enemy without the loss or injury of a man. Fall in and raise the bucktail! J. K. Haffy, Recruiting Officer, Co. I, K. R. R. will be at Coudersport on Friday, August 9, 1861."

August 14, 1861. The following ad appears:—

Volunteers Wanted! Boys, get ready to give me your names. I will be in every district in the county; of the time, notice will be given. Let us go together, fight together, and if necessary die together! John M. Kilbourne, Major Commanding, Pike Mills, Pa., August 13, 1861.

Ready response was made to both the above calls for men, though the Journal does not have much to say about these enlistments. This issue also contains the following letter from Mark L. French, one of the Coudersport boys in the Bucktail regiment. It is the first of many such letters that appear in the war files of the Journal:—

"Camp Curtin, August 11, 1861. Mr. McAlarney, Dear Sir,— According to promise, I write to inform you how I like camp life. I am happily disappointed in regard to the hardships that soldiers have to undergo. I had formed an idea that to camp at Curtin, a man would have to have a constitution like Sampson. But we have good quarters, good blankets, and plenty to eat. There is no other regiment in camp but ours; we have the whole ground to ourselves, and a good time we are having of it. I have been appointed Orderly Sergeant, and have all I can attend to. This is Sunday, and we do not drill. We stayed at Lock Haven one week. The camp was somewhat better than this one. When we left Lock Haven, the ladies furnished us with cakes, pies, bread and butter, meat, etc., which we had for lunch on the cars. We were received along the road with cheers, waving of handkerchiefs, etc. When we arrived at this place, we marched immediately into camp. We will be sworn in to-morrow, if we are examined and pass. Mark."

August 28, 1861. Capt. Dewey and Aide have been in town this week endeavoring to obtain recruits for Berdan's Regiment of Sharpshooters. . . . . The two companies of Major Kilbourne's battalion will rendezvous at Oswayo and Coudersport on the 4th of September. These companies are not yet full, and men from Potter County should fill them. . . . . Young men of Potter, are the traitors marching to the destruction of your country, and will you not strike a blow for its defense? Arouse! Show yourselves men, Americans! true sons of patriot sires!

On Monday last, a large concourse of people assembled to see the Hebron Invincibles drill. Speeches were made by Major Kilbourne and L. F. Maynard, Esq., and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. Wharton township has sent out one fourth of her voting population. Good for Wharton! How many will follow her patriotic course? Following are the names of 16 volunteers from Wharton.

September 4, 1861. Two military companies (one battalion) under command of Major John M. Kilbourne leave Potter County for the war to-morrow. We think Potter County will be the Banner County of Pennsylvania in the good work of furnishing men for the war. Hurrah for Potter!

September 11, 1861. Another company for the war is being raised by a citizen of Coudersport. [William D. Widger]

September 18, 1861. We have not yet received the muster roll of the boys. At last accounts they were expected to leave Harrisburg yesterday, and would probably join Col. Christ's regiment. They were in good spirits and getting along very well.

September 25, 1861. Captain Arch F. Jones of Coudersport is about starting another company for the war; so far he has met with success as unexpected as it is gratifying, and at the present rate will be ready in a very short time.

This issue contains letters from Captain W. B. Graves and Major John M. Kilbourne, also a roll of the Oswayo Rifles, Captain Graves, commander, and the Curtin Rifle Guards, led by Captain William D. Widger. It will be remembered that Widger was dishonorably discharged in December, the only case of its kind that I can find on the record of a Potter County soldier. He was succeeded by Nathaniel J. Mills.

October 9, 1861. Recruiting officers from Col. J. Richter Jones' regiment now forming at Philadelphia are now in Glassmire's hotel for the purpose of enlisting men.

The same issue gives the story of a lively scrimmage that occurred in the Eleven Mile neighborhood. It was precipitated by the planting of the Stars and Stripes by a party of Union men in front of a house occupied by a man and woman who were known to be Confederate sympathizers. The Union men carried the day, and the flag waved in triumph over the residence of the Copperhead couple.

October 16, 1861. Another appeal for volunteers by Lieut. Cecil Clay of Col. J. Richter Jones' regiment. The issue of October 30 records that 15 recruits for this regiment were leaving Coudersport for camp. Letters appear in the October issues from Homer C., of Major Kilbourne's regiment, and Orlando J. Rees, both then being in Camp Lewis, Maryland. It is also recorded that Orange A. Lewis, of Ulysses, enlisted at this time. He was 55 years old, but felt that he must respond to his country's call in the stead of his son, Erastus D. Lewis, who had volunteered in April, but was rejected because of a stiff knee resulting from a cut by a broadax several years before.

An advertisement for a county bond of \$1000 to relieve the families of soldiers appears October 30, also a muster roll of the Jones Rifles. They left for camp by the way of Wellsville, singing a song that began as follows:

We are bound to seek our fortunes  
And will plumb it out of lead.  
We are offered a good ten thousand  
If we'll bring home Jeff Davis' head.

November 13, 1861. This paper contains a letter from Lieut. Cecil Clay of Philadelphia, with handsome compliments for the Potter County recruits he had obtained for his regiment. Letters appear in the following issue from Edwin Lyman, then at Snow Hill Camp, Maryland, and from an unnamed soldier in Captain Jones' regiment, which had just left Camp Curtin for Wash-

ington. Another letter from Lieut. Rathbone of the Bucktails, in the issue of December 4, tells the Journal that the regiment had joined Gen. Banks' army at the front.

December 25, 1861. A letter from Captain L. H. Kinney of Sharon, who enlisted in a New York State regiment, and took with him over 30 men from Potter County.

January 8, 1862. News is received of the death of Almeron G. Burdick and Elijah McNamara in army hospitals.

January 15, 1862. Here appears a long and very interesting letter from a Potter County soldier who signs himself "Butty"; I have as yet been unable to learn his real name. The letter is dated December 29, 1861. I reproduce a portion of it:—

"We relieved a New York regiment of Dutchmen that were almost frightened out of their wits for fear the Rebels would make an attack. They had thrown together a few brush tents which we thought they could have bettered, but were compelled to take. As soon as we broke ranks we (Co's B and G) went to work building a log hut for our officers, and then tried to fix our huts, but the wind began to blow tremendously, and we had to shelter ourselves as best we might. We tried to eat our dinners, but it was getting so cold that we had to put on our overcoats and throw our blankets over our shoulders, and those of us fortunate enough to possess them put on our gloves and mittens to keep warm, and all that was barely sufficient, and went without our supper, contenting ourselves with a crust of bread and went to bed (i. e. laid down) with all our clothes on, and covered up with our blankets. At about six o'clock it began to rain, and soon the water began to pour through under and around our tents. We lay till we got our blankets wet through and our clothes wringing wet, and then we sat up and kept in that position till morning, when we got up and tried to get some breakfast. We did not care particularly, as it was our turn for picketing that day. As two companies a day were detailed for that duty, our captains (of Co's G and B) managed to get detailed together, and about 9 o'clock we started out.

"We marched about a mile, and then began to post the boys, five at a post, four men and a corporal or sergeant. Company B was posted first, and of course had the least dangerous posts, while our company was placed on the extreme outposts of the whole division. The Captain had quite a reserve with him while we were posted, so if we were attacked we could fire and retreat till we reached him, and then it would take a large force to dislodge us if we held our posts as we ought. If we were attacked by cavalry, we could, by retreating a rod or two, place ourselves in a growth of underbrush and ivy that would make it utterly impossible to follow us, and if it were infantry, they would have

to cross an open field, and we could stand our ground behind our barricade. But we had no alarm, and as we felt pretty cold and hungry, we spent the day cooking and drying our blankets. We kept one man at every post on the lookout and relieved him every hour, so that we could all keep comfortable. It snowed three or four hours, and then blew off, and we had it clear and cold and blustering. As we were compelled to keep awake, and did not dare to have any fire, the cold weather came at just about the right time for me, for I feel sure I would have been caught napping at my post, for I had not had any sleep for two nights, and had worked hard all the time, so you see 'it's an ill wind that blows nobody good'; and I was not the only one who felt as I did.

"We were glad when morning came, for we knew we would be relieved before noon. We had the privilege of sending off some scouts, so some of our boys went out to 'see what they could hear.' They went to a house and asked for some geese they saw before the door, for a Christmas dinner. The owners were very independent about it, and would neither sell, give nor allow the boys to take them, if they could help it. The boys accordingly started after them (the geese, not the men), when they saw something in the field that they could use to better advantage in the Company. So off they started, and in a few moments a porker was lying on the ground with both fore shoulders broken. It was soon cut up and strung on our bayonets all ready to carry to our home *protem*, and have a better meal than the Government furnished us, for fresh meat of our own killing we had not had, especially pork. We marched back to camp, and found our huts all taken by the companies detailed the first day, Sunday. We split up among the other companies, and when night came, some of us lay by the fire till morning, when we started out on pickets again, as the Colonel said he could depend on us more than he could on the other companies, some of whom he utterly refused to allow either to scout or to go out as pickets. As we had built nice warm huts of our own on our posts, we were eager to go, as we could do nothing in camp. Christmas was a beautiful day. The sky was clear, and it was as warm as June. We felt in good spirits, though we wished we could have a nice Christmas dinner, and we thought how our friends would feel, did they know where and how we spent Christmas day. We thought of the sleighrides we would have had, of the happy parties on Christmas eve. We thought, yes we flattered ourselves, we would be missed by someone somewhere, and we determined to prove ourselves worthy of that remembrance. . . .

"We have a great deal of sickness in our company, as some of the boys are so careless of themselves (and the most of our sickness is the result of carelessness), as to get a bad cold,

and do nothing about it till it gets so bad that they are taken with a severe fit of sickness, or cough their throats sore, and then have to go to the hospital, perhaps to be laid up for a long time. There has been one death at the hospital, Almeron G. Burdick, and that could not be prevented, as he had made up his mind to die when he went there, though the doctor held out false hopes of his recovery till within an hour or two of his death. He is missed in the Company, and his loss is felt by all the boys. He was very quiet, but made friends wherever he went." . . . . .

The reader of the above account can hardly wonder at the sickness that the writer reports in his Company, and we would hesitate to say, as he does, that "most of the sickness among the soldiers is the result of carelessness". Small wonder that so many succumbed to such hardships, and so many came home with a splendid constitution shattered for life. Lieutenant Ostrander Crosby is reported dead of typhoid fever in the next issue of the Journal; the drinking water in the Virginia swamps was among the other deadly perils that beset our boys.

January 29, 1862. A letter from Captain L. H. Kinney gives a good report of the Potter County boys in his regiment. He says "none of them have been intoxicated; not one has been under arrest or put on extra duty. The weather has been very disagreeable, rain and wind without measure for the first week, but the boys make light of the inconveniences caused by it, and crack their jokes with a real zest". Another letter from the front, unsigned, is found in the issue of February 5. In that of February 19, the death of Lieut. J. Hoxie Austin of Eulalia is reported, also the death of Major Kilbourne's daughter, a young girl of 22, he being away at the front. February 26, two more Potter County boys are reported dead of disease in military hospitals, and two more similar deaths are reported March 12, Smith P. Finch of Eulalia and Sheldon M. Gibbs, of Ulysses.

March 26, 1862. Two letters from the front. It is impossible to quote from more than a few of these letters. The first of these is from Lieut. Reuben Z. Roberts, one of the bravest and most resourceful of the Potter County officers, then stationed at Manassas Junction. He describes the advance of his regiment through mud and rain, and the discovery of equipment abandoned and partly destroyed by the Confederates. The whole letter is intensely interesting. There was no fighting on this march. Lieut. Roberts belonged to the 53d, one of the most famous Potter County regiments. The other letter is from J. W. G., then at Bunkerhill, Virginia. The second letter also describes an advance. A skirmish occurred while the company was advancing; three Union men were wounded, one mortally. The letter is full of optimism and zeal for the Union cause. The

issue of April 2 contains one more letter from each of the above, and another from a third soldier who signs himself Vet. An adequate reproduction of these letters from Potter County soldiers would fill a volume in itself.

April 16, 1862. Major John M. Kilbourne has returned home in ill health. The issue of May 7 tells us that his ailment was inflammatory rheumatism, brought on by exposure at the front. He was laid up in the house for a year or more, and was not able to go back to active service, but was retained on the roll of the army as provost marshal. He was not then a young man, being already 46 years of age. The issue of April 30 contains letters from S. S. Greenman at Camp Hall, and W. H. Hollenbeck, Charles Co., Maryland.

May 21, 1862. Nelson Campbell, of Hebron, shot near the heart. Another Hebron boy is wounded, Montreville Monroe. It was thought that he would lose a leg.

June 4, 1862. Captain J. H. Graves sends a list of our boys who were casualties in the battle of Winchester, May 25. Three wounded, three missing, three absent, wounded and missing. There is also a report from Captain N. J. Mills' Company. Corporal Seth Mullin, of Wharton, killed. Two slightly wounded, seven missing.

June 11, 1862. A letter from Lieut. Reuben Z. Roberts describing the battle of Fair Oaks, June 1. This letter so vividly describes the battle, in which many Potter County boys took part and in which some of them were dangerously wounded, that I have thought it best to give the letter nearly in full, while omitting several others that are almost as interesting:—

“On Saturday, May 31, commenced the fight, Gen. Gorman's and Sedgwick's commands being engaged. In the afternoon our division was ordered to their assistance. We experienced considerable difficulty in crossing the Chickahominy, owing to recent heavy rains, which had swollen the river so as to impede artillery very much, and even the infantry had to ford nearly waist deep. The meridian of the day was considerably passed before our movement commenced, and we did not arrive at the scene of action till past twilight. We were but a few rods from the contending forces and advancing to Gen. Sedgwick's assistance, when his forces, led by Gen. Sumner in person, drove the enemy from the field at 'Charge Bayonet'. Of course, this operation spoiled our expectation of a fight for the night. Passing over a portion of the contested field, we occupied the left of our forces, bivouacking in line of battle behind our stocks with all our equipment on, ready to fall in at the least alarm. When you take into consideration the fact of our march being in a rain, and our fording the Chickahominy in the start, that we

had neither blankets, coats, nor tents, and nothing to protect ourselves from the chilly night air, you will be able to form some idea of the extreme discomfort of our position; yet not a murmur of dissatisfaction was heard. The men behaved nobly. At early light of Sunday morning we were got into line and re-formed in line of battle, fronting at right angles with our position of the night previous. While in this position, the left of our line crossing the railroad at an angle, a scout rode up and cautioned Col. Brooke to keep a sharp lookout for our rear. The Rebels were in strong force in that direction. In a short time Gen. French ordered Col. Brooke to re-form in the same place we had occupied during the night, and fronting as then. We had not fully executed the movement when our pickets exchanged a brisk volley or two with the Rebel scouts, putting them in a skedaddle. It being thus ascertained that our flank was out of danger, the 52d New York regiment was ordered to prolong our line to the left, and the 81st Penn'a still to the left of the 52d. This had hardly been executed when we were ordered to extend our line still to the left. We performed this by moving at a left flank, our regiment taking the ground of the 52d, the 52d that of the 81st still to the left. This put us across the railroad into a dense undergrowth and on a low swampy piece of ground. It was while at a rest, still at a left face, and many of the men discussing their 'Hardees' (crackers), that the enemy, who had crept up to within fifteen or twenty paces, fired their first volley on us. Quickly did our boys come to the front, and, sir, you should have heard the volley which sent death to many a Secesh. This was the commencement of what we venture—though inexperienced in such matters—to describe as being a desperately contested engagement. Before we had delivered a third volley our Colonel ordered us to cease firing. Being under tolerable discipline, this order, though much against our will, was promptly obeyed. Meantime the Rebel fire was confounded hot, and the only alternative was to lie low. Hugging the ground rather closely, we presented our front to the foe ready for whatever might turn up. As the Rebels again came up, we rose and fired another volley into them, taking good care to aim low. In a space of time that seemed hardly fifteen minutes, we kept our line unbroken. Then came the order to advance—and advance we did, the Rebels falling back some forty or fifty rods out of the woods into a sort of pine opening, and clear beyond the encampment they had occupied in the morning. Meantime, the forces on our left did not seem to be so successful in driving the Rebs, and here we found ourselves exposed to a crossfire on the front, rear, and left flank. A few well directed volleys to the front disposed of this, and a few on the left put things to rights in that direction also. Soon we saw the Rebels in full



retreat, not disdaining to take the step sometimes designated as Double Quick; but of the firing in our rear we did not know what to make. One thing we knew. The bullets from that direction flew uncomfortably close to our noddles, but that they came from Rebel guns was by no means certain. This was a predicament, and being unwilling to fire on our friends, the only alternative was to lie down, taking the precaution to face by the rear rank, and wait the course of events. We were determined not to fire till we saw gray coats, and happily they did not appear. Soon came the order to withdraw from our position. Facing to the right, we marched in good order to our camp of the morning.

"Of the sights which we saw on the field of battle, we could fill pages giving you details, but we forbear. We have no taste for such horrible sights as we there witnessed. Suffice it is to say we never saw such sights before, and God grant we may never behold the like again. The dead were piled four and five deep.

"The general conclusions deduced from the fight are these: The Rebels on the field had a force greatly superior to ours, apparently well disciplined, well clothed, and far better armed than we were. Their killed and wounded showed them to be principally young men in the prime of life. From prisoners, we glean that they were heavily reinforced on Saturday night from Richmond. That they had confidently expected we would fall an easy prey. Their general (Magruder) had told them McClellan's right wing was cut off, and that they could easily finish us, that General Jackson was in Baltimore, and that with us whipped at this point they could easily capture Washington. We have no doubt that this is true. Early in the morning we heard cheer after cheer with a faint, sickly sort of shout; there doesn't seem to be any heart in it. When we give one, it comes right from the heart, and indeed it does one's soul good to hear the Union boys give one good lusty cheer.

"Prisoners state that at three different times they had us surrounded, but that each time we fought our way out. We fought more like devils than men. It would seem from persons found dead on the field that our front had to contend with four different regiments. At all events, two colonels were found dead fronting our line, one a Col. Lomax of an Alabama regiment. One of the prisoners, a sergeant, said that the 23d Alabama was played out. Many of the prisoners did not know of the capture of New Orleans. It would seem that their leaders rely solely on misrepresentation to induce their men to come up to the 'scratch'.

"Of the casualties of our company I will give you the correct detail up to this hour. Killed, none; wounded, Sergeant S. F.

Hamilton in ankle slightly; Corporal Edson Hyde, in arm, severely, though not very dangerously. Privates: Charles H. Westfall, grazed side of head; Nelson L. Cobb, contusion on back from spent ball, not serious; Uriah F. Glase, in arm from buckshot, wound not serious; Ira Baxter, in head, not thought dangerous; Orman Blackman, in face, very painful wound, but not thought dangerous. Asa Toombs, in breast, severe, not dangerous; Decatur Wykoff, fingers shot off; Raymond Calhoun, dangerously wounded, probably will not recover. None found missing. A number of the boys had close calls, but were not hurt. Captain Jones, we believe, had his whiskers cut slightly by one of the enemy's leaden compliments, but sustained no injury; Col. Brooke had his horse shot from under him; Major Yeagher was shot through the head. Adjutant Hatch was taken prisoner, and for some half hour was in the hands of the Rebs, who took his sword from him, but as we pressed home on the Secesh, he watched his opportunity, and as they retreated, he effected his escape. The Adjutant represents our fire as having been rather too close for comfort. He says the Rebels hunted their holes with rapidity. Gen. Sumner says we fought hotly, and gave the Rebels an awful thrashing, and we say, 'bully for the old General' We believe the estimated killed and wounded on both sides is about 10,000. We do not vouch for the correctness of this, as rumor is our only authority. We hold possession of the battlefield, but are required to hold ourselves ready for any emergency; we keep our equipment on all the time; have for three or four days. Although the casualties mentioned are all, up to the present time, yet it is uncertain how long the list may remain so slight. The Rebels are shelling us now. We must to arms.

REUBEN Z. ROBERTS"

June 18, 1862. Another letter from Lieut. Roberts reports quite a number of the boys on the sick list since the battle. They have not yet had another engagement, but are daily expecting one.

June 25, 1862. Quite a number of the boys who were reported wounded and missing have arrived at home during the past week. It might have been added that many of them were crippled for life, and that many more retained only a mere wreck of what had been an iron constitution.

July 9, 1862. Captain J. H. Graves of the 46th is home on the recruiting service. He is in fine spirits and good health, and is anxious to have 20 Potter County men to fill up his company. He obtained them before his return early in August. Captain N. J. Mills also was home for a few days. He reported 22 men in hospitals, three who had been taken prisoners, and five Potter County boys laid in soldiers' graves.

July 23, 1862. Rally! Rally! Lieut. John Harder, recruiting officer, has established a station at Millport, Pa. Now is the time to show your patriotism, not by words, but by works!

August 6, 1862. The County Commissioners have called a meeting to provide a bounty for volunteers from Potter. This paper also contains a vigorous editorial urging Potter County to respond to President Lincoln's call for 600,000 more men.

August 13, 1862. A war meeting is to be held in the Red Schoolhouse at Roulet. A recruiting officer will be present, when all who wish to enlist can do so. Turn out! and enlist, as this is the last chance to go as a volunteer. Drafting will soon commence.

This issue also contains an invitation from Major Roy Stone to enlist in the New Bucktails. It is also announced that the ladies will give a dinner for the soldiers in the Court House next Saturday at 1 P. M., to which all are invited.

August 20, 1862. Another proud day for Little Potter! Captain Walton Dwight's company of volunteers left Coudersport on Monday, August 18, to join the New Bucktail brigade now being organized by Major Stone. He took with him more than a full company—129 men. They were enlisted in about ten days.

John S. Mann, Esq., attorney for the County Commissioners, went as far as Harrisburg with \$5000 to be distributed among the men immediately on their being mustered into service, the money having been loaned to the county by Hon. Isaac Benson for the purpose of additional bounty. It is also recorded that the people of Oswayo served a nice dinner to the soldiers.

Lieutenant Reuben Z. Roberts and Corporal Almond Chesbro arrived in town Sunday morning, looking and feeling extremely well, and their mission is one which we trust will prove eminently successful. They have just left Captain Jones' company of the gallant 53d for the purpose of recruiting to fill the ranks of their company and regiment. Shall not Potter County respond nobly to such a call? Her own sons who have fought in her behalf on the fields of Fair Oaks and of the other memorable battles before the Southern capital now call upon us for more men to strengthen their hands and encourage our hearts in this struggle for our national existence. . . . .

People of Potter County! You have already done well! Here are recounted the enlistments under Captain Graves and Captain Dwight, followed by an appeal for more men, and an offer of bounty to be paid by the county.

This issue also contains some extracts from a letter from Captain Mark L. French, a Coudersport boy. He describes a battle against heavy odds, in which he and his company fought their way out when surrounded by Rebels. He closes thus:

"The whole battalion give me the credit of saving them. We have now had two nights rest in twelve days, so we feel pretty fresh. My company had a fight on the picket line with three Rebel companies in which we drove them back across the river."

August 27, 1862. A complete roll is given of Captain Walton Dwight's regiment of New Bucktails, also an item taken from a Wellsville paper praising their conduct in camp. A list of casualties in the original Bucktail regiment, the 46th, is given. Two killed, 12 wounded (two of these had a leg amputated), 23 missing, one died of wounds in hospital. The following issue contains a letter from Harrisburg regarding Capt. Dwight's Company. The writer says "the palmy days of the first enlistment did not show a more active and enthusiastic patriotism than this last call for 600,000."

The death of Sergeant Orange A. Lewis of army fever is recorded, with the highest praise for his conduct as a soldier by his commander, Captain Arch Jones.

September 10, 1862. A statement is given of Potter County men who had been enrolled for the war by a draft officer. 2243 men had been enrolled, of which 711 had gone to the war. Sharon township led, with 101 men at the front. One out of three able-bodied men in Potter County were thus already in service in the second year of the war.

September 17, 1862. The first proclamation of draft. 109 men were all that were required to fill the quota from Potter County. From several townships only one man was drafted. The Potter County boys hadn't waited for the draft. That any men at all were drafted in Potter at this time was due merely to the fact that so many volunteers in the spring of 1861 had enlisted in New York State regiments, so that the county received no credit.

September 24, 1862. The battle of Antietam is reported, in which Captain Jones' company was engaged. Adolphus Nelson, killed; Nelson Cobb, right arm shot off and left severely wounded; W. F. Stone, Leman Wilbur and Daniel Fuller, slight wounds. A meeting is held at Ulysses to arrange for sending hospital supplies and other comforts and luxuries to the army.

October 1, 1865. Lieutenant Reuben Z. Roberts returns to the front with 17 more recruits for his company. A Hospital Aid Society is organized in Coudersport, with a committee of five ladies and two gentlemen. This paper also announces President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

October 15, 1862. A letter from Titus Nichols, Alexandria, Virginia. He has lately been paroled and released from the Rebel prison at Bell Island. He reports that about six men died every night, and one morning 8 were found dead. The previous

issue records the death of E. H. Munson, of the Oswayo Rifles, in a Rebel prison. The following issue records the death of two Potter County boys in a Washington hospital.

October 29, 1862. A further appeal for hospital supplies for the soldiers, with a list of articles desired by the Sanitary Commission. Two boxes of these articles sent from Potter County were reported as having reached the hospitals shortly afterwards. The death of Daniel Bolich in a Washington hospital is reported December 17. Many letters from the front appear in these issues, from Mark L. French, E. O. Austin, and others.

January 7, 1863. A letter appears from Arthur B. Mann, then at Falmouth, Virginia. A portion of it is as follows:—

“Partly at the request of Captain Jones, and also agreeable to my own inclination, I give an account of the killed, wounded, and missing in the late battle. The killed in our company are Corporal Uriah F. Glase and Private Welcome S. Coats. Seriously wounded, John G. Fiske, Adam Goller, David McNamire, Charles F. Parker, Charles Raplee, Oscar J. Webb [later died of his wounds]. Slightly wounded, Sergeant Jason W. Stevens, Corporal William W. Brown, Corporal A. C. Evans, Privates, Myron W. Bailey, George W. Barlow, Leavitt W. Cushing, B. Jay Cushing, Nelson L. Cobb, Dan Eastwood, Walter Scott, John H. Young, Reuben French wounded seriously, none considered dangerous.”

The battle above referred to is that of Fredericksburg. A letter follows, copied from the Philadelphia Inquirer, relating that the 53d regiment, including Captain Jones' company of Potter County men, went into the battle with 300 officers and men. They came out with 145. Any history of the United States will tell you that this was one of the bloodiest battles of the war, and resulted in no military advantage whatever. Sergeant Arthur B. Mann was promoted to Second Lieutenant for conduct in this battle.

During the winter of 1862-63, after the reports from the battle of Fredericksburg, the news from the Potter County soldiers comes less frequently, the army being in winter quarters. Captain Mark L. French resigned his commission and returned home, worn out by the war. More hospital supplies were sent from Potter County. A patriotic meeting was held in the Court House in April. Lieutenant Arthur B. Mann was home on a ten days' furlough at this time. Lieut. Reuben Z. Roberts was also in Coudersport, as a recruiting officer. He recruited more men than any other officer was able to get. It is easy to see that he was that type of soldier who inspires men to follow by his own overflowing zeal for the cause. In May,

1863, the term of service expired for those soldiers who had enlisted for nine months or two years only. Many Potter County men at once reenlisted. Major H. P. Bird was promoted to Lieutenant and Charles Barclay to Second Lieutenant in May, 1863. The death of Lieut. Charles H. Hydorn is reported at the same time. He was the last surviving son of William H. Hydorn of Hebron.

May 27, 1863. The battle of Chancellorsville is reported in a letter from Timothy Glines. He reports two Potter County boys killed.

June 10, 1863. Here we find a letter from Elisha A. Horton, captured by the Rebels during Banks' retreat from the Shenandoah. He had just been exchanged. The letter is as follows:—

“Camp Parole, Annapolis, Maryland, May 16, 1863. My dear parents:—By the kind hand of Providence, I am again released from Rebel-dom, and have just arrived at this place. My health is good, considering the treatment we have had. They nearly starved us to death. The first three days and nights we did not get a mouthful, and marched 35 miles in the time; then they gave us each a cupful of flour which we mixed up with cold water and baked on a stick. They marched us all the way to Richmond, fording streams waist deep two or three times a day. The last day we marched 35 miles, and were then in Libby Prison—306 men in our room. There we lay four days, and had one loaf of bread during the time, such as we get from Uncle Sam in one day. We were then paroled and marched to City Point by way of Petersburg, which is 37 miles in one day. We were in their hands 12 days. Here our transports were waiting for us, and we had the best kind of grub.”

June 17, 1863. Three letters officially commending the gallant conduct of the 53d.

June 24, 1863. An appeal for another Potter County company in response to the call of Gov. Andrew G. Curtin for more men. A later issue contains a list of 29 of these men who responded to the call. Among them were some of the leading citizens of the county, men who could ill be spared at home, some of them already in middle life. Among the men who enlisted at this time was J. C. Johnson, of Emporium, then a law student in the office of F. W. Knox in Coudersport, who was elected captain of his company. He was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, and after a long period in Southern prisons was finally exchanged. He was honorably discharged in 1865, completed his law studies, and became one of Cameron County's most distinguished citizens.

July 15, 1863. The heading **Potter and Gettysburg** appears in this issue. This is the article that follows:—

During the battle of the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th of July the companies from Potter nobly sustained their hard-earned reputation for courage and endurance. While we mourn the loss of those who have fallen, deplore the fate of those who suffer from painful wounds, and sympathize with those who laid their noble sons a sacrifice on our country's altar, we yet rejoice that their blood has not been shed in vain, that our suffering has been recompensed by victory, and that our Keystone State is again free of the rebellious horde. It is impossible for us to give a full or certain account; what news we have is principally rumor reaching us through soldiers paroled or furloughed.

The Old 53d gained new laurels. The following are the killed and wounded: Captain Arch F. Jones was struck by a piece of shell on his left breast, cutting it badly, and bending and breaking his collar bone. Captain Hatfield, struck in the head by a piece of shell, not dangerous. Lieut. Arthur B. Mann, struck on the head by a piece of shell, slight injury.

The following statement is sent to us by J. E. Harvey, under date of Taneytown, Maryland, July 7:

Sergeant John Wykoff, wounded in leg.

Almond Chesbro, in both legs.

L. W. Cushing, in leg.

George Freeman, in hip.

George Shutt, in shoulder.

F. Stone, taken prisoner.

Joseph Kile, wounded and since died.

All that are now left for duty with the company are Sergt. J. Stevens, Corp. B. J. Cushing, George Musto, H. Barr.

The 149th regiment, although this was their first battle, fought like veterans, and won for themselves high praise.

Col. Roy Stone, acting Brigadier General, was wounded, how seriously we do not know.

Lieut. Walton Dwight was wounded and taken prisoner. He kept the field till loss of blood compelled him to leave it—is now at Baltimore.

Captain Johnson, taken prisoner.

Lieut. Reynolds, wounded and taken prisoner.

Lieut. Barclay, taken prisoner.

These four officers refused to be paroled, but by some shrewdness which we have not yet learned, escaped from the Rebels.

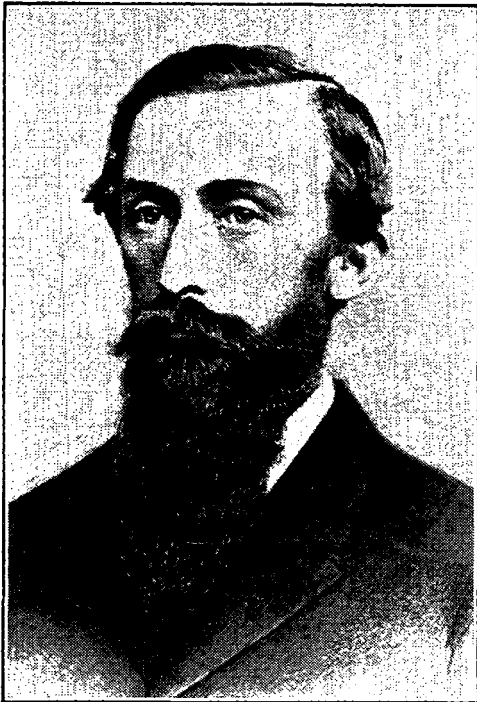
The following brave boys are reported killed:—

Oscar W. Rounds was killed instantly. He was not 18 when he enlisted, and was a noble youth.

Austin Ayers of Ayers Hill.

David Dayton, we think from Hebron.

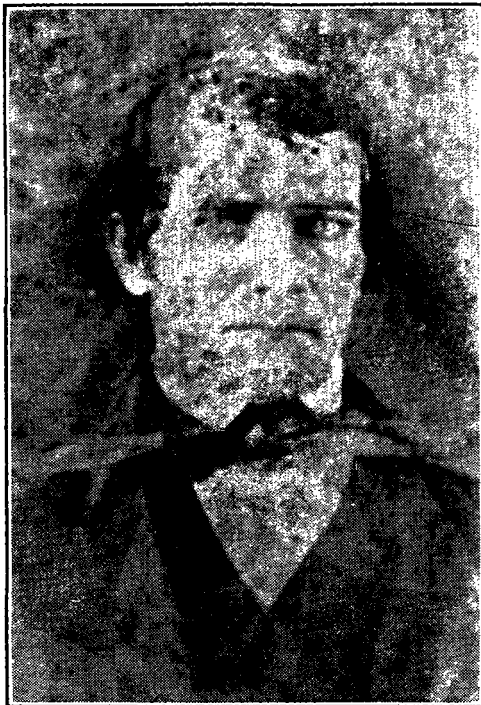
Ryan, from near Ellisburg.



**CAPTAIN ARCH F. JONES**  
Soldier of the Civil War and founder  
of the first bank in Coudersport



**MAJOR JOHN M. KILBOURNE**  
Early settler, lumberman, and tavern  
keeper at Pike Mills. Soldier of the  
Civil War.



**ORANGE A. LEWIS. 1806-1862**  
Pioneer settler at Ulysses, 1831, and  
prominent citizen. Died of fever in  
McClellan's army.



**LAVINIA M. LEWIS**  
Wife of Orange A. Lewis. Writer on  
the early history of Ulysses

The spotted appearance of these cuts is due to fading of original photos.





We have no names of the wounded or prisoners. There may be some mistakes in the different reports. Captain Dennis Chesbro was last heard of as being very sick in a hospital in Washington. No other news from the 46th, save that some of the boys are missing. S. Johnson, of Co. K, 149th, was reported at St. Aloysius' Hospital, Washington, D. C., on June 25.

The next issue contains a corrected list of the killed and wounded at Gettysburg, not much different from that just given. Both these issues contain calls for hospital supplies, and a large box of such articles was sent from Coudersport on July 10. J. C. Bishop, of Allegany, makes two corrections in the list of those killed at Gettysburg, given the week before. David Dayton was from Allegany township instead of Hebron. He was the mainstay of an uncle and aunt who had raised him from a child, and loved him as they would an own son. The man reported as Ryan was found to be Washington Wilson of Allegany township. He left a wife and two or three young children.

The death of Almond Chesbro is recorded in the issue of July 22. The circumstances were not reported at the time, but an own cousin of his told this story to the present writer a few years ago:—

He was shot through the legs at Gettysburg. His wounds were quite serious, but he hoped he would be able at least to recover sufficiently to hobble around. At the field hospital he was told that his legs must be amputated. He replied firmly: "These legs are mine, and I prefer to die with my legs on." He finally consented to allow the surgeons to put him under the ether, but only with the solemn assurance that his legs should not be amputated. When he returned to consciousness, his legs were off. A short time afterwards, it was discovered that one of the bandages had been loosened and he had bled to death. It was only too plain that this had been his own doing. He had not thought it worth while to live.

Several more interesting letters from soldiers appear from July to September, 1863, which it would require too much space to reproduce. In the issue of October 7, appears a letter signed by 15 old citizens of Oswayo who had been Democrats ever since they voted for Andrew Jackson in the Presidential elections of 1828 and 1832, but who announced they would vote to reelect Gov. Andrew G. Curtin, and pledged support to the Union. Many of us at the present day may not be aware that the contest for Governor of Pennsylvania in the fall of 1863 ran very close, Gov. Curtin being reelected by a very narrow majority, the more so on account of the large number of Pennsylvania soldiers at the front who could not vote. Potter County, however, gave Curtin a good majority.

In January, 1864, Captain Levi H. Kinney, of Sharon, was appointed recruiting officer for Potter County. He had just returned from service on the battle line. He had enlisted and raised Company D, 85th New York Volunteers in 1861. Captain Kinney's two sons also enlisted, leaving only the mother and a daughter at home. While Capt. Kinney was in the service of his country, his wife died, thus leaving the home desolate. Within a few years after the war, one of the Captain's sons, Bryce B. Kinney, died of disease contracted in the army. The other son had already gone West before the death of his brother. Such were the sacrifices that the men and women of Potter laid on the altar of Freedom.

In January, 1864, another draft was made for the army. The Journal calls to arms in the following words: "What is going to be done about raising Potter County's quota? Will our people remain inactive and let the draft overtake them? This should not be."

February 17, 1864. The 46th regiment, having reenlisted, are home on a furlough. 53 belong to this county. After their long siege in the field, they intend to have a lively time with their friends. They will have a party in the Court House next Thursday evening, with a supper at Mr. Glassmire's.

The Court House referred to above is the old building, then still standing, and often used for public assemblages and merry-makings. We may well imagine that these brave Potter County boys had no trouble in securing partners on this occasion. The Journal of February 24 says:

"Don't forget the Soldiers' party to-morrow night. Our streets during the last few days have been quite lively with blue-coated boys of the 46th. They look gay and happy." The same paper tells us that three men towards the Boro's quota have been sent to Harrisburg, and the balance are ready to go. Potter's quota would have been already exceeded, but for the large number of Potter County men who had enlisted in New York State and adjoining counties in Pennsylvania. An appeal for contributions to a State Fair in behalf of the U. S. Sanitary Commission met with a ready response in Potter. The committee in Coudersport consisted of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Mann, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Larrabee, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Armstrong, P. A. Stebbins, Jr., Miss C. A. Metzger, with John M. Hamilton as chairman.

Another casualty list appears June 1, 1864, comprising 31 wounded, 9 missing, and 4 sick. The list was made out May 10, and heavy cannonading was still going on all around. A letter follows giving the names of seven killed. A letter appears

in the same issue from Major John M. Kilbourne, of Pike Mills, then at home and disabled by rheumatism contracted in the army. It is as follows:—

“Among the lists of Potter County boys mentioned in your paper, the name of my son has not appeared. There are not many from Potter in the 45th—all of them from Pike, Hector, and West Branch. Every Potter boy in the old 45th is either killed or wounded but two. At last accounts, the Donly boys were all right. My boy Elliott A., fought the Rebs under Burnside from the 6th to the 12th of May; on the 12th, he lost his right leg, and suffered amputation above the knee. News from him last night says that his recovery is very doubtful.” (He died soon afterwards.)

June 22, 1864. Two letters from Lieut. Arthur B. Mann, reporting in all 6 killed, 46 wounded and 8 missing. Many of those wounded had lost a leg or an arm, one lost an eye, and one, James Colton, lost his under jaw. (This poor fellow afterwards died.) All of these were Potter County men. Another letter from John G. Hollenbeck reports 8 wounded, two killed. These were William Ross of Sinnemahoning and Captain Dennis H. Chesbro, of Homer, brother of Almond Chesbro, who had died at Gettysburg. Among this list of wounded was Mike Dunn, who lost both legs, and whose story will be given near the close of this chapter. The issue of July 20 contains a letter from John H. Thomas of Harrison, written just before his death in a military hospital. His parents arrived 26 hours after he had passed away.

We do not notice such an overflow of spirits, such carefree buoyancy, in the letters sent by the soldiers in the summer of 1864, as is characteristic of the letters of the first two years of the war. There is the same courage and confidence in the outcome, the same willingness to serve, but men were weary of the war and did not have the heart to write about the details of camp life, and the lighter incidents in a soldier's experience; only grim lists of casualties and other items of serious import are found in most of the letters sent home during the latter part of the war. A note of thanks, signed by 15 army surgeons, was presented to Dr. O. T. Ellison, of Coudersport, in July, 1864, for his aid in military hospitals. Captain James H. Graves of the 46th, came home in August for the purpose of raising a new regiment for one year's service. He obtained several men, ten being from Sharon township, which already led the county in the number of men furnished for the Union cause. The townships of Allegany, Hebron, Sharon, Clara, and Oswayo, each offered \$200 bounty for any of their sons who would join Captain Graves' regiment, the famous Oswayo Rifles. Three casualty lists are reported in the issue of August 17, two by Lieut. Wil-

liam Shattuck, and one from Captain Elisha S. Horton, who reports 24 men killed and 89 wounded, all very seriously. Grant's campaign before Richmond took a heavy toll from Potter. It is said by some veterans who took part in it to have been harder for the men than any other campaign of the war. But General Grant was determined to crush the rebellion, knowing that the sooner the war was ended, the smaller would be the sacrifice and the fewer the lives lost. The Journal during the fall of 1864 is outspoken in every issue for the reelection of President Lincoln. In April, 1864, Coudersport Boro had already offered \$700 bounty, including sums contributed by the U. S. Government and the County, to each new recruit, and \$800 to each veteran who should reenlist. In January, 1865, a meeting of citizens liable to draft was held in Glassmire's hotel, and it was decided to fill the quota for Coudersport with volunteers. The Boro pledged \$300 bounty for each man, and the balance was made up by subscription.

Many contributions to the Soldiers' Aid Society were made during the summer and fall of 1864. Women all through the County were busy at this work, and box after box filled with supplies was sent to the front. A noteworthy contribution is one sent by the children of Hebron, in February, 1865. It consisted of **fifty-six pounds** of dried blackberries. A more significant expression of loyalty it would be hard to find.

In the issue of March 1, 1865 is found a letter to Captain Levi H. Kinney from his son, Alanson T. Kinney, who was then on the battle line. This letter radiates all of the dash and spirit found in the letters of recruits earlier in the war. What the Union cause meant to Captain Kinney and his family, and how loyally they bore the sacrifice it entailed on them, has been already related.

In the issue of March 8, 1865, appears the last list of men drafted from Potter County. Many of these men had already served a term in the army and received their discharge. There was no more man power in Potter to be drawn on for the army, except a few young men who had just arrived at military age. The rest had already enlisted, months or years before.

Reports continue to come in, down to about the close of the year 1865, of deaths in army hospitals, men crippled for life who had just been sent home, men whose health had been so broken that they died soon after reaching home. Few of the veterans retained the vigor and stamina on their return from the war that they had possessed when they enlisted.

Figures can not be given for the number of Potter County men who served in the Civil War. The 318 names of those who made the supreme sacrifice, which appear on the monument

on the Court House square, were only obtained by a thorough canvass of the county during the years when the events of the war were still fresh in men's minds. A competent authority has estimated that the number of men who had entered the service from Potter made up one seventh of the entire population, and that the whole number of men who enlisted exceeded the roll of those fit for military service in 1861. This means that every able bodied man in Potter County was at the front during the latter part of the war. Many believe that this record was not equalled in any county in the United States!

It appears that the battles that took the heaviest toll from Potter County were Fair Oaks, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the Seven Days' Battles before Richmond. Many men also died from the exposure and hardship of McClellan's Peninsular Campaign, besides those killed in action. Several Potter County men belonged to the 85th New York. This regiment was surrounded and captured at Plymouth, North Carolina, April 16, 1864. The men were sent to the Andersonville prison, and nearly all of them died there. About 30 Potter County men were thus sacrificed.

The county owed \$200,000 at the close of the war, mostly on account of the bounties that had been paid to soldiers from the county treasury. Our people at once set to work bravely and efficiently to lift this load. In May, 1869, the last dollar was paid.

It remains to relate a few incidents of the war that have not found a place in the preceding pages. The following story was told to the writer by Adolphus Castle, of Roulet, now deceased.

He was wounded in the left shoulder; I believe he said he was in Sherman's army at the time, but of this I am not sure. The army surgeon said peremptorily, "That arm will have to come off." Mr. Castle persistently refused to allow the surgeons to amputate his arm, saying that he felt sure he should recover some use of it. Since he refused to give in, he was turned out of the hospital. He dressed the wound himself as best he could, getting some help from chance friends he found, and passed several days in the field in this fashion, finally getting passage North on an ordinary supply train without any accommodations for the wounded. He continued to care for his wound in his own way, and after a time, he began to use his left hand a little, though he could not raise his arm very much. For several years he could raise it only half way up. At the time I knew him, he was a vigorous old man perhaps 70 years of age. He had regained practically the full use of his arm.

One man in Potter County lost both arms, Daniel Fuller of Ulysses. Many of us have known him; he died only a few years ago, at an advanced age. He lost his arms at the battle of Antietam. His regiment was held in reserve, with orders to lie down. He raised himself on his arms to see how the battle went, and was struck by a shell, making it necessary to amputate both arms. He received at first only \$8 pension per month. His friends assisted him to make a trip to Washington, where he appeared in person before the committee on pensions and before the House. In July, 1864, his pension was raised to \$25, the first raise given to a veteran for such disability. In 1889 he became entitled to \$100 per month by an act of Congress granting this sum to all veterans who had lost both arms or both legs. There were then only 20 such men in the U. S. It was of course necessary for Mr. Fuller to have a constant attendant, day and night, for about 60 years that he survived the loss of his arms.

Another man suffered far greater misery than Daniel Fuller, though he was still able after being crippled to do many useful kinds of labor. This was Mike Dunn, of Allegany township, who lost both legs. He passed away in 1877, his death resulting directly from the complications that followed the loss of his limbs. A year or so before this time he had begun to write an autobiography. This I shall reproduce here:—

‘I enlisted in September, 1861, in Company 11, 46th P. V. and served with the same till May 25, 1864, when I was wounded by a canister shot in both legs, just before night; and after a little time, two comrades laid me in my blanket and carried me back nearly half a mile, while all the way my legs trailed on the ground, striking stones and stumps. But the boys were not to blame for that, for shot and shell were flying like hail, and they had to hurry with all their might until they got to a place where they felt safe. Then they halted and laid me down, as they, and I too, thought to die. It was now raining hard, and I, thinking my time had come to die, went to sleep, expecting never to wake in this world. But in the morning I roused from my slumber in much surprise and pain. The boys then took me up and carried me along a mile to the hospital department, where I lay on my back in the hot sun four hours. Then I was laid on a table, and was soon under the influence of chloroform. When I came to, I was minus a leg, and the other was done up. I asked the doctor to take off the other, but they thought it might be saved. So they carried me into a tent, and laid me on a tick filled with green oak leaves. The next day my leg was mortified up above the knee, so I was carried out and laid on the table again, and was soon asleep. When I came to, I had no legs at all. Well, this did not end my suffer-

ings, for a few days after, gangrene got into that stump. Then I was put to sleep again and when I awoke, my nurse informed me that they had cut off a slice around my leg. We stayed there for some time, and fared as well as we could on hardtack and coffee, as the railroad bridges were all burnt, and we could not get supplies; and the army went on after the Rebels. In about ten days I was loaded into the ambulance and started for some church. Don't remember the name, but we traveled all day and all night before reaching the place. The road was very rough, so the ride was not very pleasant for me. During the day, the tents were pitched and the ticks filled with green leaves again. So I was laid on the bed again, with all the attention and care that could be rendered me, with hardtack and coffee the main supplies for a number of days. Finally a man came into my tent, and the boys began to quiz him about chickens and vegetables. He said he had one rooster left, and he agreed to bring in the rooster and a pail of soup by noon next day. The time came and the soup did not come. But at three o'clock the old man came, and said the rooster was so old it took longer to cook him than he thought. The soup was just as good as it would have been at noon. We stayed at this place about two weeks. During this time both of my stumps discharged freely. Then the blue fly came and left his deposits, and soon I was swarming all over with maggots. The wounds were filled with them, and I was a sickly sight. In the meantime, my back was scalded and raw from lying on the green leaves. Up to this time, all the doctors and nurses were very kind, sparing no pains for my comfort. At length a freight train came up, and a number of wounded were placed on board for Chattanooga, and at my request, I also was sent along. When I arrived, they carried me on a stretcher to a large tent, where I stayed four weeks. While there I was attacked with chronic diarrhoea, which never left me till I came to Shongo, N. Y. While I was at Chattanooga I was under the charge of a German nurse, who used me like a brute; otherwise, I can speak well of every man that had any charge of me in every hospital I was in. At the end of this long four weeks, a sanitary train was loading for Nashville. I begged the doctor to send me along, and he did so. The minute I was put on the car and released from that nurse it seemed as though I was cut loose from the Evil One. The next morning we arrived at Nashville, and I was carried to a large pleasant room in a brick building."

Here Mr. Dunn had ceased writing when taken in his last sickness. He came to Shongo in 1864, and was detained six weeks by another amputation, as the bone of one stump was found to be so long that the flesh would not cover it. Thence he was sent to the U. S. Hospital at Elmira, where he remained



all winter. In the spring of 1865 he went to New York City. Before he left New York, the left stump was found to be so diseased that another operation was performed and the bone taken out to the hip. Then various devices were tried to enable him to get around—patent limbs, dog wagon, hand carriage, and finally boot and blocks, which he used down to the time of his last sickness.

For three or four years after the last surgical treatment, his left stump did not heal over, and since then numerous abscesses caused him great suffering. He was often heard to say "they would use him up yet," which at last proved true.

He was born in Ireland in 1841. His family emigrated to Canada when he was quite young; his father died soon after, and he had to make his own way. He had no opportunities, and remained illiterate till he enlisted in the army, but acquired a fair knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic during that time and the years following. He kept a small store at Raymond during his latter years.

Besides the great events of the Civil War, a few other incidents of importance occurred in Potter County from 1861 to 1865.

During the fall of 1862 and the spring of 1863, a terrible scourge of diphtheria swept over Homer and Sweden townships and the Lymansville neighborhood. No means were then known to check the ravages of this dangerous disease, and Death took a heavy toll among the children. The Peet, Colcord, Lathrop, and Carmer families of Homer were some of the heaviest sufferers.

On November 19, 1863, after years of delay and difficulty in financing the work, the Sunbury and Erie railroad was opened to Emporium, thus giving Potter a southern as well as a northern outlet by rail. A stage line was opened to Emporium in April, 1864. Miles White became the proprietor of the Forest House hotel the same year, and it became a stopping place for the Coudersport and Emporium stage, as well as remaining a famous resort for hunters, ranking with the best of the hotels of those times, when all traffic to and from the county seat was borne by horse-drawn vehicles.

The following mail routes were let in May, 1864:

Wellsboro to Coudersport, semi-weekly for \$500 per year.

Gaines to Cartee Camp, semi-weekly \$159 per year.

Ulysses to Spring Mills, weekly \$59.75 per year.

Coudersport to Smethport, semi-weekly \$325 per year.

Pike Mills to Westfield, via Sunderlinville, weekly \$128 per year.

In 1861 the old tannery on what is now Woodlawn Avenue in Coudersport was opened by Andrew Sandberg and Brother, who also went into the business of manufacturing boots and shoes from their own leather; shoes were generally made by hand in those days. This tannery afterward passed to the ownership of Stebbins and Shear. The writer recalls that it was standing in the fall of 1887, but had already ceased operations several years before.

## CHAPTER VII

### EVENTS FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR. 1865-1885.

In the election of 1865, John S. Mann was chosen to represent Potter County in the State Legislature. Mr. Mann held this office three years, declining reelection in 1868. One of his first activities in the Assembly was to secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic in Potter County. An act prohibiting the sale of liquor in Coudersport was passed March 27, 1866. A strong petition was sent to Mr. Mann to have the act extended to embrace the whole county, and he accordingly succeeded in getting such an act through the Legislature two weeks later, and it became a law April 11, 1866. No license had been granted in Potter County since January, 1852, but the refusal of license depended merely on the will of the Court. These acts removed the power of the Court to grant license, and remained in force till May, 1900. The penalty provided was a term of imprisonment in the county jail. Mr. Mann was also active in support of other progressive legislation. Among other projects, he secured an increase in the State appropriation for schools. During his term in the Legislature he was made chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and member of the Ways and Means Committee, and of the Foreign Relations committee. He was at once recognized at Harrisburg as a man of no mere ordinary ability. The following extracts from newspapers outside of Potter County show what the people of the State thought of John S. Mann:—

From the Clinton County Republican,—We are glad to see that John S. Mann, the intelligent and fearless representative from Potter County, has been renominated without dissent.

From the Harrisburg Telegraph:—John S. Mann, Esq., has been renominated as a candidate for Assembly from this sterling little county [Potter]. Mr. Mann was a member of the last House, and had proven himself one of the ablest men of that body. His constituents and the Republicans at large delight to see such men sent to the Legislature.

In 1865 a singer and song-writer of national reputation was heard in Coudersport. This was James G. Clark, composer of *Let Me Die with My Face to the Foe*, *The Voice of the Army*, *Minnie Minton*, and other songs of the Civil War formerly well known, but now familiar only to the older generation. He sang in Coudersport December 18 and 19, 1865, at Ulysses January 3, 1866, and at Spring Mills, N. Y., January 4. Most of Clark's songs were published in sheet form only and are now out of print.

Coudersport was made a money order postoffice beginning August 6, 1866. Previous to this time there was not a money order office in the county. The next was Ulysses, in August, 1886. Coudersport was declared a third class postoffice with the postmaster a presidential appointee in 1883.

In 1866 a Union church was erected at Raymond's Corners. The only churches in the county at this time were those at Coudersport, Ulysses, Harrison Valley, North Fork, and the Catholic church at the Irish Settlement. Some of the chief contributors to the Raymond church were A. D. Corey, Henry Nelson (of Allegany), Charles H. Armstrong, Charles Hoyt, D. E. Olmsted. This church was understood at the time to be undenominational, open to any sect, but in later years was claimed by Rev. J. T. Crumrine of Coudersport as belonging to the Presbyterians, and disputes followed which destroyed its usefulness as a place of worship. It was torn down a few years ago.

The Methodists built a church at Ulysses in 1869. The Baptists of Ulysses built a church in 1874, replacing an older one built in 1858. A church was dedicated at Germania in January, 1875. The Baptists of Oswayo also built a church this year. These are the oldest churches in the county, other than those mentioned in a preceding chapter, of which I can find any record. The Baptists of Coudersport built a church in 1874. Rev. V. L. Garrett served the church a short time, after which they were without a minister till 1885, when Rev. Charles H. Dodd, a Potter County boy, was called.

Dr. O. T. Ellison and M. S. Thompson went into partnership in the drug business in 1866, thus opening a store that continued as Thompson & Mann, and later as M. S. Thompson and Co. till the death of Mr. Thompson in 1911.

In 1867 appears the ad of W. B. Gordnier and A. L. Kenyon, wool carding. A carding machine had been operated in Coudersport as early as 1842 by F. A. Allen and E. M. Bishop. The Perry woolen mill at the place we now call Hickox had been opened by H. O. Perry in May, 1848. Wool-carding was a business of importance in these times. Most farmers kept sheep, and most housewives knit socks and stockings for their families, those who did not spin depending on some neighbor who spun their wool on shares. The Gordnier carding mill and sawmill on Second Street was opened later in the year 1867. C. J. Marble became the operator in 1876, retaining the place till the mill closed in 1898. It stood on land now unoccupied, belonging to Mrs. Edna Gilbert.

In 1867, a cheese factory was opened at Ulysses. This was the first of a series of cheese factories that were built within a few years at Sharon Center, Oswayo, Bingham, Roulet, Steer

Brook, Lymanville, and other places. Most of them remained in operation for only a few years, but, generally speaking, the industry endured in Potter County, with varying fortunes, till supplanted in most districts by the condenseries and milk stations we have at the present day. Prior to the building of cheese factories, the making of butter at home was the only way for the farmer to dispose of his milk.

The Coudersport Academy declined in attendance during the war. The winter term of 1867-68 was announced, with Mrs. M. L. Culver, teacher, but this is the last announcement of a term at the Academy that I am able to find. Miss Davidson taught a select school in the building in the spring of 1867. Miss Clara A. Stockwell, remembered by a few of our older folks as one of the superior teachers of her day, began a select school in the same building in March, 1869.

At this time began an agitation for graded schools. The first graded school in the county was a two-room school in Oswayo, opened in the fall of 1868. This school was not satisfactory to its patrons, because the population of Oswayo was scattered over a large area, and many pupils had too long a distance to go. Only two terms of graded school of six months each were ever held in this building. It burned in 1875, and was replaced by two single schoolhouses. The permanent graded school at Oswayo came several years later.

The Coudersport school board decided on a graded school in the spring of 1869. It appears that there was some difficulty in regard to the use of the Academy building for a public school. The Board advertised for bids for the construction of a brick schoolhouse 32 x 54, wing in front 10 x 32. The job was let to L. R. Decker, the contractor who built the county jail the same year. But on April 13, 1869, an act of the Legislature authorized the trustees of the Academy to deed the property to the school district. The transfer was made immediately afterward, and the tract of land west of the Academy, given by John Keating for its support, was sold to Seth Taggart, whose farm it adjoined. The contract with Mr. Decker was canceled. The school board undertook some necessary repairs on the Academy building, and the first term of graded school in Coudersport opened in the fall of 1869, with B. B. Slade, principal, Miss Henrietta Gridley and Miss Sophia Haven, assistants. There were about 100 pupils in the whole school.

The Academy at Ulysses lasted a little longer, but a graded school was opened there in 1873, the building and grounds being donated to the district. Lewisville Boro was organized in 1869. An item in the Journal of May 12, 1869, calls attention to the following new business places in Lewisville: Seth Lewis, mer-

chant; Chappell Brothers, merchants; C. G. Cushing, cheese factory.

The County Superintendent of schools during the latter part of the Civil War was Rufus T. Claffin. He was followed by J. W. Allen in 1866, who retained the office till 1878. He was succeeded by Amos F. Hollenbeck, 1878-1881, and Miss Anna Buckbee, 1881-1887. No county teachers' institute was held in 1866. In September, 1867, one was held with Prof. F. A. Allen of Mansfield as instructor. In 1868, the Institute was held at Lewisville, with W. W. Woodruff, of Chester County, and E. Wildman, as instructors. In 1869, the Institute was again held in Coudersport, and Prof. Charles W. Sanders, noticed in a former chapter as conductor of the Institute at Ulysses in 1860, was the chief instructor, assisted by Rev. N. L. Reynolds and Dr. E. P. Allen. Thus Potter County has been twice honored by Prof. Sanders as an institute instructor. He is remembered by a few of our older teachers.

In 1869 the present county jail was erected. Up to that time, the jail had been in the old Court House. It had become insecure, and required the services of a night guard, despite which one or two prisoners escaped. The contract was let to L. R. Decker, of McKean County. The work was finished in the fall of 1870, the prisoners having been kept meanwhile in the Cameron County jail. Mr. Decker received for the job \$36671.88. His expenses for labor and material were \$39772.20. Thus he lost about \$3000 on the job, which was so well done that not a crack or a flaw has appeared in the stonework to the present day. The Journal states that Isaac Benson agreed to take \$15,000 in county bonds, but after furnishing \$5000, he refused to take more. Mr. Decker took \$10,000 in bonds at first, and afterwards \$4000 more. Another bond was taken and cashed at par by John S. Mann for \$6000, and one by P. A. Stebbins for \$5000. Mr. Decker bought the old stone court house, for which he allowed the county \$1500. He tore it down and used the stone in building the jail.

In 1867, work was begun on the B. N. Y. & P. R. R. between Emporium and Buffalo. The first section from Buffalo to East Aurora was opened for business in February, 1868, and the road was opened to Olean July 3, 1872. The first train to Emporium was run on December 24, 1872, and the road was formally opened for business January 1, 1873. At last, a railroad had entered the borders of Potter County, and Port Allegany replaced Wells-ville and Emporium as the nearest railroad point for Coudersport, so remaining for ten years. The stage route from Coudersport to Emporium was discontinued in 1873, the line to Jersey Shore having been discontinued soon after the opening of the Philadelphia & Erie through Emporium in 1864. Many men made a

regular business of teaming between Coudersport and Port Allegany from 1872 to 1883. At least one of these is living, Frank Niles of North Main Street.

In January 1874, the second newspaper that proved its ability to endure was founded in Coudersport. The Potter Enterprise was in its beginning a Democratic paper. It was financed by F. W. Knox and Isaac Benson. W. W. Thompson was the editor, and in 1880 he became the sole owner. In 1887 he sold to James Benson. The paper passed through various changes of ownership and editorship till 1902, when it was purchased by M. T. Stokes. Its most noteworthy editor in the last century, after it passed from the able management of W. W. Thompson, was D. W. Butterworth, who edited the paper from 1888 to 1901. He changed the politics of the paper in 1896, making it Republican, which it has since remained.

M. W. McAlarney sold the Potter Journal to W. W. Thompson and Mrs. Vesta C. Dyke in May, 1867. He went to Harrisburg, where he became postmaster some years afterward, and eventually became the proprietor of the Harrisburg Telegraph. W. W. Thompson went West early in 1871, Mrs. Dyke becoming the sole proprietor of the Journal. A new paper, the Potter County Item, was issued in 1872, with S. F. Hamilton as proprietor. John S. Mann bought this paper in December, 1872, and also repurchased the Journal from Mrs. Dyke, combining the two papers, while S. F. Hamilton remained as publisher. The paper continued in the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Mann till Edwin Haskell returned to Coudersport and purchased an interest in 1883, later becoming the chief owner, and retaining the place for the rest of his life.

The year 1875 marks a building boom all over Potter County. The palatial residence of F. W. Knox, now the Old Hickory Tavern, was begun this year. Mr. Knox spared no pains or expense to make his house the finest private home in the county, and so far as possible, used only material that had been produced in Potter County. The building was one of the wonders of its day. The roof was covered with shaved pine shingles that were hauled from what was then the busy pine lumbering neighborhood of Kettle Creek, and the roof did not require renewal till October, 1932, having been in service 56 years, an almost unparalleled record for shingles. Other houses built in Coudersport in 1875 were those of Earl Crane, Hall T. Nelson, Yates Ianson, Owen Metzger, and Erastus Lewis. In Ulysses, a grist mill was built by Burton Lewis and Perry Brigham, grocery stores were built by H. A. Gridley and C. E. Hosley, besides a cheese factory and five new houses by other parties in town. Other houses built this year were that of L. W. Crawford of Roulet, now belonging to W. G. VanKuren, the house of Capt. L. H. Kinney

in Sharon, and those of Warren Chesbro and Wash Berfield in Homer. Several new houses were built on Sartwell Creek. It may be doubted if so many substantial farm homes were ever erected in Potter in a single year, either before or since. In this year, James White came to Coudersport and became the operator of the Ellison grist mill, formerly the Crittenden mill.

The Soldiers' Monument on the Court House square was completed and dedicated in 1875, at a cost of \$1177.21, largely through the efforts of Arthur G. Olmsted. Joseph Schwarzenbach had the contract to erect the monument, and the stone cutting was done by Christian Breunle.

In 1875, John R. Groves became the principal of the Coudersport Graded School, remaining for ten years. Prof. Groves came here from Alfred. He and Mrs. Groves were among those who have contributed the most to the moral and intellectual life of Coudersport. Prof. Groves was succeeded in 1885 by Prof. McDowell.

On April 12, 1879, occurred the death of John S. Mann at the age of 63. His physical constitution had never been strong, and his health had been failing for some time before his death. He is described by those who knew him as living perpetually at high pressure, so to speak, and the intense activity of his mind had worn out his body. Teacher, lawyer, merchant, editor, patriot, statesman, reformer, philanthropist—he was great in all, and left a record of service to the people of Potter County that is hardly equalled by any other man in our history.

A few new roads were opened at this time. One of these was the road from Mina to Odin. A chopping had been made on the present site of the Buchsen farm at Elm Flats at some time preceding the Civil War, by Silas Toles, and a rude road opened to Mina, but no permanent settlement was made at Elm Flats till 1873. The road was opened in 1876, Boyington and Allard building the section on the Allegheny side of the hill, and Herman Bridges that on the Freeman Run side. A road was opened from Cross Fork to Cherry Springs in 1877.

The settlement at Hulls, on the East Fork, properly belongs to this period, though the first resident there came about 1842. This was the "Wild Boy", so called. His real name was Lewis Stevens, and the cause of his strange wild behavior is said to have been that he was not wholly sane. He was born about 1825, the son of an English immigrant who lived at Tom's River, New Jersey. His mother died when he was quite young, and he ran away from home at the age of 11, to escape a drunken father and stepmother. He learned the trade of the tinsmith from a man with whom he lived after leaving home. He became a traveling tinker, and stopping for a year with a German family



near Round Island on the Sinnemahoning, learned some of the art of the hunter and pioneer. He seems to have been possessed with "wanderlust". He left his benefactor, and followed the woods to the present site of Hulls. Here, near the mouth of the brook which bears his name, he built a cabin roofed with V-shaped troughs hewed from poles and fitted together in such a fashion as to make a water-tight roof. He first came to this place about 1842. He occasionally made trips back to civilization, working at his trade at intervals. In this way he lived, with some varied incidents, till 1862, when he enlisted in the Union army. But he could not stand the discipline of a soldier's life. He deserted, and at the end of several years of wandering, returned to his old hut on the East Fork after the war. His last years were passed near Shinglehouse. The story of his life is exceedingly well told in more detail by W. W. Thompson in his Historical Sketches of Potter County, from which I have learned the facts above related.

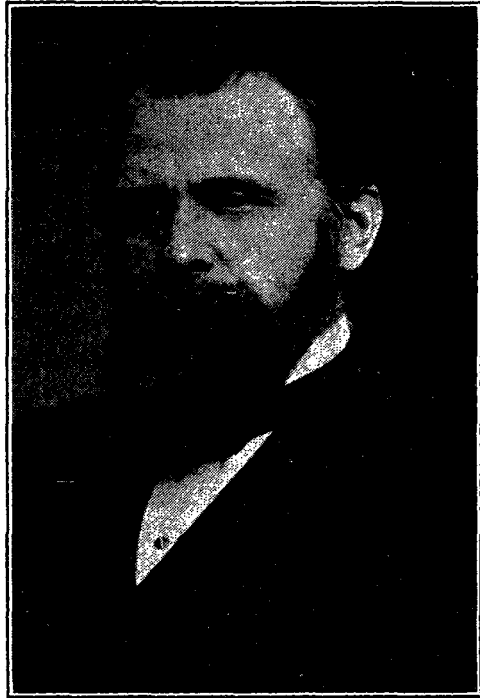
In 1864, Samuel Hull settled near the site of the Wild Boy's cabin, near to the spot where the hotel of Indra Williams now stands. His nearest neighbor was at Cherry Springs. William Wykoff and James Logue lived about five miles below him on the East Fork. D. Z. Williams was the next comer; he settled at the mouth of the Jamison in 1867, having been living on the East Fork since 1856. Samuel Hull built a hotel for the entertainment of hunters and fishermen some time from 1875 to 1880, which was kept by his son, Joseph Hull, at the time the Good-years began to operate in this region. A road was opened to Cherry Springs in 1881. The place is now, after the growth and decay of the lumber town of Hulls, just what it was in Samuel Hull's day, a famous resort for hunters and fishermen.

The last settlement in the county that can properly be designated as that of a pioneer is the settlement of George Smith on Cowley Run, near the Cameron County line, in 1877, in what is now known as the Ludwig neighborhood, in Portage township. Jacob Reed—"Old Jake"—settled at the head of the Cowley in Keating township, at about the same time. His half-brother, Dan Reed, before mentioned as having shot Eli Rees, had built a lumberman's shanty on the Cowley about the time of the Civil War, but made no permanent settlement, the shanty having been deserted long before the coming of the settlers just mentioned.

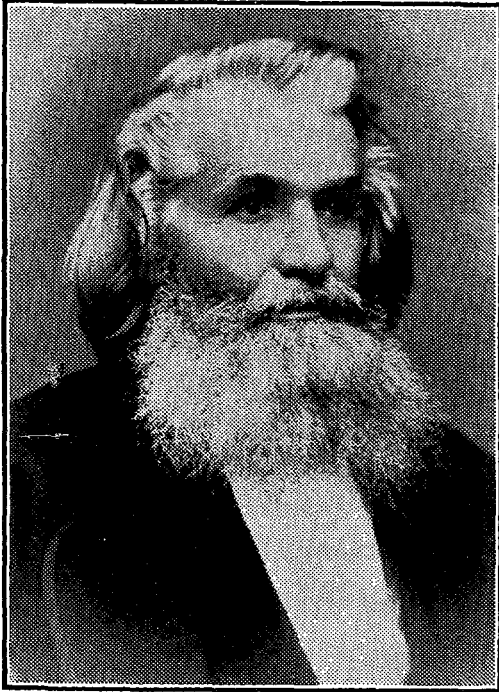
In June, 1874, one of the vilest crimes in the history of the county was committed, the poisoning of H. D. Graves by George Haynes, near Millport. Mrs. Graves was accused as being an accomplice, but was acquitted by the court; there is, however, little doubt of her guilt. Haynes escaped with a



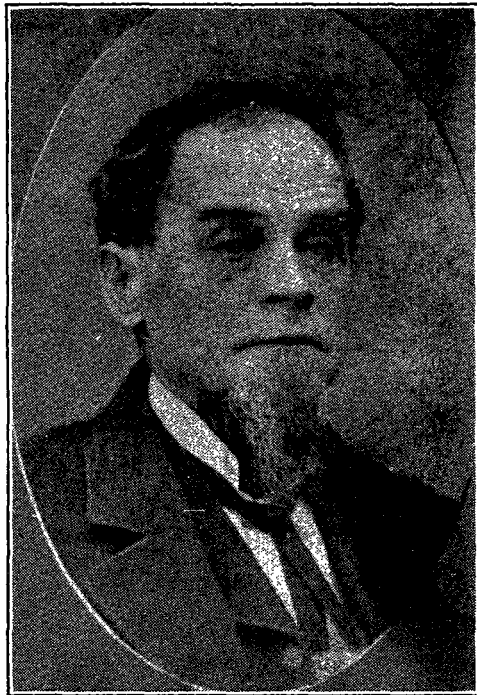
**ARTHUR G. OLMSTED**  
President Judge of Potter and Mc-  
Kean counties, 1883-1903.



**SOBIESKI ROSS**  
Landowner and prominent citizen of  
Coudersport.



**LEROY LYMAN**  
Most famous of Potter County hunt-  
ers.  
Courtesy of Port Allegany Reporter



**D. F. GLASSMIRE**  
Proprietor of the Coudersport Hotel,  
1856-1880.



sentence of imprisonment for life. People who remember this trial tell me that the guilty party was really Mrs. Graves, the weak-willed Haynes serving merely as her tool. The trial attracted much attention, and was filled with nauseous details, which I do not propose to relate here. Haynes was pardoned and set free in 1888; he was already suffering with tuberculosis which eventually caused his death. Mrs. Graves left the county. She lay under strong suspicion in a similar case some years later. It would appear that nothing saved her from the noose but the reluctance of the judge and jury to pass a death sentence on a woman.

In June, 1877, an unsuccessful attempt was made to rob the bank of Arch F. Jones and Son, at that time the only bank in the county. It was founded in 1873 by Capt. Arch F. Jones and his son, W. K. Jones. The burglars fled with a horse and buggy belonging to D. C. Larrabee. One man was captured. The other robber was afterwards overtaken near Genesee. In May, 1877, a forest fire encircled Coudersport, and it was feared the town could not be saved. Rain later in the day stopped the fires.

Another event of this year was the shooting of Frank Welton, the driver of the Sinnemahoning stage, by a thief whom he was taking to jail, who by a ruse, succeeded in getting the advantage of the driver. Welton recovered, but a bullet remained in his neck, impairing his health for life. The criminal escaped, but was afterward apprehended on charges of larceny and burglary at Emporium, and convicted on four counts.

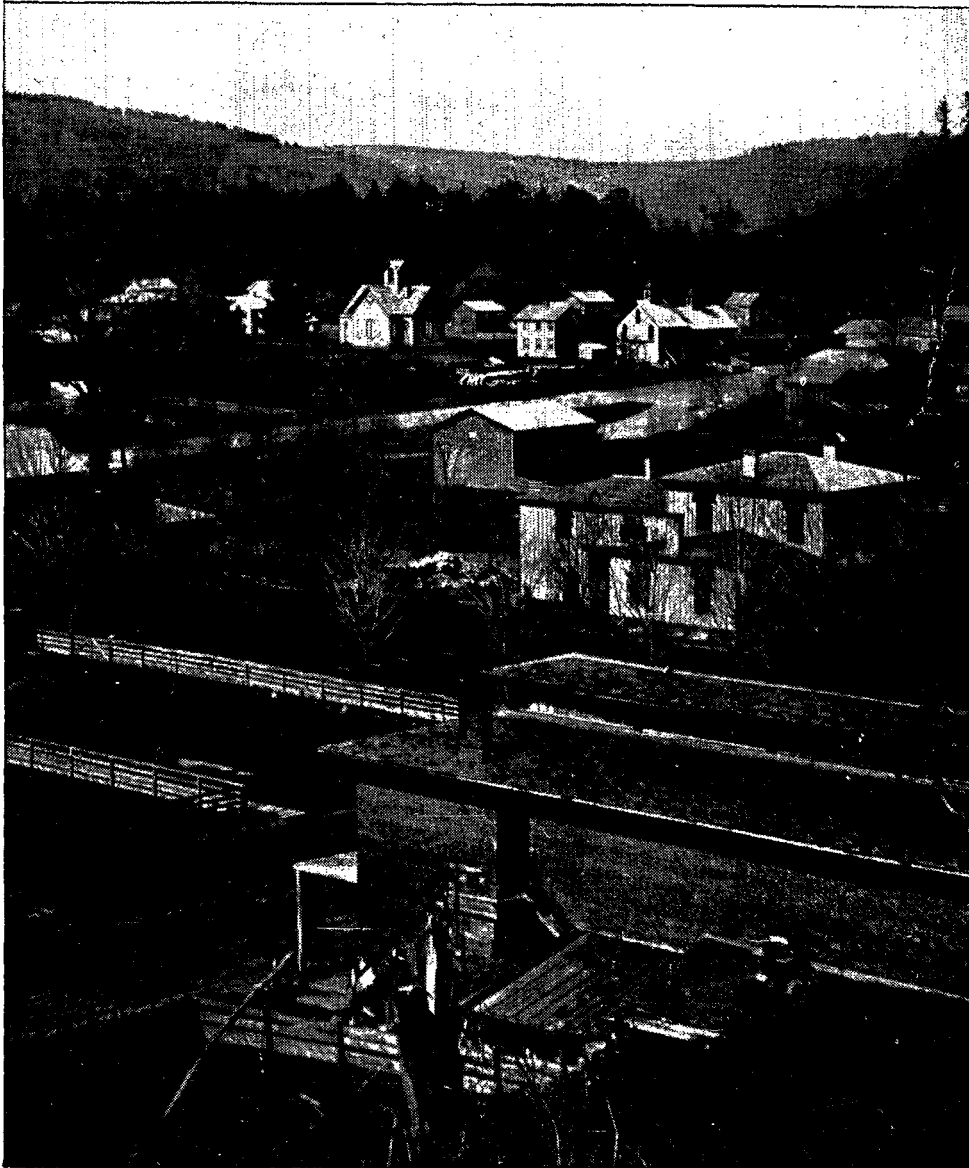
In October 1878, the three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schall, who then lived on Denton Hill, disappeared, and was believed to have been lost in the woods. Almost all the hunters and woodmen in the county united in the search for the boy, but he was not found. The belief was often expressed that he had been killed by a bear or panther. But Potter County then contained several men that were masters of woodcraft and knew every foot of ground within miles of the Schall home, and such men as Leroy Lyman and Henry Teuscher were heard to say that it was not possible that the boy had been attacked by any wild beast, or that, dead or alive, he was in the woods at all; that if such had been the case, he certainly would have been found. It is probable that he was kidnaped. Some forty years afterward, it was reported that a neighbor, then dead, had been hired to abduct the child and take him to Elkland in the night, at the behest of a wealthy man from New York City who had hunted in Potter County woods the year before and who had boarded at the Schall home and taken a fancy to the boy. But this rumor led to nothing, and was not credited by the late W.

W. Thompson; the parents never again saw the boy. The mystery remains unsolved to the present day.

In December, 1878, the Tidewater Pipe Line Company was organized to lay a line from the oil regions of McKean County to Williamsport. A six inch line was laid up the Allegheny valley to a point three miles below Coudersport, thence across Homer township to Ayres Hill and via the Jersey Shore turnpike to the Susquehanna valley. The pump station near Olmsted Station was built at this time, the pumps being originally propelled by steam engines using wood for fuel. This pipe-line is still in operation and little thought of among the industries of today, but in 1878 it created great interest, attracting sightseers and giving employment to many men in laying and burying the line. The pipe was hauled by teams from Keating Summit and Port Allegheny, these being the nearest railroad points. The pumps began to operate May 30, 1879. John Schall, before mentioned as having lost his baby boy, was for many years the pipe-walker for the Potter County section of the line. The telegraph line that was built along the pipe line had a station in the house of Harrison Edgcomb on Ayres Hill. There were few telegraph lines in these days. The first line to Coudersport was built by the Tidewater Pipe Line Company, and service began in February, 1879.

Some business establishments that opened at this time are worthy of mention here. Norman Dwight became the owner of the Keystone grist mill about 1879, and W. F. Junge was the miller. In 1877 was founded the grocery store of C. H. Armstrong and Company, long the leading store of its kind in Coudersport. L. R. Bliss opened his studio in 1880. Geo. C. Marion, hardware dealer of Ulysses, started in business in 1879, buying out the store of Chappell Brothers. The hardware store now owned by John C. Ridlon, in Coudersport, was opened by Norton & Doane in July, 1875.

In the summer of 1879 began the most terrible epidemic of diphtheria that Potter County has ever known, surpassing in its ravages even the scourge of 1862. The disease appeared first in the Harmontown neighborhood in Genesee township, between Gold and Genesee, and on Yochum Hill in Abbott township. Thence it spread to Raymond's Corners, Harrison Valley, Kettle Creek, and other points, eventually attacking virtually every community in the county, and lasting, with some intervals of respite, for two years or more. Several families lost all their children, and at its worst, one or more deaths are recorded each week, probably amounting to hundreds in all. Antitoxin was then unknown, and doctors were powerless. Quarantine was not strictly enforced as it is nowadays, and the disease was often unnecessarily carried into new localities.



#### THE SOUTH SIDE OF COUDERSPORT IN 1875

Looking southwest from Benson Hill. In the extreme foreground, the store building erected by Collins Smith in 1853, where the Masonic Temple now stands. Beyond, the residence of C. S. Jones, now belonging to J. C. Breunig, and to the extreme left, a corner of the Jones barn. The small square building between is the Jones icehouse. Just beyond the Jones house, across the Allegheny, a barn belonging to P. A. Stebbins, Sr., and west of it the Rounseville house and barn, now owned by W. F. Schutt. South of the Stebbins barn, the Allegheny, showing a small island that does not now exist. In the center of the background, the Baptist church. North of it, a house built by F. W. Knox for one of his daughters, now belonging to L. G. Soper. Adjoining on the river bank, two barns belonging to F. W. Knox, burned in the fire of 1904. Beyond these across Main Street, the Warner house, where the Crowell garage now stands. South of the Baptist church, the Will Neefe house, now belonging to W. W. Rhodes. Over the roof of the Rhodes house, the house of Abe Jones, now owned by Gates Brothers and occupied by Mrs. Nelson. To the left of these, the McCormick house, now owned by Earl Crandall, and beyond it the L. H. Cobb house. Beyond, the primeval forest, covering the present sites of the C. & P. A. depot, the condensery, and the electric light plant, and extending north to Maple Street. The Gordnier house and the Koon house, now occupied by Harry Earle, on the square east of the Baptist church, are nearly hidden by foliage. The two remaining houses on the west side of Main Street have not been identified.



We now come to an event in the history of Coudersport which is still fresh in the minds of our older citizens, and is thought of as the greatest calamity of its kind that ever occurred in our history, namely the great Coudersport fire of May 18, 1880. The fire started in a small building back of the store of P. A. Stebbins and Brother, about where the Ford service station of Will Harris is now. By some it is said to have been caused by the access of water to lime stored in this building, but this is not certain. The fire had a good start before it was discovered, and spreading, created a strong breeze that shifted several times during the progress of the flames. There was then no water system in the town, and no fire protection other than bucket brigades. By the most strenuous exertions, the Court House, the buildings on the north side of Third Street, and the old Baker House, which then stood on the corner now occupied by the Potter County Garage, were saved, though all were at times in great danger. The fire was finally stopped at Hallauer's meat market on East Street, near where the Coudersport Laundry now stands. The burned district included all the business places in town. Three fourths of the square on which the Crittenden Hotel now stands, the north half of the square south of the Court House, and all of the square west of the Court House, lay a mass of smoking ruins in a few hours. The following list of losses is taken from the Potter County Journal of May 27, 1880:—

P. A. Stebbins & Brother, dry goods, loss \$15,500, insurance, \$4500.

Bank building, loss \$600, no insurance.

W. K. Jones, banker, saved all his cash, bills receivable and bank ledgers. Small loss on safes and bank furniture, not insured.

Rosa Anton, millinery, second floor of bank building, covered by insurance.

Dr. Amos French, drug store, loss \$3500, no insurance.

Dr. S. A. Phillips, dentist, second floor of Dr. French's building, loss above insurance, \$75.00.

Edward Forster, grocery store and contents, loss \$5000, insurance, \$2000.

Ignatz Griesel, harness shop. He was putting up a new building. Loss \$1500, no insurance.

Charles S. Jones, dry goods, loss \$12000, insurance, \$5000.

F. E. Lyon's building, occupied by Andrews & Olmsted, grocers, loss \$1200, insurance \$1000.

Andrews & Olmsted, stock of groceries, loss \$950, insurance \$800.

H. J. Olmsted & Sons, hardware, loss \$8000, insurance \$4000.



L. H. Cobb's law office, second floor of Olmsted's building, loss \$500, no insurance.

Eulalia Lodge, F. & A. M., loss \$673, insurance \$500.

Mary R. Jones, store building, loss \$2400, insurance \$1500.

E. N. Stebbins, occupant, dry goods, loss \$3200, covered by insurance.

M. S. Thompson, drugs and books, postoffice, loss \$3500, insurance \$2600.

Reymund Bendel, household goods and tailor shop, loss \$200, no insurance.

L. B. Cole & Son, insurance office on Third Street and wagon and blacksmith shop on Second Street, loss \$1000, no insurance.

C. Reissman, old house on Third Street and cabinet shop and stock on Second Street, loss \$3000 above insurance.

W. B. Gordnier's building on Second and West Streets, loss \$3000, no insurance.

Dr. E. S. Mattison, office furniture, small loss, no insurance.

D. F. Glassmire, Jr., livery stable, saved horses and buggies. Loss on sleighs, papers, etc., \$1000, no insurance.

Z. J. Thompson, wagon shop, loss \$2000, no insurance.

George Brehmer, blacksmith shop, loss \$50, no insurance.

F. E. Neefe, wagon shop, loss \$500, no insurance.

A. C. Perkins, blacksmith shop, \$1000, no insurance.

D. F. Glassmire, Coudersport Hotel and store, barn and stage fixtures, loss \$10,500, insurance \$4200.

Miles White, keeping Coudersport Hotel, loss \$1500, no insurance.

J. A. Haynes, book agent stopping at hotel, loss \$70, no insurance.

John Scott, boarder, lost clothing and money, \$100, no insurance.

George Green, barber in hotel basement, loss \$50, no insurance.

M. L. Stevenson, suit of clothes.

Engineer's office, J. S. P. C. & B. R. R., second floor of Glassmire's store building, loss \$500, no insurance.

Singer Sewing Machine Company, loss \$450, and N. M. Glassmire, agent, \$125, no insurance.

Isaac Benson, Dike block, loss \$800, no insurance.

E. O. Rees, jeweler, loss \$600 to \$800, insurance, \$189.

A. L. Pierce, furniture, loss \$500, no insurance.

Abram Jones, restaurant and bowling alley, loss \$600, insurance \$400.

Thad Kelly, restaurant, loss \$500, no insurance.

Olmsted & Larrabee, law office. Saved books, papers and safe. Loss on building, \$800, no insurance; books and furniture, \$200, covered by insurance.

Carl Zimmerman, butcher shop, loss \$1500, insurance, \$1000.

Enterprise building, owned by F. W. Knox, loss \$3200, no insurance.

Norton & Doane, hardware, loss \$1130, covered by insurance.

Enterprise office, loss \$3500, insurance \$1800.

Cyrenus Jones, artist, loss \$50 in goods, no insurance.

A. Kiehle, blacksmith, tools and books, \$150, no insurance.

L. R. Bliss, photographer, loss \$100, no insurance.

James W. Pearsall, wagon-making tools, etc., loss \$150, no insurance.

Mrs. A. Haven, house, household goods, and barn, loss \$1000.

Mrs. Belle Ross, household goods stored in Mrs. Haven's barn, loss \$3000, insurance \$1000.

Many goods removed from the stores and piled on the Court House square were burned, and many were stolen. The whole loss was estimated at \$200,000 with \$75,000 insurance. This is generally thought of as the most destructive fire that ever occurred in Potter County. This view, on the whole, is correct, since the county was not then as populous and wealthy as it afterwards became, and the business section of Coudersport, the county seat and metropolis, was completely wiped out. Several fires since that time have, however, done an amount of damage which, expressed merely in figures, would equal or exceed in amount the figures for the fire of 1880. Few fires of major proportions occurred in Potter County before this one. The principal fires of earlier dates were those caused by the wind storm of 1856, and a fire in Ulysses in February, 1870, which destroyed three business places, the grocery stores of C. E. Hosley and Edson Hyde, and Rennells' shoe shop.

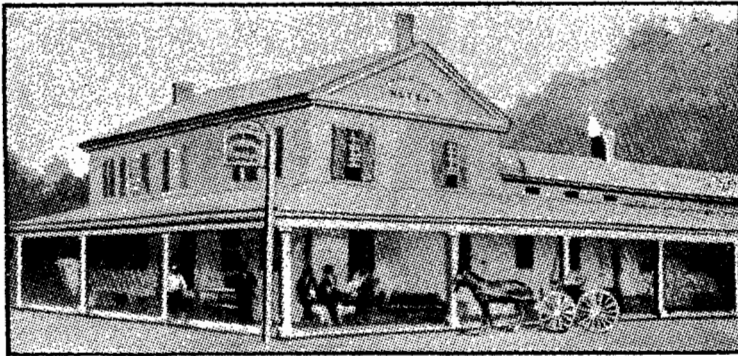
The business men of the town immediately made plans for rebuilding. Several merchants found quarters in various unused buildings, and a row of shanties known as the "Hemlock Row" was built in the jail yard as temporary quarters for some of the stores. A boro ordinance was at once passed defining fire limits, which included most of the burned district. Fire limits in Coudersport have since been extended from time to time. The store of C. H. Armstrong was the only brick building that had burned. It was quickly rebuilt, and occupied early in the fall. P. A. Stebbins & Brother moved into their new store (now the Harris Garage) on November 23, M. S. Thompson & Company occupied their new building on November 29, and Andrews & Olmsted moved in early in December. The bank building, now the First National Bank, was occupied January 31, 1881. The whole block on Main Street and a large part of that on Second Street were rebuilt within about two years. The site of the old Coudersport Hotel remained vacant for some time, the lot being held by the

owners at too high a figure to attract a purchaser. It was bought by Alanson Crowell in 1889, and he erected the hotel that now occupies the site. The hotel that stood on the present site of the Potter County Garage was the only hotel in town that escaped the fire. It was known as the Baker House when it came under the management of Dan Baker and J. M. Covey in 1871, then as the Nichols House, with W. W. Brown and Thad Kelly as proprietors. N. M. Glassmire bought this hotel in 1886 and christened it the Coudersport House, in honor of his father's hotel that had burned. D. F. Glassmire retired from the hotel business. Besides the rebuilding of the burned district, one other building of note was completed in Coudersport in 1880. This was the residence of D. C. Larrabee, vying with that of F. W. Knox for first place among the fine homes of the town. It is now owned by the American Legion. A water company was organized in Coudersport in 1883 by Judge A. G. Olmsted, who also organized the first volunteer hose company in 1885.

In April, 1882, application was made for a charter for the Coudersport and Port Allegany Railroad. Agitation had been going on for a railroad at Coudersport ever since the opening of the Erie at Wellsville in 1851. At one time it was hoped that the B. N. Y. & P. would go to Jersey Shore instead of to Emporium, which would have put Coudersport on the route. The Jersey Shore, Pine Creek, and Buffalo Railroad had been organized, and some grading done between Coudersport and Port Allegany in 1873, but the road was not adequately financed, and nothing had been done for several years. The capital stock of the new company was \$150,000, and the directors were F. W. Knox, A. G. Olmsted and Isaac Benson, of Coudersport; F. H. Root, of Buffalo; A. M. Burt and F. N. Arnold, of Port Allegany; Byron D. Hamlin, of Smethport; C. S. Curry and C. V. B. Barse, of Olean. The right of way and grade of the J. S. P. C. & B. was purchased for \$7000, the contract being signed April 21. Work was at once commenced. Homer D. Blakeslee, of Olean, obtained the contract for \$45,000. He was to grade and ballast the road and lay the ties ready for the rails. The first train arrived in Coudersport, September 8, 1882, and passenger service began September 26, fare to Port Allegany, 65 cents. The intermediate stations were Olmsted, Nelson (now Mina), Roulet, Burtville, and a water station at Silver Spring Hill, below Burtville. The road when built was narrow gauge, like several other short lines of railroad that were built in that period. It was widened to standard gauge in 1889. B. A. McClure was general superintendent, retaining the place till old age forced him to retire in 1919. Several other employes of the road who came to Coudersport at this time have spent the greater part of their lives in its service: Michael Holland, engineer; Dan



COUDERSPORT BEFORE THE FIRE OF 1880  
Looking north on Main Street

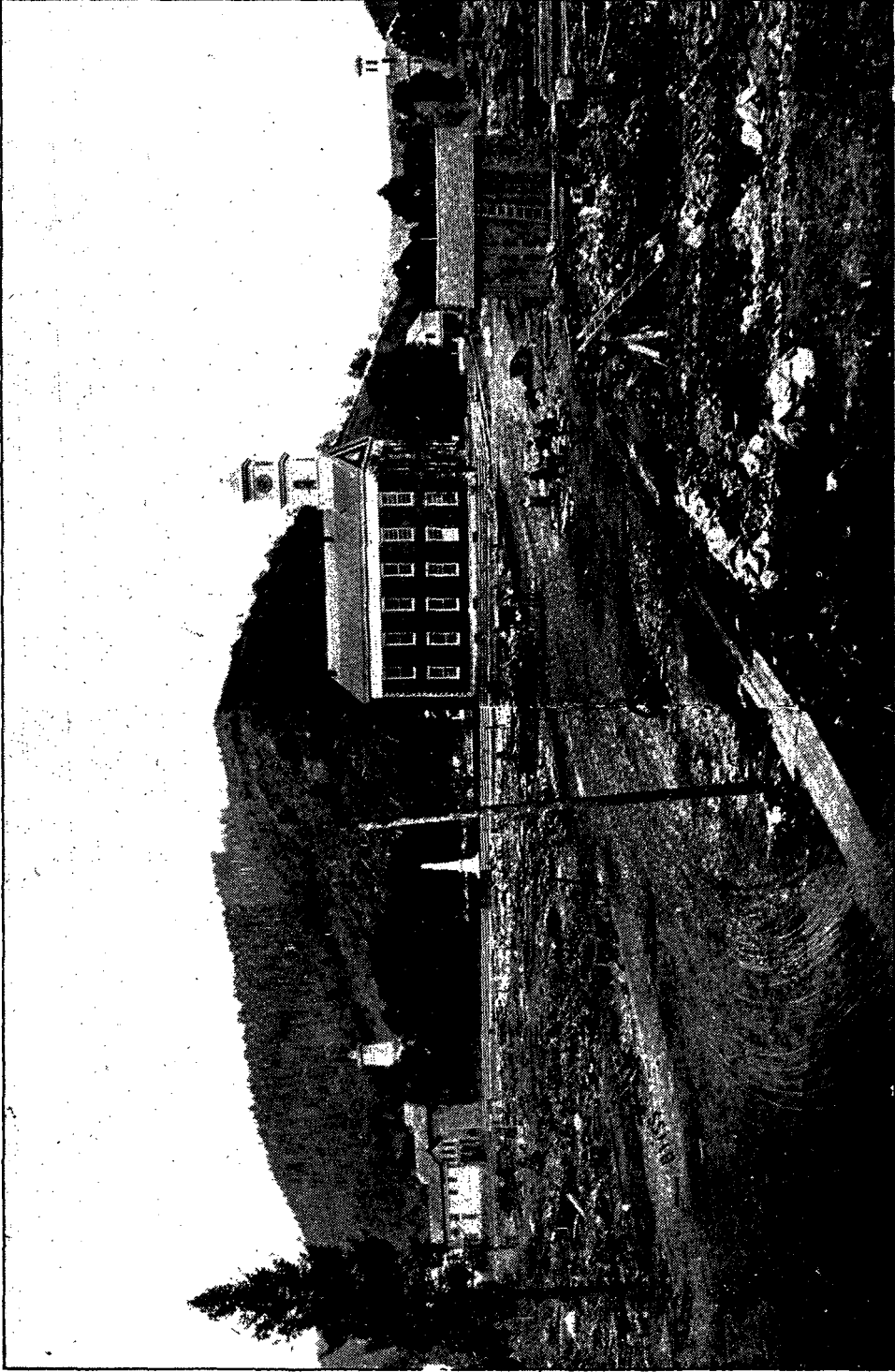


THE GLASSMIRE HOTEL  
Built by William Caldwell, 1841. Burned in the fire of 1880.  
Courtesy of Potter Enterprise

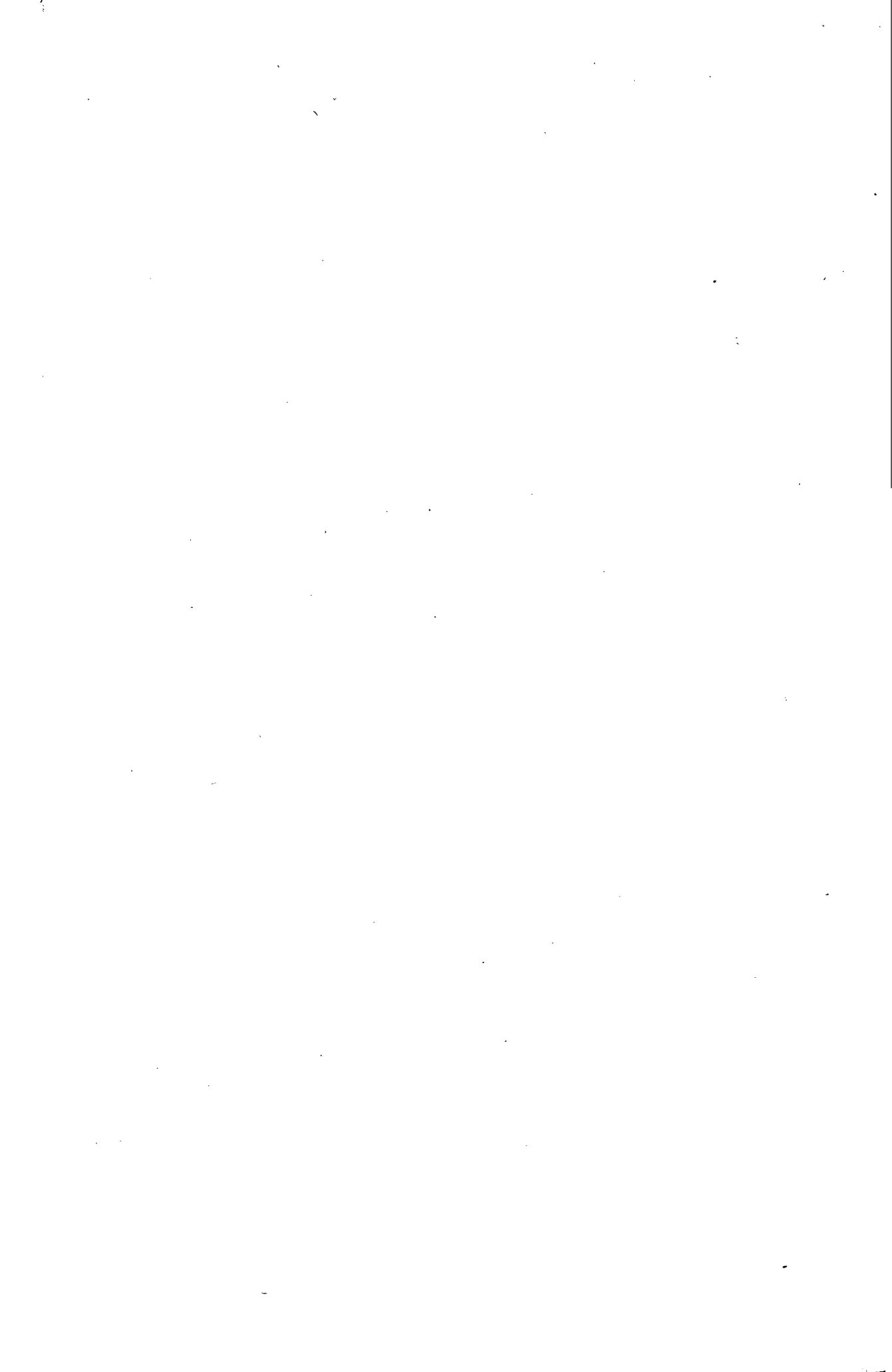
stolen by a sneak-thief, whose name I do not know, though strong suspicion lay on certain parties. This occurred about 1880.

The year 1885 marks the close of another well-marked period of Potter County history, which begins with the great celebration held at Coudersport on April 8, 1865, in honor of the victories of the Union army. Some of the highlights of this period are as follows:—

The passage by the State Legislature of the acts prohibiting the sale of liquor in Potter County, brought about by John S. Mann in April, 1866; the establishment of graded schools in the principal towns of the county, headed by such leaders in education as B. B. Slade, Miss Clara A. Stockwell, and John R. Groves; the building of the county jail, so well done that no repairs have ever been required on the exterior; the erection of the Soldiers' Monument. Many substantial homes had been built that have endured to the present day. Railroads had been brought to Coudersport, Harrison Valley, and Pike Mills. Coudersport had risen from the ashes of the fire of 1880 stronger and more prosperous than ever before. The population of the county was steadily increasing, to continue for two more decades. The work of the pioneers was finished, and most of them had already passed to another world. The advance guard of an immense lumber business was about to enter the south of the county. We must now recede to consider the beginning of the lumber industry some 70 years before.



COUDERSPORT AFTER THE FIRE OF 1880



## CHAPTER VIII

### LUMBERING IN POTTER COUNTY.

Up to this point, I have attempted to follow our history in chronological order, just as the events occurred. I now propose to go back to its beginning, and to consider the growth of our most important industry—lumbering. Our timber was, as we now realize, our most valuable natural resource. The opinion was often expressed two generations ago, that no true prosperity would ever be attained by our people, till the timber should be exhausted, and attention turned to farming and other pursuits. It is now only too apparent that this was not the truth. It is a fact that the methods then used in lumbering were wasteful, and that the floating population of lumber camps and sawmill towns was not equal in solid worth to that class of our citizens who were engaged in less transient pursuits. But this condition, as we now realize, is one of the ever present evils of brisk industrial growth, and is a part of the price that must always be paid for material prosperity. The only mistake was made in the too early and too rapid removal of the timber, entailing much waste, because the value of the timber at the time it was cut had not increased to the point that would make close conservation profitable. This post haste removal of the timber was brought about by the excessive taxes imposed on the large landholders, forcing them to cut their timber to escape the payment of an enormous annual tribute to the scattered population of the timbered districts. The advice was often given at town-meetings and gatherings of local officials to "lay the taxes right on; in a few years the timber will be gone, and we shall have no unseated taxes". This short-sighted policy speedily brought about the destruction of our primeval forests, and exhausted our most valuable resource. No development can now be predicted that will restore our population to the figure it once reached, or bring back the time when any man who wished to work could find employment on the nearest log job. Those days are gone forever; and the future progress of Potter must follow another course.

Let us consider briefly the kind of timber that covered our lands before any of it had been removed. By far the most valuable item was the white pine. It is hard for us now to realize the original extent of our pine forests. Only a few stumps remain; even most of these have been eradicated. The last stand of virgin pine was cut in 1892. The original acreage of pine timber in the county probably equaled that of the hemlock, or



at least would have cut as many board feet of lumber, as the pine trees were both larger and taller than the other timber. The best of the pine was that great forest that covered the whole of the valley of the Oswayo and its tributaries, the Honeoye, the Eleven Mile, Clara Creek, the South Branch, extending over the divide to the headwaters of the Genesee and the Cowanesque. The boundary line of this tract of pine was the edge of the continental divide that separates the valley of the Allegheny from that of the Susquehanna, beginning in Ulysses township and extending across Sweden, Summit, Homer, and Keating. There were several patches of pine along the north side of the Allegheny River, in some cases extending up the hillside, as on Benson Hill and on the site of Eulalia Cemetery at Coudersport, and on the John Lyman and Weidrich farms at Roulet. At some points, these patches were continuations of the pine forest of the Oswayo, extending over the watershed, as at the Nelson Clark place in Eulalia and the Mark Harvey place in Hebron.

A second tract of pine covered the southern and southeastern parts of the county, occupying the tops of the ridges and many of the hillsides in the country drained by Pine Creek, Young Woman's Creek, Kettle Creek, and the Sinnemahoning, also Hunt's Run, a tributary of Driftwood Creek, which was included in Potter County at the time the pine was cut. This timber was probably not quite equal in quality to that of the Oswayo valley, but its location was more favorable, since it could be readily run down the Susquehanna to the eastern markets. The top of the great continental watershed was timbered chiefly with hardwood, with some admixture of hemlock, and originally contained groves of the finest cherry and ash; oak and chestnut were also found in certain localities. There was considerable hemlock over the whole county, mingling more or less with the pine, but the tallest and finest hemlock trees stood on the steep hillsides sloping from the Continental Divide. Mr. Daniel Collins, who was in the employ of the Goodyears during their operations at Austin, tells me that the hemlock timber on Freeman Run was the finest in the world, some of it nearly equal in quality to white pine.

The value of the pine of Potter County was recognized by the very earliest explorers. Francis King mentions it in his report to John Keating in 1797, saying that the settlements at Pittsburg and other down river points would need the pine of the Oswayo valley. Lumber in those days could only be shipped by sawing it in small mills where the timber stood, and rafting it down the stream. It was often hauled on wagons a considerable distance to reach a stream large enough for rafting, after the timber in the most convenient locations had been cut. Francis King, Major Isaac Lyman, and Benjamin Burt all built sawmills

soon after settling in this region. Benjamin Burt may perhaps be reckoned as the first lumberman in the county. About 1815 he built a dam across the Allegheny river just above the present site of Burtville, and built a sawmill, run by a mammoth over-shot water-wheel. The mill is thus described by his great-grandson, M. C. Burt: "About the only metal in the mill was the saw, which resembled a cross-cut saw of today. Set almost perpendicular, it was made to stroke 60 times a minute, and if a pine log chanced to be large, requiring as much as half an hour to cut one board. The shafting was composed of round logs, the pulleys of wood, with wooden cogs and gears, all securely fastened with wooden pins where necessary. In this mill were eventually improvised two native stones, with which grain could be crushed, and thus obviate the necessity for long trips to distant points for grinding grist."

Mr. Burt rafted his lumber down the river to Pittsburg, the nearest market that could be reached by the early settlers on the western side of the continental divide. Lumber rafting was also begun on the Oswayo at a very early date. Francis King built a sawmill at Ceres in 1798, but the early history of the settlements on the Potter County side of the line has passed into oblivion, and I can not determine any dates. Elisha, Ovid, and Theodore Mix had a mill on the Honeoye some time from 1812 to 1830. A sawmill on the same stream owned by Bridge & Company is recorded in 1832, also one belonging to Joseph Rew at Sharon Center. All this shows that lumbering had already begun to assume some importance on the Oswayo. The Oswayo Lumber Company was the first large company to operate in this region. It was organized in 1837, with the LeRoy brothers, T. H. Newbold, Wm. H. Morris, and Joshua Lathrop, members. The first manager was Dr. Alma, succeeded by W. B. Graves. The company, then known as the Newbold Lumber Company, disbanded in 1845, and Joseph Mann, a brother of John S. Mann, became the manager of the business, eventually becoming the sole owner, selling the lands to settlers after the timber had been taken off or reserved. In later years he had as partner Rodney L. Nichols. The company built three mills at Millport, one just above town on the south side of the stream, one just below town on the north side, and one just above town on the north side. The agent of the company also kept a store in Millport. The settlement was at first called Newbold, from the president of the company. Mr. Mann moved to Coudersport in 1865, and Mr. Nichols also spent his latter years at the county seat, being prominently identified with the First National Bank.

Mills were built by the early settlers in the Allegheny valley, Major Lyman, John Dingman, Luther Strong, and others, but it is not recorded whether they cut lumber for the market, or

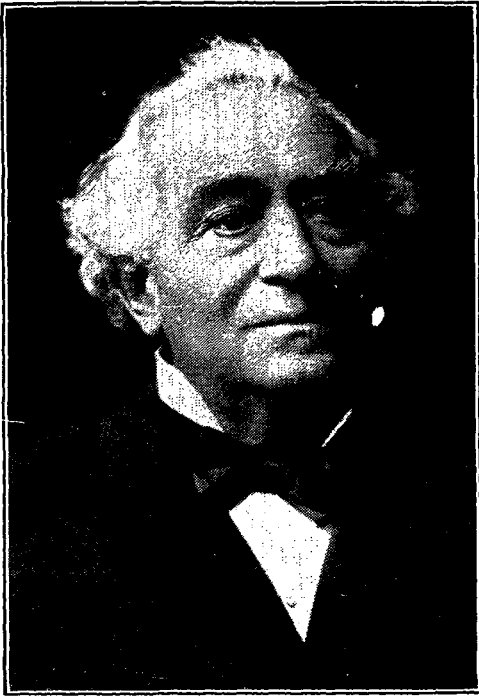
if so, whether it was rafted down the Allegheny or hauled over the hill to Pine Creek. Much lumber from the highlands of the central part of the county was hauled over to Pine Creek in later years. Some of the early settlers, as Noah Crittenden, of Oswayo, and George Nelson, of Colesburg, hauled their lumber to Dansville, N. Y., a distance of 75 miles, receiving \$7.00 a thousand for clear white pine. Pine lumber of the quality rated as clear in those times can hardly be obtained in the market today at any price.

But rafting was then the usual means of getting lumber to market. Rafts were at first made either of sawed lumber or square timber, and later, of logs. Loose logs in the stream require a boom to catch them at the mill, and the great booms at Williamsport and Olean were not built till about the middle of the 19th century. The principal streams of the county, the Allegheny, the Oswayo, Pine Creek, Kettle Creek, and Sinnemahoning Creek, were all declared public highways by the State Legislature in early times, making them free for the running of lumber and logs.

The early settlers on the Sinnemahoning and on Pine Creek also rafted the product of their woods and mills, and had the advantage of a better market than could be reached by the Allegheny lumbermen. Rafts were sent down the Susquehanna, and loaded on vessels at the head of navigation, the lumber being shipped to Philadelphia and New York. Two of the first mills on the Sinnemahoning were built by Daniel Bailey at the mouth of Bailey Run, and by Seneca Freeman on the East Fork. An early mill on Pine Creek was that of David Kilbourne, below the present site of Galeton, built in 1824. Another mill was built at Pike Mills by his nephew, Major John M. Kilbourne, in 1846. The original village of Pike Mills adjoined the mill of David Kilbourne, and was situated about 40 rods west of the Tioga County line, while the settlement on the present site of Galeton was known as Pike Center.

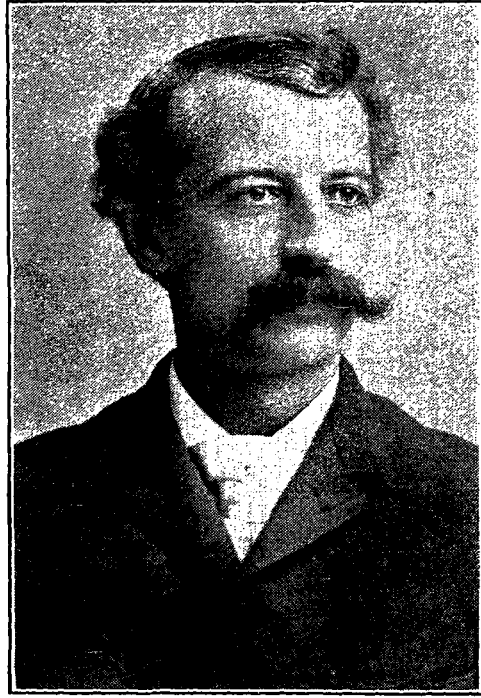
Mr. M. J. Colcord of the Potter County Journal, who lived on the Sinnemahoning in his boyhood, in a contribution to "Rafting In Pennsylvania," thus describes the construction of a board raft:—

"Three narrow plank 'runners', chamfered at the ends, with white oak 'grubs' inserted at the ends and middle of each, were laid for the bottom of each platform. A layer of boards across these was followed by another layer lengthwise, and so on till the platform was of proper thickness. Three hinge-boards extended half their length to the next platform, through which hinges the 'grub stakes' passed, and thus the long string of platforms made up the raft, flexible but strong. On top of the platforms binders were withed down and fastened on the 'grubs',



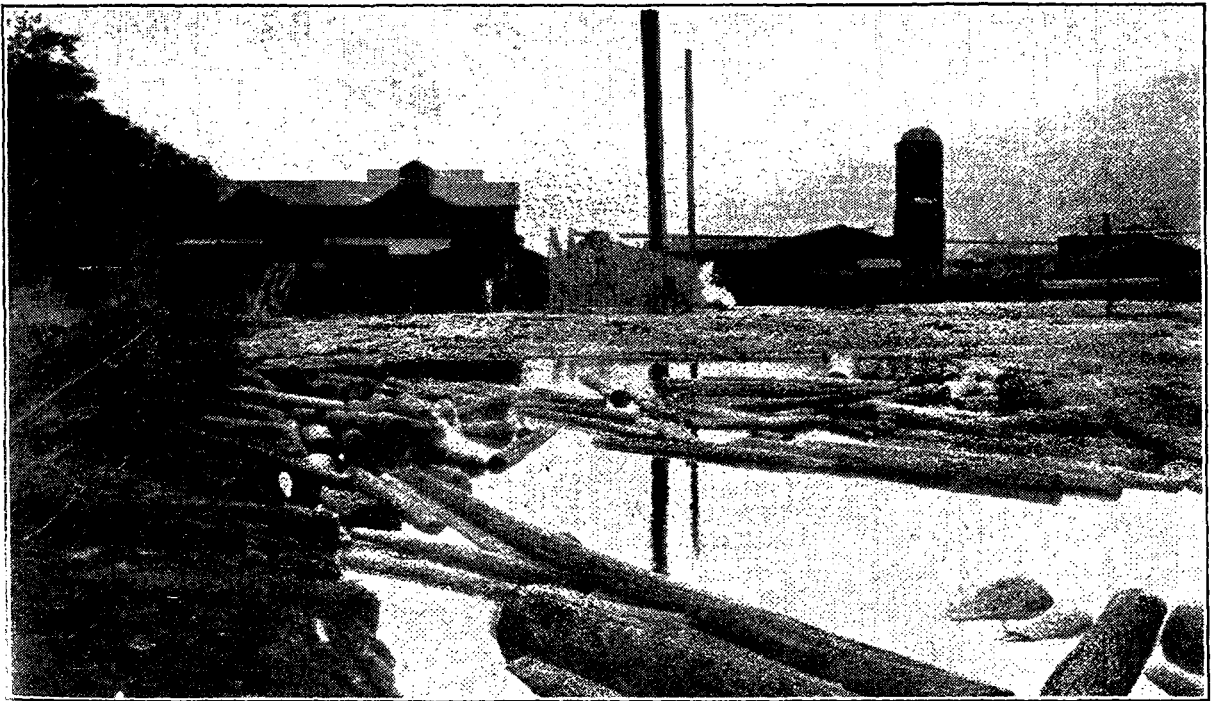
**WILLIAM GALE**

Builder of the tannery at Galeton,  
1880, for whom the town is named.



**LORING ROBINSON GALE**

Junior member of the firm of W. &  
L. R. Gale. Business manager of the  
firm.



**GOODYEAR MILL AT GALETON**  
About 1912.



which extended up through all the layers of boards. At each end, a head-block supported a huge oar, with a tapering stem hewed from a small pine tree, into which a sawed oar-blade was mortised at the larger end. A mortise at just the right place to make it balance was slipped over the oar pin, hanging the oars being the last thing to be done before 'tying loose' for the trip down the river. These rafts were generally run to Marietta or Havre de Grace in fleets of four such 'pieces', or half rafts, such as could be run out of the crooked and narrow Sinnemahoning." Mr. Colcord also describes the building of timber rafts, steered by oars like the board rafts just described, and also the construction of the "arks" sometimes used for running lumber and shingles, crude river boats about 90 feet long.

None of the methods above described were used to any extent by the big lumber companies that finally came into control of the remaining pine timber in the county. The logs were then run loose in the stream, to be caught in the booms down the river. Log-driving became a lost art with the advent of lumbering by railroad near the close of the 19th century. It, as well as the older art of running rafts, was a very dangerous occupation; and even when not attended by accident, it often brought rheumatism and similar affections on the hardy river-men, since they were often plunged in ice-cold water to the waist, with no opportunity to dry their clothing while on duty. Sometimes, after driving down-stream all day, they would walk back at night. This sort of life developed a class of men whose superior for strength, agility, and resourcefulness in emergencies, it would be hard to find.

As I have stated, the earliest lumbering operations were carried on by the pioneer settlers who brought their own timber to market. Besides those I have mentioned should be named the Streeter family of Roulet, which was once called Streeter-town. They owned and operated a sawmill that cut some of the pine timber that once stood on the present site of the village, and on the adjoining hillside. Few data have been preserved on the lumbering of these early times. The only kind of lumber that could then command a market was white pine. The figures for the production of the Oswayo Lumber Company in its early days are not available.

An editorial article in the People's Journal (Potter County Journal) of May 24, 1851, gives the following facts: There were 83 sawmills in Potter County at this time, with an estimated yearly output of 20,750,000 feet of lumber, value \$145,250—that is, \$7 per thousand. All the mills ran by water-power except two, both in Hebron. A third steam mill was then being built on the Eleven Mile, which, the editor says, is in the heart of

the best timber in Northern Pennsylvania. He also records that a fine timber tract in Stewardson township has just changed hands, purchase price \$10,000, and that the new owner will begin operations soon. Another article, June 13, 1851, states that there were then 15 sawmills in Sharon Township, averaging 750,000 yearly to each mill. A comparison of the two statements just given leads to the conclusion that more than half the yearly output of lumber in the county was then produced in Sharon. These are the earliest figures I can find on Potter County lumbering.

One of the most noteworthy lumbermen of the period before the Civil War was Benjamin S. Colwell. The following brief letter from him appears in the Journal of May 25, 1904:—

“I commenced operations in the winter of 1855-56, getting the logs on Crandall Hill and banking them at Coudersport. I used about ten teams drawing, putting in about 100,000 feet that winter, and the same amount for several winters after. In addition, I bought about 100,000 feet of cherry during the time that I was lumbering in the pine timber. These logs were driven in the spring to Weston Brothers mill in Portville, N. Y., and I remember distinctly we arrived at the mill on April 1, but we had a very cold time, as the anchor ice runs more or less all the time. I had George Boyer and James Marder, two men who lived with me, and the balance of the men boarded themselves, Dr. Post, one or two of the VanWegens, John and Alva Taggart, and many others. Mr. Arch Jones and Alva Taggart and myself had a logging job on Kettle Creek in the winter of 1857-58.”

Mr. Colwell owned the house now belonging to Mrs. Anna Stocking, which he bought from L. F. Maynard, and he resided there during the lumbering operations he describes in the above letter. He kept a general store in Coudersport, taking lumber in payment for goods, and also buying lumber for cash. As will be perceived from his letter, cherry lumber had by this time begun to be in demand. Mr. Colwell later removed to Millport, and spent the latter years of his life at Portville. Besides the operations already mentioned, he bought a tract of timber land on the head of Cowley Run in Keating township, where he did some further work in this line. He was operating a mill on the Cowley in 1883, which was in charge of Wilbur M. Quimby. The last of the pine in that section was then being cut.

In the Journal of March 15, 1860, appears a statement of the lumber business in the county, from which I quote as follows: “On all the streams in the county, the lumber is rafted except the Genesee, the Eleven Mile, and partly from the Oswayo and the Honeoye, which is hauled to Wellsville and shipped east on the railroad. The home value of the lumber averages \$8.00 per thousand. On the Susquehanna the shingles are made long,

26 inches, and are valued at \$10 per thousand; on the Allegheny they are made short, 18 inches, and are valued at \$2.00." Below are the figures given for logs, lumber, and shingles produced on the different streams in the county, as given in the same article:—

	Logs	Square Timber	Lumber	Shingles
Pine Creek	4,000,000		2,500,000	200,000
Youngwomans Creek	2,000,000		1,000,000	200,000
Kettle Creek	4,000,000		1,000,000	200,000
Sinnemahoning	4,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Hunt's Run			3,000,000	
Portage Creek		500,000	400,000	
Allegheny Portage	5,000,000			
Allegheny	5,000,000		2,000,000	1,000,000
Oswayo	15,000,000		12,000,000	12,000,000
Honeoye	5,000,000		6,000,000	3,000,000
Eleven Mile			5,000,000	2,000,000
Genesee			3,000,000	

Total board measure, 100,300,000

Aggregate value, \$802,400

Hunt's Run, included in the above tabulation, is now in Cameron County, but was then included in Potter. The Cowanesque is not mentioned. There was, however, considerable production on that stream in 1860, but the figures can only be guessed at. It would seem that the stream was not used in Potter for running logs or lumber, the output being hauled to market on wagons.

The same issue of the Journal also records that the boom broke in Williamsport, releasing 60 million feet of logs, some being caught in the Loyalsock boom, farther down the river. The Williamsport boom was built by Peter Herdic some time from 1852 to 1855, and marked the beginning of Williamsport as a lumber city. It continued in operation till 1907, when it was dismantled. An item that appears in the Journal of January 31, 1861, states that B. S. Colwell put in 1,300,000 feet of logs last season for Weston and Company, and will have 150,000 feet of cherry on his own account. Elsewhere it is stated that Colwell hauled all his cherry lumber with teams to Wellsville.

Thus it appears that those who have imagined that no big lumbering operations were ever conducted in Potter till the time of the Goodyear mills and the B. & S. railroad, are very much mistaken. The figures just given for 1860 speak for themselves. The greatest yearly production ever recorded for the county was about 600 million feet of lumber, the figure for 1897. In 1860 the production was one-fourth as great, while we must remember that our population was then only about one-fourth of what it



was in 1900. Nor were all these pine logs run out of the county to be manufactured. A large proportion of them, including more than half the immense production on the Oswayo and its branches, was sawed in our own mills.

One of the leading lumber firms of that day was Phelps & Dodge, of New York City, with mills on the West Branch of the Susquehanna, the forerunner of the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company of today. The senior member of the firm was Anson Phelps, for whom the village of Ansonia, in Tioga County, is named. The place was known as Big Meadows, in early times, while the place now known as Stokesdale was called Big Marsh.

In the 1870's pine lumbering was still brisk in many sections of the county. The mill of Norman Dwight on the old Higley farm in Hebron was cutting from 18,000 to 24,000 feet of lumber per day in 1873. 1000 acres of pine timber still remained on the Oswayo in 1879. Norman Dwight hauled much lumber to Wellsville via Ellisburg and Genesee Forks. It was he who first opened the road down the Rose Lake branch of the Genesee, the old road over the hill, built in 1816, having several pieces of grade too steep for his loads of lumber. It was not till some time afterwards that the supervisors of Genesee township consented to adopt his road as a public highway. The last large tract of pine on Kettle Creek was invaded in 1874. Eder, Housel, and Deemer was one of the lumber firms owning timber in this section. Henry Andresen, of the Ole Bull colony, was one of their jobbers. Later he had as a partner George W. Slarrow. Andresen kept a store and hotel at Oleona for many years; not a building now remains to mark the site of this once busy lumbering town. He was a Dane whom Ole Bull met in New York and brought with him as secretary of the colony on Kettle Creek, described in a former chapter, and was among the few of these colonists who remained in Potter County. His wife was the widow of Francis French, and has already been mentioned in a former chapter as one of the most remarkable of the pioneer women of Potter, performing tasks usually allotted to the stronger sex. She kept store at Oleona several years after Andresen's death, attaining an advanced age. Andresen fell into financial difficulties and was sold out at sheriff sale in 1877, but he and his plucky helpmate seem to have salvaged something out of the wreck.

Another jobber on Kettle Creek, who is said to have been the largest operator of them all, was Amos P. Roberts, who came from Oldtown, Maine, and began lumbering about the time of the Civil War. He ran out about 2,000,000 in the season of 1874, the first year of which I find a record of his operations. He was efficient and successful in his business, and made a well-earned profit on his contract. His employers then let him a job

on Youngwoman's Creek. He had commenced operations, going to much expense to improve the bed of the stream for running logs, and building splash dams across the stream, when his employers decided to cut the price they had agreed to pay him. As was usual in such transactions, no money became due till the logs were delivered in the company's boom and scaled. Roberts was so disgusted with this dishonesty that he refused to go on, and the company who defrauded him reaped the advantage gained from his improvements in the stream.

There are other instances of a similar sort; these down-river lumber companies had a well deserved reputation for "hogging" those to whom they awarded contracts for logging jobs. One of these jobbers, James Francis, had by energy and efficiency finished a log job for Phelps and Dodge (or possibly their successors, the Pennsylvania Joint Land & Lumber Company). On presenting his statement at the company's office, a footing up of the wages he had paid out and his other operating expenses showed that he had made a profit of several thousand by the masterly manner in which he had handled the work. The company's agent addressed him in these terms:—

"That's a little too much money, Francis, for a man to make on a job of ours. If you want another job, you'll have to knock off three thousand. Do as you like." Francis was compelled to assent, or retire from the logging business. This story was told me by the late Farnham Lyon. Even so late as 1890 or thereabouts, woodsmen were obliged to depend solely on the honesty of their employers for the wages due them, and lumber jobs were often let to irresponsible parties who failed to make good, and many a hardworking woodsman thus lost his season's earnings. Such a thing occurred when Mantz Brothers, jobbers for F. H. & C. W. Goodyear, on Freeman Run, failed in 1888.

Few men are now living who worked on the pine jobs of Kettle Creek. One of these, Morris Jordan, I had the pleasure of meeting at the picnic of the Potter County Historical Society at Ole Bull's Castle in the summer of 1932. He is now 84 years of age.

The following account of pine lumbering in the southeastern corner of Potter County, a region now known only to hunters and foresters, was furnished to me by Mr. D. F. Glassmire, who is an authority on local history:—

"Many pages of Tioga County history have been filled with accounts of the activities of Hezekiah Stowell. He was born at Bainbridge, N. Y., on the Susquehanna River, about 1800. In early life he was a raftsmen, had run logs and lumber the whole length of the river, and knew the lumber markets at Middletown and Havre de Grace.

"About 1830 he came to Tioga County and bought 10,000 acres of timber land around Big Meadows (now Ansonia), and commenced the first large lumber operations in the county. He had three mills near Ansonia and rafted the lumber down Pine Creek and the Susquehanna. The old house on the Big Flats at Ansonia still stands, a monument to him, in as good condition as it was a hundred years ago. In 1849 or 1850, becoming involved in debt, he sold his holdings to Phelps & Dodge, and retired to the farm where he died in Delmar township on the hills above Ansonia. He was the first man who ever ran logs in a timber slide. Most of the woodsmen of Tioga County in that day had worked for him at one time or another.

"His son, Devillo A. Stowell, commenced operations for Phelps & Dodge on Slate Run in Potter County in 1857. He built the two Slate Run splash dams, and had his camps at the upper dam. He received \$11.00 per thousand for delivering the logs to the Phelps & Dodge mills at Safe Harbor on Pine Creek, a few miles above Jersey Shore.

"Stowell was very successful in his business, and the lumber company perceived that they must either buy him out or offer him a partnership. So in 1865 they paid him \$10,000 for his interests, and he moved to Titusville, Pa., during the now historic days of the discovery of oil in that region. He had taken most of his neighbors and men with him, and James Francis, who had come to Pine Creek with Stowell, kept on with the lumbering for Phelps & Dodge, who later merged in the Penn'a Joint Land and Lumber Company. Francis has been mentioned in a preceding paragraph.

"Another jobber who came to Black Forest about 1864, was a Joseph Bailey. He built a mill at the Dyer place on one of the head streams of Young Woman's Creek near the Jersey Shore pike. He operated here for several years, hauling his lumber to North Bend and shipping it by rail. Amos P. Roberts, before mentioned as a large jobber in this region, carried on his last operations on the left branch of Young Woman's Creek. It has already been related how he was defrauded by the lumber company after expending a large sum in preparing the stream for running logs. After quitting the employ of the company he went to the Pacific coast and embarked in lumbering in the red-wood forests at Eureka, Humboldt County, California, taking with him many of the Downeasters who had come to Kettle Creek with him from the State of Maine. He died there in 1901.

"Some time after hemlock bark and logs became valuable, James B. Weed & Company of Binghamton, N. Y., bought a large tract of land in Southeastern Potter and adjoining land in Tioga and Clinton counties. They carried on lumbering operations at

Slate Run Town, where their mill was located. They built a narrow gauge railroad to haul their lumber and bark. It connected with the Fall Brook railroad (now the New York Central) at the mouth of Slate Run, on Pine Creek. The lumber railroad crossed the Jersey Shore pike just north of the Herod place, now the Lycoming Country Club, and switches reached the timber on the County Line, Benson and Dyer branches of Slate Run. The bark was shipped to Binghamton.

"In the summer of 1889, a man by the name of Blackwell built a lumber railroad from North Bend up the left branch of Young Woman's Creek, with spurs reaching up the several branches nearly to the Jersey Shore pike. He took out all the hemlock bark and timber for Williamsport parties, chiefly Howard & Pearly and Elias Deemer. Many lawsuits occurred at this time over titles and land lines and many men from Coudersport were employed as surveyors. Some of them were O. J. Rees, Luman F. Andrews, D. F. Glassmire, Jr. This was the last lumbering of importance in the Black Forest region of Potter County."

Mr. M. J. Colcord tells me that G. W. Huntley, of Cameron County, got out a shipment of spars on the East Fork of the Sinnemahoning about 1880, which he hauled to Wharton and rafted down the stream. Spars are made from whole pine trees, 100 to 150 feet long, and were much in demand in the days of wooden sailing vessels, few being obtainable at points within easy reach of the shipyards.

Men who are familiar with the lumbering operations of former days tell me that conditions on pine jobs were altogether different from those found later in the camps of the hemlock jobbers, built to last but a single season. A pine jobber took a large tract of timber to operate on, and settled down for a stay of several years in one locality. His camp, barn, and blacksmith shop were well constructed, and often some of the adjoining land was cleared and farmed, partly as a protection against forest fires. He was a man of means and responsibility, a captain of industry. Such men were Joseph Mann, B. S. Colwell, Norman Dwight, and A. P. Roberts. These men made well-earned fortunes in their business.

In the Cowanesque valley, after the pioneer mill of Isaac Thompson at Mills, came that of Willett W. Lawrence about 1870, giving the place the name of Lawrence Mills, afterwards abbreviated to Mills. This mill was purchased by Davis & Walters in 1874. They also had a shingle mill attached, and a factory for making sash, doors, and blinds. There was originally a good stand of pine on the Cowanesque, but I can find no exact data on the lumbering of this corner of Potter. Sash and doors

were manufactured in several towns on the Cowanesque after the pine of other localities had become exhausted, leading one to infer that no large lumber company operated here, and that as a consequence there were small tracts of pine standing in this region after the lands of the big companies had been denuded. C. A. Swetland bought out Walters in 1879, and eventually became the sole proprietor of the wood-working plant at Mills.

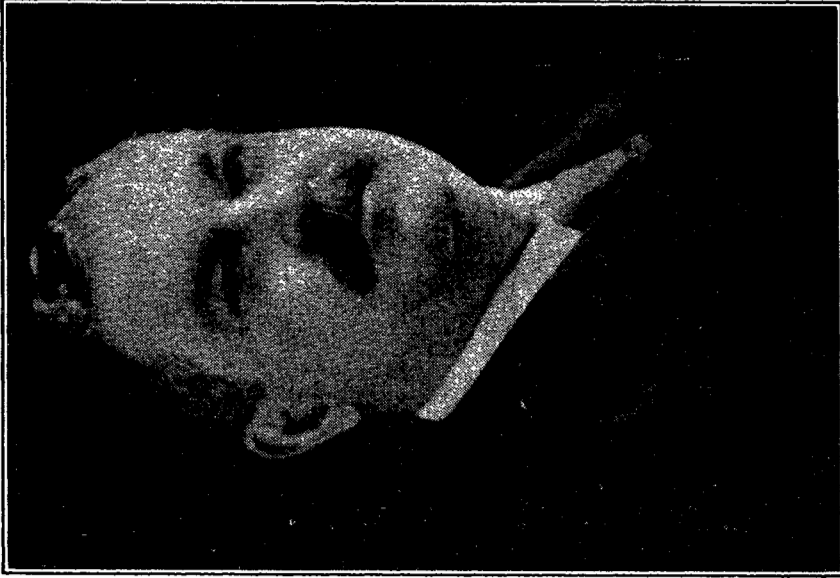
After 1880, the pine timber began to be exhausted in this county. The earlier lumbering had been very wasteful, and for many years a profitable business was done in manufacturing shingles, with occasionally a little lumber, from the fragments of pine timber remaining in the old cuttings. Norman Sherwood, who had a shingle mill in what is known as the Hebron Summit neighborhood, at the head of the South Branch of the Oswayo, Sullivan Bros., who had a mill on Trout Brook in Roulet township, and Harrison Lilly, whose mill was in Coudersport, all manufactured some excellent shingles. The last pine on the Sinnemahoning was being cut in 1886, and the last pine logs were run down the Oswayo in 1889. The last large tract of pine timber in the county stood on the west branch of Dingman Run in Eulalia township. It was owned by Charles W. Gorham and Daniel Clark, and was purchased by D. Schutt, who sawed it in his mill near the C. & P. A. R. R. at the mouth of Mehring Hollow in 1893. Another smaller tract of pine was owned by Thomas Coulston, on his place in Bingham township on the road from Hickox to West Bingham. Mr. Coulston was not anxious to cut these trees, but they were attacked by worms, forcing him to do so to save the timber in the summer of 1896.

Three trees still remained, the sole survivors of Potter's original pine. They were situated on the farm of Nelson L. Allen in Clara township. The owner was at last induced to sell them, since they showed signs of decay, and they were purchased by the Gray Chemical Company and cut in January, 1925. They brought Mr. Allen \$75.00, and the logs from the three trees scaled 5948 feet. Some of the lumber was used in building the house of Robert Lyman in Coudersport.

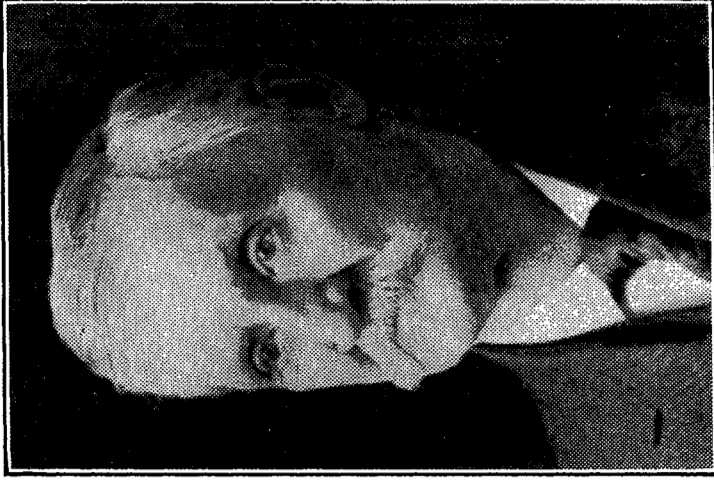
The following reminiscences were given to me by Mr. Owen G. Metzger, of the Citizens Safe Deposit and Trust Company. Mr. Metzger's grandfather, Frank L. Metzger, came from Lewisburg, Pa., and settled in what is now the west end of Galeton boro about 1830, where he built a mill on the main branch of Pine Creek. Many rafts of pine lumber were run down Pine Creek at this time. About 1840, Mr. Metzger's father, William Metzger, then a young man of 24, went to work in a saw mill owned by Owen Goodman, at the site of the old village of Pike Mills, at the mouth of Johnson Brook, about two miles down the



**N. N. METCALF**  
Manager for F. H. & C W. Goodyear.  
Courtesy of Port Allegany Reporter



**F. H. GOODYEAR.**  
Lumber King of Potter County 1885-1907.



**H. C. CRAWFORD**  
Prominent lumberman and jobber for  
F. H. Goodyear  
Courtesy of Port Allegany Reporter



stream from what is now Galeton. Mr. Metzger is not sure who built this mill, but it seems quite likely that it was the same that was built by David Kilbourne in 1824, formerly mentioned. About 1844, William Metzger went into the lumbering business on his own account, and bought a steam sawmill that had recently been built in Hebron township, near to where William Hemphill now resides. The pine on the South Branch of the Oswayo was then mostly uncut, and the only road down the South Branch was the one leading past Mr. Metzger's mill, the roads leading from Greenman Hill directly towards Hebron Center not having been opened at that time. At first Mr. Metzger hauled his lumber to Pine Creek and rafted it down stream. Later, after the opening of the canal from Cuba to Olean and Weston's Mills, he shipped his lumber via this route. The post-office at Pike Mills was removed to the present site of Galeton several years before the building of Gale's tannery.

William Metzger afterwards moved to Coudersport, where he built a sawmill on the site of the old tannery on North East Street, where the A. F. Smith residence now stands. Here in 1880 Owen G. Metzger launched a successful business career by cutting 500,000 feet of hemlock lumber for Frank Hammond, who was just then building the tannery at the west end of Coudersport now owned by the Elk Tanning Company. Mr. Hammond was so much pleased with the promptness and efficiency with which Mr. Metzger delivered the first of the order that he furnished the logs for the balance of it from timber he then owned on the hill east of Mr. Metzger's mill, which he had bought chiefly for the bark. From this beginning, Mr. Metzger rose steadily to the position in business and finance that he now holds.

Before leaving the topic of pine lumbering, the following account of a monster pine cut in the eastern part of Potter County will be of interest. The item is found in the Journal of December 13, 1883. The tree stood on the lands of Francis & Stevens. It measured 54 inches across the stump, and from it were cut ten 16 foot logs and seven 12 foot logs, 244 lineal feet in all. These figures will seem almost beyond belief to any man at all acquainted with the estimating of timber, but the statement appears to be on good authority.

Hemlock timber was not thought to be of any value before the Civil War, and was used for building only where pine was not available. There began to be a market for hemlock bark soon after the opening of the B. N. Y. & P. R. R. in 1873, and tanneries began to be built. The first tannery, aside from such small ones as those of William Crosby in Homer, Stebbins and Shear in Coudersport, and H. Hopkins in Ulysses, which made very little leather besides that required for local consumption,



was built at Oswayo in 1877 and 1878. It was owned by Sorenburg and Gray, who sold out to P. H. Costello & Company in 1879. The Costellos in turn sold to Lapham & Company when they built their tannery at Costello, presently to be mentioned. The next tannery was built at Coudersport in 1880. This is one of the very few industries of that period that is still in operation; in fact, I believe it to be the oldest industrial plant in Potter County. It was built by Frank Hammond, who operated it with Stephen Burr as his office assistant till the spring of 1890, when he sold it to Hoyt Brothers, who afterwards merged with the Penn Tanning Company. The present owners are the Elk Tanning Company. Rees & Dunham had the contract for building the first tannery store, and Jonathan Glase the contract for the original row of tenant houses, all of which are still in use, though the store burned many years ago. These houses, I am told, were built by Jonathan Glase for \$250 each, the material being furnished by the contractor! Surely a man had to hustle to make any money building houses at that figure.

The tannery of W. & L. R. Gale at Pike Mills was also built in 1880. It closed only a few years ago. William Gale and his son, Loring Robinson Gale, had been the owners of a tannery near Honesdale, Wayne County. When their tannery burned, they decided on a new location, as the hemlock bark in Wayne County was nearly exhausted. Loring Gale was the business manager of the firm, whose capital was at first small, but the firm prospered under his able leadership. Some other sons of William Gale also owned stock in the company.

The third tannery was built at Harrison Valley in 1881 by Walter Horton & Company, and the fourth by the Costellos at North Wharton the same year. The place then took the name of Costelloville, later abbreviated to Costello. The Costellos bought a timber tract of about 4000 acres on the Sinnemahoning. The public road from Odin to the present site of Austin was built in 1882, chiefly to give the farmers of Keating township access to Costello's tannery. A tannery was built at Shinglehouse a few years later. All these tanneries produced sole leather only. A tannery for the manufacture of upper leather was built at Roulet in 1886 by A. J. Tucker.

A considerable quantity of hemlock timber was at first cut for the bark only, the logs being allowed to rot, or being piled and burned when the land was cleared. But this condition did not last long, as pine was beginning to be scarce, and hemlock lumber was soon in demand for local use, and hemlock logs could sometimes be sold at a low figure to some of the mills farther down stream. They were worth \$2.50 per thousand in January 1880, at the mills in Coudersport, or on the banks of the Sinnemahoning. I am told that Justus Mehring, Sr., cut

the hemlock on his farm below Coudersport and rolled the logs into the river, receiving one dollar per thousand from Weston Brothers at Olean. This was probably about the time of the Civil War. In 1874, Horace A. Avery came to Keating Summit and built a sawmill, also becoming the owner of the Forest House hotel, this being under the management of Henderson K. Corsaw for several years. Mr. Avery was one of the first to find a market for hemlock. He sawed a large quantity of heavy timber for use in railroad work; he also found a market in Buffalo for various kinds of lumber, especially basswood, cutting many bills to special order. Being directly on the railroad, he had the advantage of other producers in the county up to the building of the C. & P. A. R. R. in 1883. G. D. Briggs built a sawmill at Keating Summit a few years later.

Before I proceed with the account of the great expansion of the hemlock lumber industry, I am tempted to describe a mill of the old-fashioned type that I have seen in operation in my boyhood, and which sawed its last board in 1882. It belonged to Hiram Bridges, and was situated in the Odin neighborhood on Freeman Run. The place is still owned by the family. The motive power of the mill was a water-wheel of the breast-wheel type, set at the lower corner of the flume or penstock, which connected with the mill pond. The water wheel shaft ended in a crank arm which operated directly a sliding vertical frame in which was mounted a saw of the old-fashioned up and down type. The carriage was operated by a dog attached to the saw frame, meshing into a rack on the carriage in such a way as to advance the carriage one notch for each stroke of the saw. As soon as a board had been cut, the sawyer shut off the water wheel, and opened another gate that set in motion a smaller water wheel, mounted on a vertical shaft, called the "gig wheel." This was connected with machinery that pulled the carriage back, when the gig-wheel was shut off, the head-blocks advanced, the main gate opened, and the process repeated. The handling of logs into the mill and the turning of a log on the carriage were done entirely by hand. All edging of lumber must be done on the main mill-saw, the only one the mill contained. The output was about 800 feet of lumber in a day. The operation of the mill required plenty of water, and could be carried on only when the stream was fairly high.

Almost every neighborhood in the county had its sawmill from 1870 to 1890. Most farmers built their houses and barns from lumber cut from their own wood lots, and the shipping in of lumber or shingles from distant points was practically unknown. The first cedar shingles from the Pacific coast ever put on the market in Coudersport were put in stock by James White & Son in 1897. There were so many mills in the county

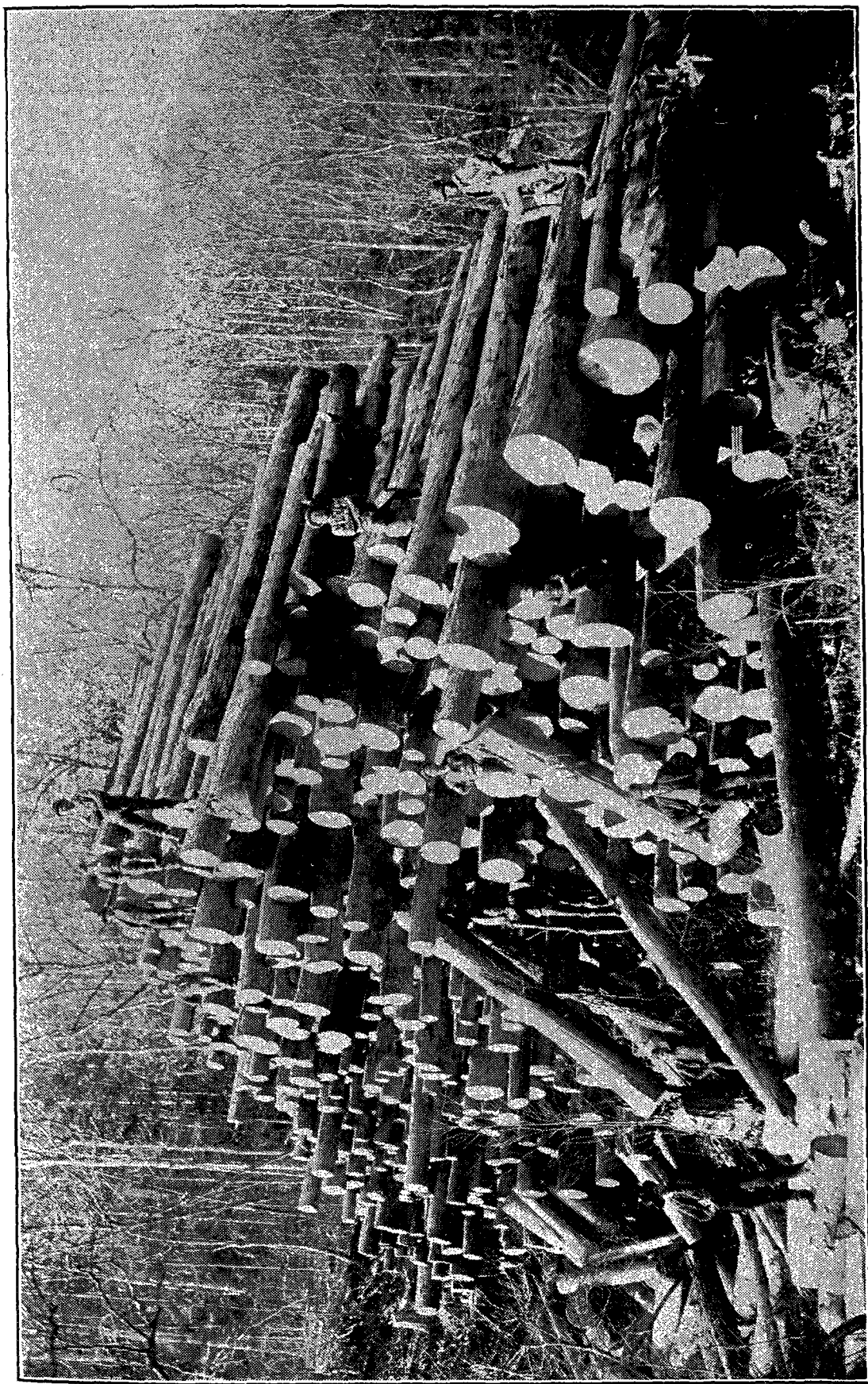
that it is out of the question to name them all. I have already mentioned the mill of Horace A. Avery at Keating Summit. Another important mill of this period was that of R. W. Clinton's Sons at Pike Mills, afterwards Galetton, built in 1884.

One of the important lumber manufacturers in the central part of the county was Dubois Schutt, who built a mill at the place we now call Mina in 1883. It stood on the south side of the river, a few rods below the bridge, and was equipped with a boom to catch logs from the stream. Mr. Schutt purchased 500 acres of timber land lying in the valley of Lyman Nelson Run, just south of his mill, also buying other timber of owners near by. His mill was a place of activity till he sold to the Lackawanna Lumber Company in 1888. I have already related how the last original pine in the county was cut in his mill below Coudersport. Mr. Schutt's love for the lumber business persisted to the end of his long life. His last mill was located on Baker Creek, the farm on which it was situated being still owned by his son, W. F. Schutt, and known by his name. At the age of 78, Mr. Schutt was still actively engaged in business, and was fond of hard work. He died in December, 1926, aged 91.

Another lumberman of this period was A. G. Lyman, of Sweden Valley. He specialized in cherry lumber, combing the woods for miles in search of choice timber. He built a mill at Austin in 1890, after the coming of the Goodyear mills, of which I shall speak later on. He possessed much energy and knowledge of the lumber business, and his operations at Sweden Valley showed a good profit. But he found it expedient a few years later to retire, and sold his mill at Austin to the Emporium Lumber Company in 1901. From this time on, the name of A. G. Lyman disappears from the roll of the large lumber operators of Potter County.

Many logs were run to Port Allegany during the earlier days of hemlock lumbering. It is recorded in 1879 that Arnold & Company had 4,000,000 in the river at Roulet, and that Bullis & Lillibridge had as many more. Some rafts were still run at this time. 31 rafts are recorded as having been sent out in May, 1879, about 3,000,000 feet in all.

At this point, a new lumber firm entered Potter County, whose operations became in a few years the most important of all, and while they continued, transformed the southern half of the county into a busy place of industry. Frank H. Goodyear was born at Groton, N. Y., and after some experience in his youth as a school-teacher and bookkeeper, came to Buffalo in 1872, and engaged in the coal and lumber business on a small scale. His first sawmill was at Burnt Hill, a few miles northwest of Port Allegany; this mill burned and was not rebuilt.



**WILL HARTWICK'S LOG JOB**  
Birch Run, East Fork of the Sinnemahoning, 1895.



He next comes into notice as the proprietor of Talmage Mill, at the place now known as Wrights, five miles south of Port Allegany; the mill was situated on land now belonging to Charles Caskey, on the west side of Portage Creek. He introduced what was then the innovation of laying a railroad to haul his logs to mill. N. N. Metcalf, then a farmer in the Wrights neighborhood, entered his employ at this time, and Henry C. Crawford was his foreman in the woods. This was in 1877. His mill burned in October of that year, but was rebuilt. It is said that when driving from Keating Summit to Mina on one occasion, he gazed over the view from the Lookoff, and became possessed with a desire to bring to his mills the vast forest which he surveyed from this point, then unbroken as far as the eye could reach. In 1880 he purchased 1900 acres of the Keating lands; 700 acres near the Talmage mill, and the balance near Sizerville. He built a mill at Sizerville, or rather leased and remodeled the one already in existence there, belonging to W. R. Sizer. Two hundred men were employed, and the output was 50,000 feet of lumber per day. The mill at Sizerville burned in December, 1882, but was at once rebuilt. In 1883, F. H. Goodyear was operating at Four Mile, farther down the stream. In 1884, Mr. Goodyear's dream of lumbering operations on the extensive timber lands of Freeman Run began to take tangible form, and a syndicate was formed to operate in this region. In 1884, the Keating heirs disposed of the remainder of their lands to Hamlin, Hamlin & Forest, of Smethport, giving Mr. Goodyear the opportunity he had been waiting for. In December, 1884, he purchased a large tract of the Keating lands, including those on Freeman Run and the South Fork of the Sinnemahoning. In 1885, he built the railroad from Keating Summit to Austin. It is said that his capital was completely exhausted when this road was built, so that he had no money to buy rolling stock, and that Mrs. Goodyear, who had some property of her own, made him a present of the first engine that was used on the line. The original railroad was on an entirely different location from the present one, climbing by a very steep grade to the summit of the ridge at the Hall place, the switchback being on the Austin side of the summit, instead of the Keating Summit side, as it is now. The first timber was taken off the new tract in the season of 1885, before the railroad had been extended to Austin, and was sawed in the Avery mill at Keating Summit, and at some of the other mills between Emporium and Port Allegany, the Avery mill continuing to cut some of the Goodyear timber till 1895. The big hemlock mill at Austin was built by O. S. Garretson of the Buffalo Hardware Company, who also built a store at Austin and conducted it for many years. The mill did not become the property of the Goodyears till February, 1897.

Mr. Garretson owned the hardwood timber on the Goodyear lands, and it was intended that the new mill should be employed for a part of the time in cutting his timber, while Mr. Goodyear should furnish the railroad service. But the mill, which started in September, 1886, was kept busy in cutting Mr. Goodyear's timber, and another mill was built by Mr. Garretson and began work in 1887. This also passed to the ownership of the Goodyears in 1897, Mr. Garretson having disposed of his interests in the hardwood timber. The bark peeled during the first two or three seasons was all shipped to Boston. The railroad, known at first as the Sinnemahoning Valley R. R., was extended to Costello in the fall of 1886, some of the bark being afterwards purchased by the Costellos. The Goodyear mills were already cutting 160,000 feet of lumber per day, before the opening of the mills at Austin.

The United Lumber Company was organized in January, 1886. The officers were F. H. Goodyear, president; S. S. Bullis, general manager; J. J. Newman, secretary. This company was an association of several independent operators, who combined only for the purpose of controlling the lumber market and forcing up the price of lumber. This lumber trust, as it might be termed, lasted only a few years. F. H. Goodyear took his brother as a partner in 1887 and the firm was known as F. H. & C. W. Goodyear till 1900, when it was reorganized as the Goodyear Lumber Company.

The mills at Austin were located on what had been the farm of E. O. Austin, from whom the site was purchased by O. S. Garretson. The other principal owner of the land on which the town of Austin was built was George Turner, whose farm embraced that part of Austin lying north of Main Street and extending up the main branch of Freeman Run. His farm was bought by O. S. Garretson for an insignificant figure, and laid off in building lots. Turner died poor in 1897 at the age of 89. A postoffice had been established at E. O. Austin's in 1878, named Freeman Run. The name was changed to Austin April 1, 1887. A letter from Austin in January, 1887, estimates the population at 500, and reports the railroad in operation to Costello. It also states that Goodyear expected to handle 50 million feet of logs each year.

In 1887, the kindling wood factory of Blaisdell Brothers was built in Austin, their raw material being slabs from the hemlock mill. An attempt had previously been made to manufacture lath from these slabs, but the market for lath was not good at that time, and only a few were made. The demand for Blaisdell Brothers' kindling wood was the result of skillful advertising and development of the trade by agents of the firm. In 1888, R. J. Gaffney built his chemical works in Austin for the manu-

facture of wood alcohol. This industry proved to be short-lived, lasting but a few years. But the loss of this plant was hardly noticed in the wave of prosperity which remained at high tide in the "Hemlock City" for upwards of 20 years. The town of Austin was known through all the surrounding country as a famous market for farm produce, and hucksters came with wagons from points as distant as Whitesville, N. Y. The Boro of Austin was incorporated in September 1888, and showed a population of 1670 by the census of 1890—the largest boro in the county at that time, exceeding Coudersport by 145. A. G. Lyman built his hardwood mill just south of the Austin boro line in 1890, and continued as the owner till 1901. The Davidge Mfg. Co., makers of hubs and veneering, built a plant about 1893, adjoining that of A. G. Lyman, and operated several years.

An epidemic that was dubbed the "Austin fever" broke out in the fall of 1887. It was doubtless typhoid fever, caused by impure water, since the town had then no regular water system. There were some deaths, the exact number not being on record.

Austin was visited by several bad fires during the first ten or twelve years of its existence. These fires were destructive because, as has just been stated, the town had no water system and no fire-fighting apparatus, and also because most of its buildings were of flimsy, makeshift construction, covered inside with cheese-cloth and paper, which burned like tinder when ignited. The first fire occurred in February, 1889. This destroyed the blacksmith and wagon shop of John Hagen, and one man, James Moyer, was burned to death. The second fire happened in August, 1890. A large part of the town was destroyed, the fire sweeping both sides of Main Street, and consuming 43 business places and a few dwellings. The burned district was rebuilt in somewhat better shape, most of the buildings then erected being brick veneer. The next fire came in December, 1890. Five stores on Turner Street were burned. Again, in March, 1891, the F. J. Gerrity boarding house and two adjacent buildings were burned. One woman, Lizzie McGavisk of Eldred, lost her life. Two men were also burned to death, and three others severely injured. On October 4, 1897, occurred the most extensive fire of them all, but since it happened in the daytime, there was no loss of life. It was caused by Isaac Mitchell of Homer, backing a load of hay into an open gas jet in a livery barn on Railroad Street. Mr. Mitchell was not at fault, as he had been directed to back his wagon in by some men who were playing cards next door. He barely escaped with his horses, losing his wagon. The fire that followed swept Railroad and Turner Streets, and part of Main Street. 89 families were burned out. Two churches, a theater, and several stores and boarding houses were destroyed. Thieves were busy and carried off goods by the wagonload. Only



a few fires in the county have exceeded this one in amount of damage. The burned district was immediately rebuilt.

The smaller hemlock mill burned in the fall of 1903, and was not rebuilt. The big mill has left the unusual record, for a steam sawmill, of no damage by fire during the entire period of 26 years that it was in operation.

As is usual with towns of mushroom growth, there was at first a good deal of lawlessness in Austin. At a Fourth of July celebration in 1888, there was a drunken riot in which the officers of the law were overpowered and the mob had its way for the time being, breaking windows and doing a little other damage. The sheriff arrived the next morning, but the culprits were not to be found, and everything was quiet. The ringleader in this disturbance was Tom Kennedy, a notorious outlaw. He shot and killed Tom Glover and seriously wounded Emory Williams in an affair at Hulls in September, 1893. His assault on Williams was intentional, but the killing of Glover appears to have been accidental, caused by a shot intended for Williams. He escaped, owing to interference with his pursuers by Glover's daughter. He was never apprehended.

The timber on Freeman Run was cut during the seasons of 1888 and 1889. The valley of the South Fork was cut over in 1889 and 1890. The first of the Goodyear timber here was sawed in two small mills in the immediate neighborhood, before a railroad was opened down the valley to Costello, while a railroad over the hill to Freeman Run served for taking out the bark. The nucleus of the operations on the South Fork was at Bakertown, a cluster of temporary buildings, consisting of a store kept by Bingley & Billings, a pig's ear and a few other buildings on a farm previously occupied by Curtis Baker, now belonging to Misses Marjorie and Gladys Beebe. There was a sawmill and a bark mill at this point, built by the Cobbs before the coming of the Goodyears. Bakertown was a rendezvous for the roughest element among the woodsmen, and a shooting affray occurred there in April, 1891, in which Walter Woodard was wounded and John Van Coy killed in a quarrel over a game of cards by Herman Neilson, who kept a poolroom and pigs ear. Neilson was arrested and jailed, but escaped with a prison sentence.

In 1890 and 1891, the scene of activity shifted to Moore's Run and Borie, the metropolis of the lumberwoods then being at Moore City, at the mouth of Moore's Run, this place, like Bakertown, being made up of the usual cluster of board shanties with store and pigs ear. The store of Will Jackson, at Borie, also caught considerable trade due to the influx of woodsmen.

As a matter of course, forest fires followed in the wake of the lumbermen. The first fire of much consequence occurred

in May, 1888, on Freeman Run just above Austin, destroying 400 cords of bark and 800,000 feet of logs. In May, 1891, occurred the biggest and worst forest fires in the history of Potter County, burning most of the cut-over lands of the Goodyears on Freeman Run, the South Fork of the Sinnemahoning, and Moore's Run, where logging was still going on at the time. An engine was sent into the woods on Moore's Run with a crew of fire fighters. The timbers of the tram road had been partly consumed by the flames, causing the rails to spread. The result was that the engine tipped over, marooning the men in the midst of the blazing forest. Most of them escaped by plunging into the creek and throwing water on each other. About twenty-five men were painfully burned, and Badger, the superintendent of the road, lost his life in an attempt to run past a blazing pile of logs. This accident occurred on the west branch of Moore's Run, which joins the main stream about three quarters of a mile from its mouth. A team of horses were also burned to death. An immense quantity of bark and logs were destroyed, and the soil so completely burned from some of the hillsides that they still show but a scanty growth of brush.

The next shift of the lumber camps was to the East Fork of the Sinnemahoning, where work was begun in 1892. This year also marks the beginning of lumbering by the Goodyears on Cowley Run, a branch of the railroad being built down the west fork of the run to reach the mill of Henry C. Crawford, formerly woods foreman for F. H. Goodyear, who was doing some lumbering here on his own account. His mill, situated in the midst of timber lands freshly cut over, was burned by forest fires in June, 1896, the fire having been set by sparks on the W. N. Y. & P. R. R. just over the hill to the west. A tedious lawsuit followed, Mr. Crawford finally recovering a substantial sum in damages from the railroad company. The figures I am not able to give. The last of the virgin timber on the Cowley came into possession of the Goodyears in 1899, and the last of it was taken out in 1902.

Some of the lumber jobbers prominent in Goodyear's earlier operations in the county were H. C. Crawford, John Butler, John and James Brisbois, John and William Mantz (who failed in 1888, causing many woodsmen to lose their season's wages), Isaac Avery, W. H. Hartwick. Other well-remembered jobbers belonging to a little later period were Fee Brothers, George Hart, Root Brothers, John Coggins. The mills at Austin, owned by O. S. Garretson, were operated by Harvey & Sullivan. The smaller mill was built to cut hardwood lumber for Mr. Garretson, but after the transfer of the hardwood on the Goodyear lands to other ownership, to be mentioned later, this mill was used in conjunction with the larger one for cutting hemlock.

Goodyear's purchase at the time of the building of the first mill at Austin consisted of that portion of the Keating lands lying in the valleys of Freeman Run and the South Fork of the Sinnemahoning. In 1889 he made new purchases that included lands on Pine Creek above and below Brookland. In 1890, the Russell & Deemer lands in Abbott and Stewardson townships were sold, Costello to have the bark and Goodyear the logs. Another purchase was made by the Goodyears soon afterwards, connecting their timber lands on the Prouty with those on the Nine Mile, giving them an unbroken tract of land nearly across Potter County. Later they bought 1400 acres on the East Fork from Payne Cochran & Company of Williamsport.

Other purchases were made later by the Goodyears that may be noticed here before going on to describe their next operations. At the beginning of the year 1892, they owned 130,000 acres, most of it uncut. In 1895 they bought a portion of the Dent lands near Brookland. This tract contained 4000 acres, the price paid being about \$150,000, \$60,000 to be paid in cash, balance when the timber was cut, which was to be done within two years. The Goodyears also became the owners of a timber tract in Ulysses township, between Gold and Harmontown, purchased (I believe) from the Bingham Estate. They also bought a tract of 5400 acres on the First Fork of the Sinnemahoning extending into Cameron County, and later still, they purchased some timber on Medix Run, east of Driftwood, in the same county.

It will now be necessary to go back a few years to trace the beginning of hemlock lumbering in the eastern part of our county. There had been little activity at Pike Mills, since the exhaustion of the pine timber, till the building of the tannery of W. & L. R. Gale in 1880, on lands purchased from Major John M. Kilbourne. He and John Q. Merrick and Captain Horton were the leading citizens of Pike Mills at this time, and a grist mill was located at the mouth of the South Branch, built by Lemuel Sherman sometime before 1850. Major Kilbourne kept a tavern near where the band stand is now situated. The Merrick place occupied the present site of the railroad shops and yards.

In 1884, the mill of R. W. Clinton's Sons was built nearly on the site afterwards occupied by the Goodyear mill, on land purchased from the Sherman brothers. A small village adjoining the mill was known as Clintontown, then quite distinct from the place known as Pike Mills, where the tannery was situated. Arthur W. Clinton, of the firm of R. W. Clinton's Sons, afterward removed to Elmira and became a partner in the well-known wholesale and retail hardware firm of Barker, Rose, and Clinton. The Clinton mill was a place of activity from 1884 to 1895. The line of the Addison and Northern Pennsylvania railroad was

extended from Gaines to Pike Mills in 1885. The name of the place was changed to Galeton in 1886.

Some figures gleaned from the newspapers will show the extent of lumbering at Galeton at this time. In the winter of 1887-88, 30,000,000 feet of logs were put in near Galeton. In the winter of 1888-89, 90,000,000 feet of logs were put into the Genesee Fork of Pine Creek, which enters the main stream at West Pike, 5 miles above Galeton. The greater part of the virgin timber on the Genesee Fork and on Phoenix Creek had already been removed before the building of the Goodyear mill at Galeton. Mr. C. D. Tubbs, one of the few men living among the timber jobbers of this period, tells me that he then had large contracts on the Genesee Fork from C. A. Lewis of Ulysses, and also from Coudersport men who owned timber in this section. He says that there was still some pine timber standing in his neighborhood till 1890 or thereabouts. Many logs, he says, were run to Williamsport as well as to the Clinton mill at Pike Mills. Loucks Mills, on the head of the Genesee Fork, was a busy place in these days. The mill was built by William J. Loucks in 1876.

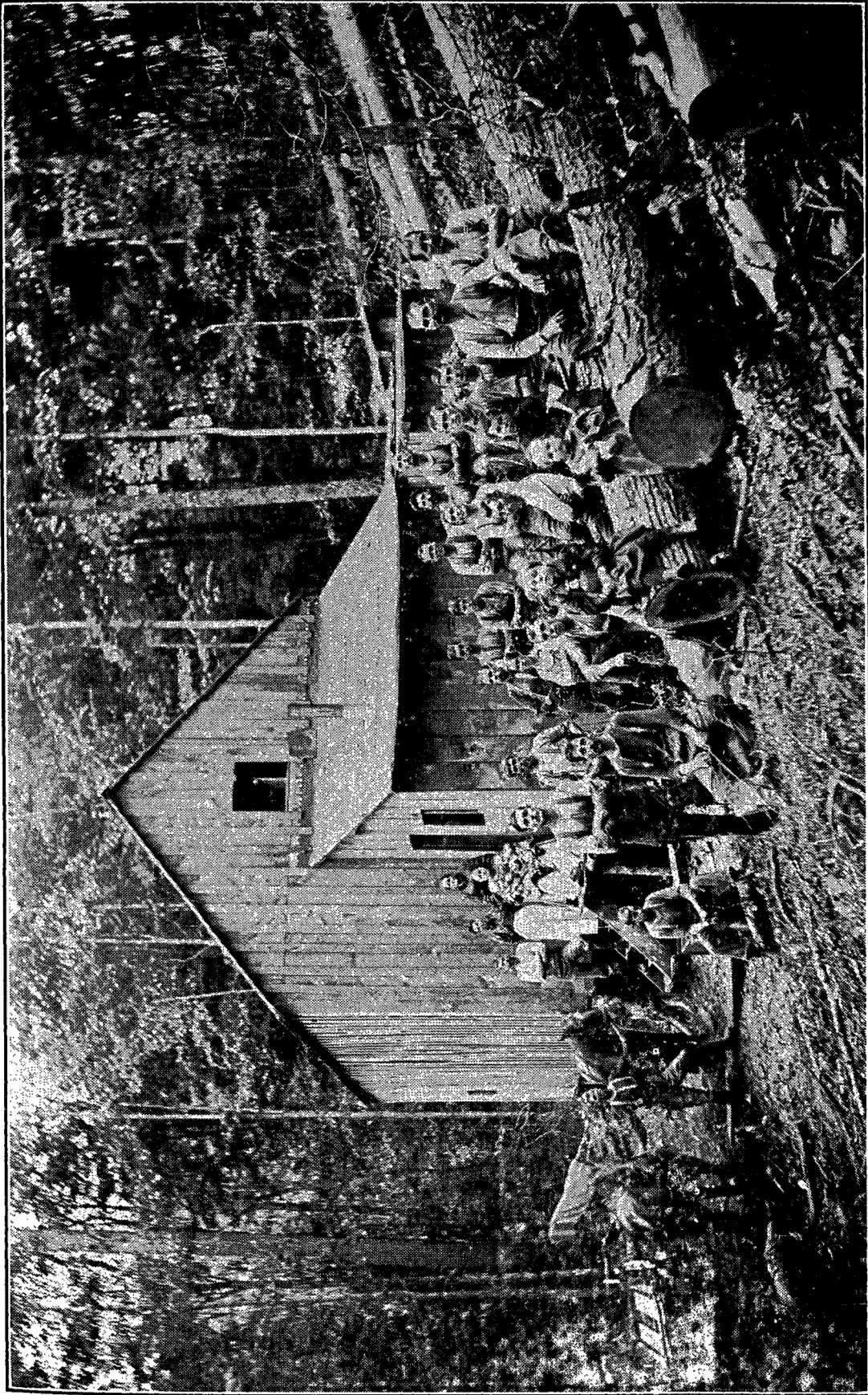
In the summer and fall of 1892, the Goodyears began to extend their railroad to reach the timber they had purchased east of the Continental divide. The road was already built as far as Hulls, which up to that time had been a solitary clearing in the midst of the forest. It now became a center of activity for railroad builders and lumbermen. In a few years it became a town, whose chief industry was a stave and heading plant. At one time it was said to be the roughest of all the lumber towns, and was the scene of some acts of lawlessness, one of which, the murder of Tom Glover, I have already described.

The railroad was completed from Austin to Galeton over the Hogback in October, 1893, and opened for passenger traffic from Austin to Galeton and Cross Fork, March 5, 1894. The grading of Goodyear's railroads, up to this time, had been done by gangs of Italians working with picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows, Frank Greco being the foreman, and D. A. Craig his partner. The first steam shovel seems to have been used on the B. & S. in 1894. Its only service was in handling gravel. The roads used in getting out logs and bark were of temporary construction, and were torn up as soon as the bark and logs were taken out. The earlier lumber railroads, when not located in cleared country, were what was called "tram roads", the rails being laid on stringers 16½ feet long, held in place by cross-pieces at each end into which notches were cut to receive the squared end of the stringers. This mode of construction required much timber, which was often left to rot when the rails were taken up, though some of the logs were afterwards sawed into timber for use in

cribbing the mill ponds and adjoining portions of the stream. Later, these railroads were hastily graded, filling up deep holes with logs or brush, and railroad ties were used as on more substantial road-beds, but these ties were either hewed out of such small trees as stood in the forest near by, or cut in the hardwood mills from beech and maple hearts and other of the least valuable timber, and were not removed when the track was taken up, being generally decayed by that time. Several small mills did a profitable business cutting the stringers of the abandoned tram roads into lumber, but the face of these stringers was likely to contain hidden railroad spikes, and a prudent sawyer would generally leave a good sized stick of timber out of each log, avoiding the face of the timber on account of the risk of breaking the saw and endangering the workmen in the mill. Many tram roads were not removed at all, and many fine hemlock logs lay and rotted in the woods after the bark had been peeled, because of lying in some position not convenient for skidding. This was especially true during the first few years, before steam log-loaders were used by the Goodyears.

To resume the account of the building of the Goodyear railroads: A branch line was opened from Hogback to Cross Fork at about the same time as the line from Austin to Galeton. I shall speak later on of the lumbering in the Cross Fork region. The next line to be opened was from Galeton to Ansonia, giving the Goodyears an eastern outlet for their timber. Work was begun grading this road in January, 1894, the contractors being Frank Greco and D. A. Craig. The road was opened for business in November, 1894, giving the Goodyears a through route from Keating Summit to Ansonia. In these days, Galeton had two railroads, the extension of the Addison and Northern Pennsylvania following nearly the present route of the Roosevelt Highway from Gaines to Galeton—the State Highway, in fact, is built on the old railroad grade for most of the distance—and the Goodyear railroad being then, as now, on the opposite side of the valley. In September, 1893, the Goodyear lines were consolidated into one system, to be called the Buffalo and Susquehanna.

Up to this time the Clinton mill at Galeton was in operation, and a location was in project for the Goodyear mill on Pine Creek just above Gaines. But in the spring of 1895, Harvey & Sullivan, operators for the Goodyears, purchased the Clinton mill with its stock of logs, keeping the mill in operation till the logs then in stock should be sawed, the mill to be then much enlarged in capacity. The result was finally the erection of an entirely new mill in 1896, using band saws instead of the old circular saws. This mill was enlarged and remodeled in 1902. The mill at Austin was also remodeled into a band mill in 1897. By this



JAMES ELLIOTT'S LUMBER CAMP  
On Lyman Nelson Run, three miles from Mina, 1898



time the Goodyears controlled all the remaining hemlock timber on Pine Creek and its tributaries above Galeton, except a small area on the Dent lands at Brookland. In view of this fact, it is not hard to understand why the Clintons were willing to sell their mill and stock of logs.

The next step was the opening of the railroad from Galeton to Wellsville. Grading was begun in the spring of 1895 on the Galeton end of the road by Frank Greco. The Goodyears obtained a 14 months option on the Wellsville, Coudersport, and Pine Creek railroad, which had been opened from Wellsville to Genesee in 1890 by a group of Wellsville capitalists with John McEwen, president, and later extended to Hickox. The owners were reluctant to sell, as the road was paying a good profit, but the Goodyears threatened to build a parallel line, and an agreement was finally reached which was regarded as a victory for the Goodyear interests. The original owners of the railroad from Wellsville to Genesee had planned to extend the line to Coudersport, expecting that some capital could be obtained in Potter County for this purpose.

The B. & S. was opened from Galeton to Wellsville late in 1895. Its shops and headquarters had already been located at Galeton, \$4200 having been subscribed for the purpose by local capitalists, chief of whom were G. F. Bennett and Augustus Schwartzenbach. The whole plant cost about \$150,000. Six new heavy engines and several passenger coaches were ordered for use on the line of railroad just opened.

The grades on the B. & S. are heavier than had ever before been considered allowable on any main line of railroad. The grade on the north side of Cutler Summit is 132 feet to the mile, and on the south side 147 feet, and the line has several sharp curves on these grades, to say nothing of the switchbacks on both sides of the Hogback hill and at Keating Summit. The maximum grade, exclusive of some of the temporary log roads, was reached on the Cross Fork branch, with 168 feet to the mile. The Goodyear lines marked a new departure in railroad building. The Lima engines used for hauling bark and logs are well known to all who were employed in lumbering in those days. They were generally called "stemwinders." The steam cylinders on locomotives of this type are set at right angles to the drive wheels, and have a short stroke, operating a crank shaft which runs lengthwise, and is connected with the drive wheels by bevel gears, the whole mechanism being designed for great pulling power at a low speed.

The B. & S. railroad was eventually extended in three directions. The Addison and Northern Pennsylvania was purchased and added to the B. & S. in 1898. It had already been widened



to standard gauge, and had been under contract with the Good-years since about the time of opening their Galeton mill. The contract for grading the road down the First Fork of the Sinnemahoning was let to Frank Greco in the fall of 1898. In November, 1898, the main offices of the B. & S. were moved to Galeton, with W. C. Park as general manager of the road. The grading from Wharton to Sinnemahoning was completed in 1900, and the first train run January 7, 1901. In April, 1901, is recorded a mortgage for \$15,000,000, given by the B. & S. R. R. Company to the Metropolitan Trust Company, of New York. The road was extended from Sinnemahoning to Dubois in the spring of 1905, reaching the coal fields at Sagamore in 1907. Further history of the B. & S. will be related in a later chapter.

A disastrous fire occurred at Galeton in 1893, recalling those at Austin in 1890. Twenty stores and dwellings were burned, a scarcity of water preventing any effective work in stopping the progress of the flames. The town was at once rebuilt in a more substantial manner. Another fire in January, 1899, destroyed six business places and several families were burned out.

In the spring of 1895 occurred a series of forest fires, second only to the terrible Moore's Run fire of 1891 in the amount of damage done. These fires occurred in practically every region in the county where lumbering was then going on. On Cowley Run a large quantity of bark and logs was destroyed, the Emporium Lumber Company—to be mentioned later—and Kellett & Company, a Boston firm, being the heaviest losers. Three million feet of logs were destroyed between Hogback and Cross Fork. Forest fires raged on the hills around Coudersport. Fee Brothers lost their store and lumber camps on the East Fork, and the camps of Thomas Fee and 8,000,000 feet of logs were burned a few weeks later. Fires also occurred on the Prouty. Another destructive forest fire, hardly second to those of 1895, occurred in the fall of 1897 on Nelson Run. Teams were raced out of this region on the run, and men and women fled for their lives. 60,000 cords of bark and a large quantity of logs, not yet scaled, were burned. John M. Webster, and perhaps one or two other jobbers whose names I have not learned, remained at their logging camps, and by their coolness and bravery saved their equipment from the flames.

Galeton, like Austin, contained a large element of floating population in its early days, and had its scenes of lawlessness, recalling those I have already described at Austin, Bakertown, and Hulls. Such an occurrence took place in June, 1894, when Officer James Higgins, of Austin, attempted to arrest Fot Spicer in a pig's ear in Galeton. Spicer was known as a bad character, having already served two terms in prison for larceny and



**WILL HARTWICK'S LUMBER CAMP**  
Thompson Hollow, Lyman Run, 1906

Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



**PEELING HEMLOCK BARK**  
On Will Hartwick's job at Lyman Run

Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



counterfeiting. When Higgins entered, Spicer thought he recognized him and spoke without receiving a reply. He then blurted out, "You are Jim Higgins; give me that warrant or I'll blow your brains out." Higgins answered, "I guess not," whereupon Spicer shot him through the neck, just missing the jugular vein. Higgins at once shot Spicer through the heart.

During this period the Gale tannery passed into the ownership of the Penn Tanning Company, later the Elk Tanning Co. 125 men were employed in the Galeton plant at this time. There was also the chemical wood plant of the West Branch Mfg. Co., erected in 1897, employing 200 men inside and out, and operating 24 retorts. B. C. King was the superintendent. A kindling-wood factory, similar to that of Blaisdell Brothers at Austin, was built in Galeton in 1895 by Jerome Moltz, with some financial aid from G. F. Bennett, who was also interested in the organization of the Goodyear Hose Company. The population of Galeton was estimated as 1800 in 1895. The town was organized as a boro in 1896.

In 1897, the tract already referred to as purchased by the Goodyears in Ulysses township, between Gold and Harmontown, was cut and brought to the mill at Galeton. It was reached by a railroad leaving the main line at Hickox. It was the last large tract of hemlock timber remaining in the north of the county. Another tract on Bailey Run, in Wharton and Portage townships, extending over into the head of Hunt's Run in Cameron County, was cut in 1898 and 1899. The headquarters of this lumbering job was at Blowville. A correspondent thus describes the place in the Journal of June 15, 1898:—

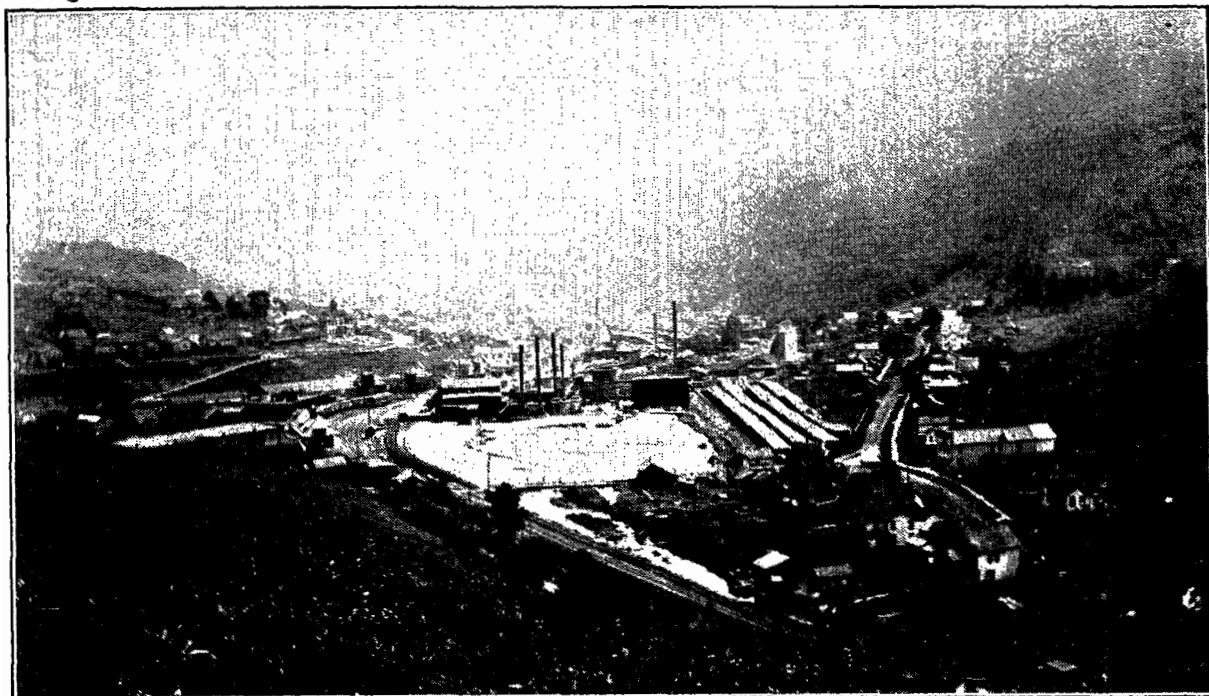
"The city of Blowville contains 2 restaurants, 2 hotels, 2 boarding houses, 2 drug stores, 2 pigs' ears, one barber shop, one blacksmith shop, 2 stores, 13 dwelling houses, and we don't know how many camps in the woods. A bus runs from Costello to that place, and one from Wharton." Nothing now remains to mark the town site. The place was situated at the forks of Bailey Run, about two miles from the Sinnemahoning road, and was in the prime of its short life during the season of 1898. It was, as Bakertown had been, and as Hulls still was at that time, a famous resort for roughs and rowdies. A murder was reported the same season just below here on the First Fork, William Ayres, an old man living alone, being the victim, and robbery the probable motive. Three or four men were arrested as suspects, but nothing was proved.

Messrs. Harvey & Sullivan, operators for the Goodyears, dissolved partnership in 1897, W. H. Sullivan remaining as the manager of the mill at Austin, while the Galeton mill came under the management of John R. Collins, who had lately been super-

intendent of Cook Brothers hardwood mill at Gaines. In 1904, he became superintendent of the C. P. L. mill at Mina. He now resides in Coudersport, he and his brother, Daniel Collins of Austin, being among the few men living who took active part in the operations of the Goodyears. Soon afterwards, Mr. Harvey sold his interest in the big store at Austin, formerly owned by the Buffalo Hardware Co., to Buck & Brady, managers for the S. Deiches Co.

A tract of timber located on the head streams of the Hammersley Fork of Kettle Creek was reached by a lumber railroad leaving the main line at Jamison, two miles below Halls, and running over the hill to the Hammersley by way of Foster Hollow. This piece of timber was first entered in 1905 and finished in 1908 or 1909. The tract on the Nine Mile, extending over Denton Hill to some of the slopes draining into the Allegheny, was cut in the seasons of 1908 and 1909. It was the last of the Goodyear hemlock timber in Potter County.

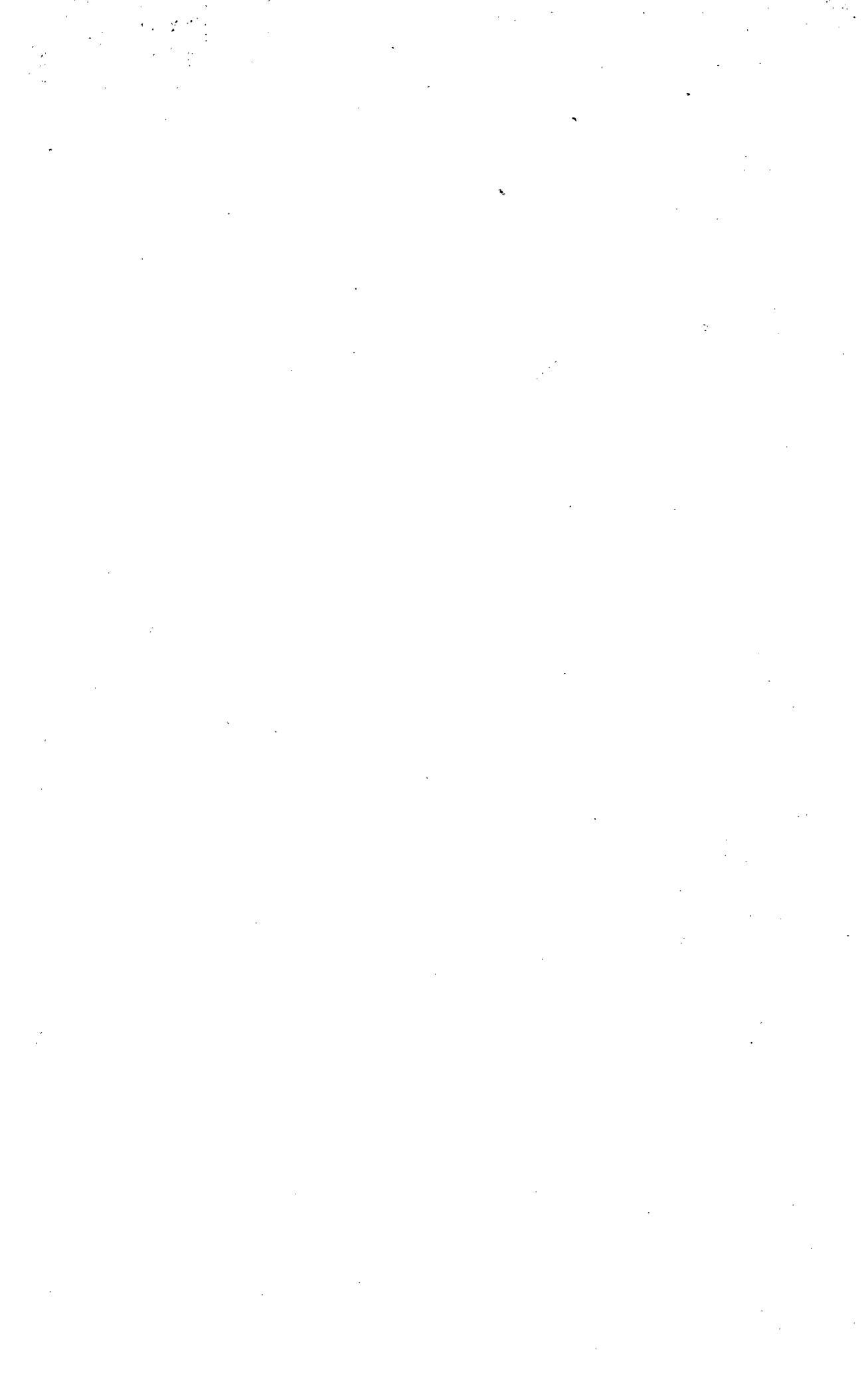
In close cooperation with the Goodyear operations were those of the Emporium Lumber Company. This company was organized about 1882 by W. L. Sykes and William Caffisch, and their first mills were at Benzinger, Elk County. Mr. Sykes was the selling agent of the company, spending most of his time on the road, while Mr. Caffisch was in charge of the mill. The company built a mill at Keating Summit in 1892, and they obtained a contract for the hardwood on the Goodyear lands, they to cut their own logs, which were to be delivered by the B. & S. railroad, while they agreed to ship their lumber over the B. & S. and not to connect their yards at Keating Summit directly with the Pennsylvania R. R. The business of the company grew, their mill and equipment were enlarged, and a planing mill at the opposite end of their yards was built in 1898. In 1902 the directors of the company were W. L. Sykes, president; W. S. Walker, vice president; W. T. Turner, secretary and treasurer; William Caffisch, and E. J. Jones. The general office was at Keating Summit. In 1899 the company built another mill at Galeton to take care of their increasing business, and in 1901 they purchased the A. G. Lyman mill at Austin. During all this time, they bought timber at other points and shipped the logs to their mill at Keating Summit. For instance, a considerable quantity of white pine and hardwood logs came from a tract of timber they purchased at Bluestone, N. Y., near Portage Falls, and a shipment of cherry logs came from Lexington, Kentucky. A timber tract in Elk County was sold to the Goodyears by W. L. Sykes in April, 1901, for \$113,000, the hardwood and pine to go to the mills of the Emporium Lumber Company, of which Sykes was president. A planing mill was added to their Galeton plant in 1902. The mill at Keating Summit burned in the spring



GOODYEAR MILL AT AUSTIN.  
About 1900.



A. G. LYMAN MILL AT AUSTIN  
About 1900.



of 1901, but was at once rebuilt. It was run almost continuously till it finally ceased operations in 1914.

The reader may wonder why the business of A. G. Lyman was taken over by this company. Of this matter, I can not speak with authority, but it was reported at the time that Mr. Lyman did not care to handle the entire stand of hardwood on the Goodyear lands, desiring only the more valuable kinds of timber, such as cherry, ash, and cucumber, and that the Goodyears wished the hardwood timber to be taken entirely by a single buyer, stipulating besides that the timber should be taken off immediately following the removal of the hemlock, else they would not allow their railroad to remain till the logs were taken out. The last of the hardwood logs on the Hammersley tract were taken out by the Emporium Lumber Company with their own engines, cars and loaders, after the operations of the Goodyear Lumber Company had nearly ceased.

Another of the important lumber operators of this period was the Lackawanna Lumber Company. The company's headquarters was at Scranton, with a branch office at Mina, after the location of a mill at that place. This company bought various timber tracts along the Allegheny River. They bought the mill of D. Schutt at Mina in 1887, and they built what was called the Fishbasket mill at the Narrows, three miles below Coudersport. They also built a new mill at Mina about 1887, the mill pond not connected with the Allegheny, laying a line of railroad to a tract of timber situated in the valley of the small stream that here enters the Allegheny from the north. This mill burned in June 1894. There was an insurance of \$12,000 on the mill, but 2,500,000 feet of lumber that burned was a total loss. The company had nearly finished cutting the timber they then owned, and announced that they would not rebuild unless they could buy the timber lands of Hamlin, Hamlin and Forrest, who then controlled the remnant of the Keating lands. The timber in question was situated on the south side of the Allegheny, lying mostly in the valleys of Lyman Nelson Run, which enters the Allegheny at Mina, and Reed Run, which enters about a mile farther down stream, with a small section extending beyond the Look-off and into the head of Lanninger Creek, west of Roulet. This timber was finally purchased and a new mill erected by the company on the south side of the river in 1895. The last of this timber was cut about 1903. The mill remained idle for about a year, but was destined to another period of activity. It was purchased, together with the tenant houses adjoining, by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company, of Williamsport, who owned a tract of timber in the western part of the county that was reached by a lumber railroad leading up Sartwell Creek. The mill started again in August, 1904, and a kindling wood factory was built



here by the Keystone Wood Company of Williamsport in 1905. The last of the timber was cut and the mill dismantled in 1912.

Meanwhile, the Lackawanna Lumber Company had transferred their activities to a new locality. This field of operations had its center at Cross Fork, extending up and down the valley of Kettle Creek and its branches, including a part of the territory on Hammersley Fork. It was reached by a branch line of the B. & S. railroad, already mentioned, connecting with the main line at Hogback. The company built a large mill at Cross Fork, and commenced cutting lumber some time in 1893. A good sized town grew up here, larger than the one that surrounded their earlier mill at Mina. An article in the Journal of July 5, 1894, states that the town then had two mills, one built the year before, and the other nearly completed, and that the company then had 75 log-cars and two "stem-winder" locomotives. A kindling-wood factory was built here by the Keystone Wood Company in 1895. An enumeration given in the issue of May 3, 1894, gives a long list of business places, and tells us that the town then contained 120 dwelling houses. The residence section and most of the stores were built on land originally owned by Emil Peltz, who had his property laid out into building lots, several houses and some other buildings being erected by himself; this section of the town was called Peltzonia. A stave and heading plant was erected at Cross Fork by the Pennsylvania Stave Company, 1899-1900, consisting of two mills, supplied with timber by the Lackawanna Lumber Company from the hardwood on their lands. This plant employed about 200 men. The mercantile appraisal of 1906 showed the store of the Lackawanna Lumber Company at Cross Fork to be the largest in the county, rated by volume of business. The Hickox store at Shinglehouse stood second, and the store of the Emporium Lumber Company at Keating Summit third, though larger stocks of goods in individual lines were carried by some of the merchants in Coudersport. These facts are a striking illustration of the importance of the lumber industry in Potter at this time.

The mills at Cross Fork were burned in 1900, but were immediately rebuilt. The postoffice was raised to third class in January, 1902. A newspaper was established in September, 1897, and continued till 1906, of which I shall speak further in a later chapter. The last timber was cut in the hemlock mill about 1909. The stave mill was still in operation in May, 1911, but ceased operations a year or so later. The kindling wood factory burned in July, 1907, and was not rebuilt. Fires in October, 1907; April, 1909; January, 1910; and March, 1911, destroyed a large part of the town, including most of the business places. None of these structures was rebuilt. The last train ran into Cross Fork on May 31, 1913. Most of the houses still remaining

had already been sold by their owners for a song. It is estimated that the town contained about 1500 people at the peak of its prosperity.

Some of the prominent lumbermen who had contracts from the Lackawanna Lumber Company and the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company were George Weitzel, Kearon and Michael Fitzsimmons, James Elliott (now of the firm of James Elliott and Son, lumber dealers of Coudersport), Jake Swanson. Woodsmen's wages on Kettle Creek in the season of 1905 were from \$1.75 to \$2.35 per day and board.

The companies whose operations have just been described were the principal ones engaged in the south of the county from 1885 to 1915. Although the northern townships had been settled by that time to about the same extent that they are at present, they still contained valuable tracts of timber between the cultivated lands, and several lumber companies worthy of mention were operating. J. J. Newman, of Buffalo, one of the members of the United Lumber Company, previously mentioned, operated a mill at Sweden Valley that was a busy place for several years. The railroad line from Coudersport to Sweden Valley, opened in 1890, was built chiefly to accommodate this mill. A mill built by William Currier in 1895, at the mouth of Lent Hollow, two miles below Colesburg, had a capacity of 50,000 feet of lumber per day. After about two years of operation, it was removed to Colesburg, where it continued to operate till it burned in 1898. The timber that supplied this mill was owned by J. M. Spafford, Owen G. Metzger, and C. M. Burt, all timber operators of long experience, dating back to the days of pine lumbering, when Mr. Metzger had for a partner James White, of Coudersport. After the mill burned, the remaining timber owned by this company was sold to the Lackawanna Lumber Company, who built a mill here that operated for a few years. A small mill was later built on this site by Will Glase.

Before William Currier began cutting lumber for Spafford, Metzger, & Burt, he had been the proprietor of a saw and planing mill at Andrews Settlement, which burned in January, 1894, and was not rebuilt. It was a total loss, not only to Mr. Currier, but to others who had logs and lumber at the mill.

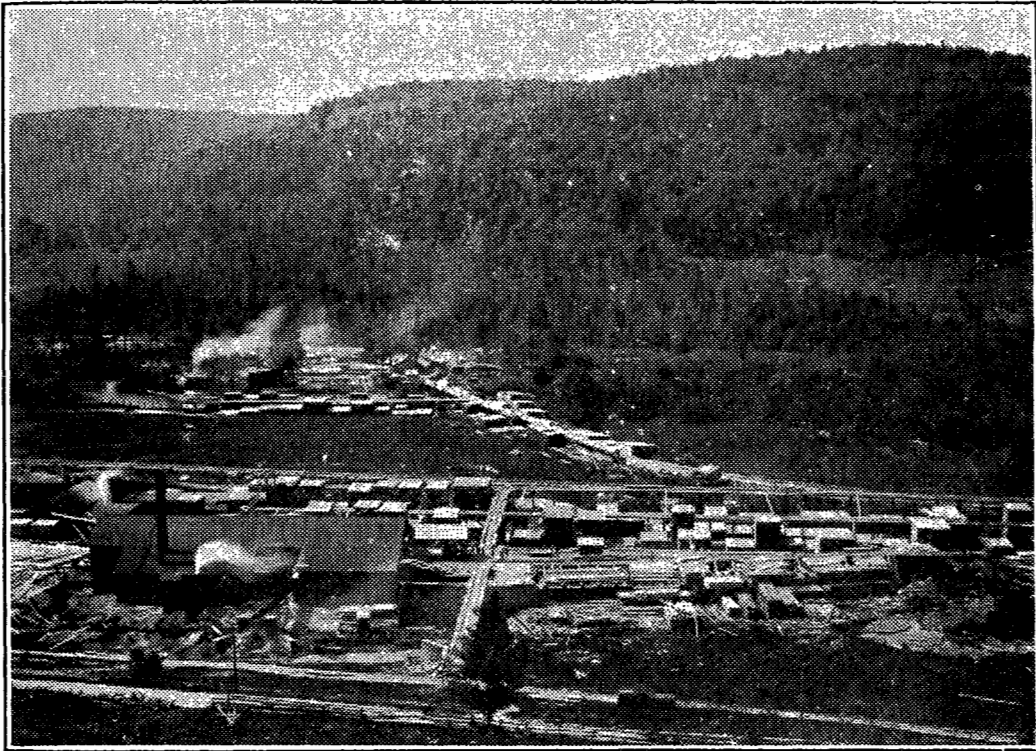
Charles Gilbert, of Elmer, built a sawmill at Harmontown, between Gold and Genesee, about 1895. It was situated about half a mile below the old Harmontown pond, itself the site of a water mill belonging to the period of pine lumbering, many years before. The timber that supplied this mill lay in Genesee and Allegany townships, mostly in the valley of the small stream emptying into West Creek at this point. Mr. Gilbert shipped his lumber at Hickox, over the B. & S. The mill operated three or four years.

At the same time a mill belonging to Haskell and Cobb was running at West Bingham. The boiler in this mill exploded in May, 1895, killing seven men and seriously injuring another. Damage suits were brought against Haskell & Cobb by the relatives of some of the men who lost their lives, it being claimed apparently with good reason, that the boiler had been defective and unfit for use. What the outcome was, I do not know. North Bingham also had a saw and grist mill at this time, owned by Clint Clark. It burned in 1898. Besides the mills in Bingham there were two mills in operation at Ellisburg at about the same time, one, a small one, owned by George Varney, and another belonging to E. V. Dunlevie & Company, operated by Peabody & Dibble, that was a place of activity for several years, afterwards removing to Toad Hollow, near Oswayo, where another tract of timber was cut.

A mill belonging to Stanton and Shaff, located at Mills, and said to be larger than any previously built in the Cowanesque Valley, burned in 1894, and was not rebuilt. The oldest chemical wood plant in the county was built at Elmer in 1880, by Parkhurst & Company, and remained in operation during the period now under consideration. There were also sawmills at several points in Hector township. Hubbard Brothers' mill at Burtville cut many logs that were run down the Allegheny previous to the operations of the Lackawanna Lumber Company.

Several heading and stave mills, besides those already mentioned at Cross Fork and Hulls, were in operation between 1890 and 1915. The plant at Hulls belonged to the Weidman Stave & Heading Company, and employed about 150 men, using 8 or 10 million feet of hardwood each year. It was built in 1899, and continued to run for 15 years or more, being sold to the Emporium Lumber Company in 1906. The Penn Stave Company at Oswayo, had about the same period of operation, and after the closing of the tannery in 1901, was the mainstay of the town. A heading mill was built in 1901 by the Sharon Mfg. Co., at Shinglehouse. A smaller heading mill had been in existence there several years earlier.

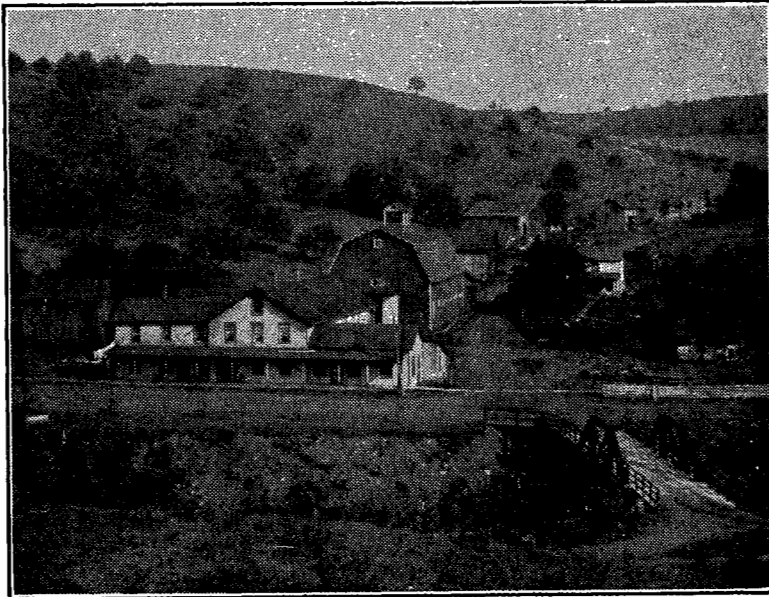
In Coudersport, the most noteworthy woodworking industry of this period is the heading mill of J. F. Dieffenbacher, which was built in 1888. This plant can boast a longer period of operation than any other timber-using plant in the county. For many years, it was running almost continuously. It continued to produce a little heading till a few years ago. The death of J. Vernon Dieffenbacher, son of the original owner, in 1933, closed the history of this industry in Coudersport. A heading mill was built at Galeton in 1898.



#### MINA IN 1888

Looking southwest across what is now the Roosevelt Highway. In the foreground, the new mill of the Lackawanna Lumber Co., built 1887, burned 1894. Beyond, across the Allegheny, the older mill of D. Schutt, built 1883.

Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



#### FOREST HOUSE HOTEL

First opened by E. S. Finchbaugh, 1856. The building as shown dates from about 1874. Burned, 1914.



Another Coudersport industry, established in 1895, was the hub and veneering factory of the Davidge Mfg. Company. F. J. Weisert, the manager of the company, obtained a loan of \$7000 from the Coudersport Board of Trade for ten years without interest. In 1898 the plant was purchased by a company of Coudersport capitalists, and the manufacture of hubs was discontinued after the logs then in stock were worked up. This plant is generally remembered as "The basket factory." It was the first factory in Coudersport to employ girls as operatives—with the possible exception of the woolen mill of C. J. Marble—though they had been employed in Blaisdell Brothers' kindling wood factory in Austin several years earlier. The plant passed to the ownership of the First National Bank of Coudersport in 1905. Baskets, veneer, and brewery chips were manufactured. The plant closed permanently in 1913, timber having become so scarce that the business was no longer profitable. The site is now occupied by a furniture factory, idle for several years past.

The mangle roller factory and sawmill of George Beckman was developed from a small mill built early in the 1890's. Mr. Beckman was a live business man, buying small bits of timber in many different localities, some of which were at a considerable distance, and manufacturing the logs in his mill at Coudersport; he also became a dealer in lumber and builders' supplies. His activity continued through his lifetime, and contributed much to the prosperity of his town. His sudden death in 1922 marked the end of the business he had built up.

The clothespin factory of A. W. Dodge, occupying the building now used as an ice-house by O. J. Freeman, was another industry that enabled Coudersport to keep step with the busy lumber towns of this period. It was built in 1896. A number of girls were employed in this factory, and farmers found a market here for their beech timber. Mr. Dodge was universally popular among those who had any business relations with him, including his employees. He finally found it impossible to secure timber enough to keep his plant in operation, and sold the remainder of his timber to the Palmer Stave and Heading Co., of Roulet, in July, 1911, moving his factory to Richwood, West Virginia.

The Palmer Stave and Heading Company built their plant at Roulet about 1903, aided by local capitalists, C. A. Ridlon, manager, and operated for a period of about 15 years.

Even the conservative town of Ulysses, heretofore made up chiefly of retired farmers, became possessed of a woodworking industry, the Balcolm and Lay butterdish factory, built in 1901 and operated for a few years. The product was the thin wood containers used for butter, sausage, etc., by grocers and butchers. It was leased under contract to Thomas Reichle in 1906. After

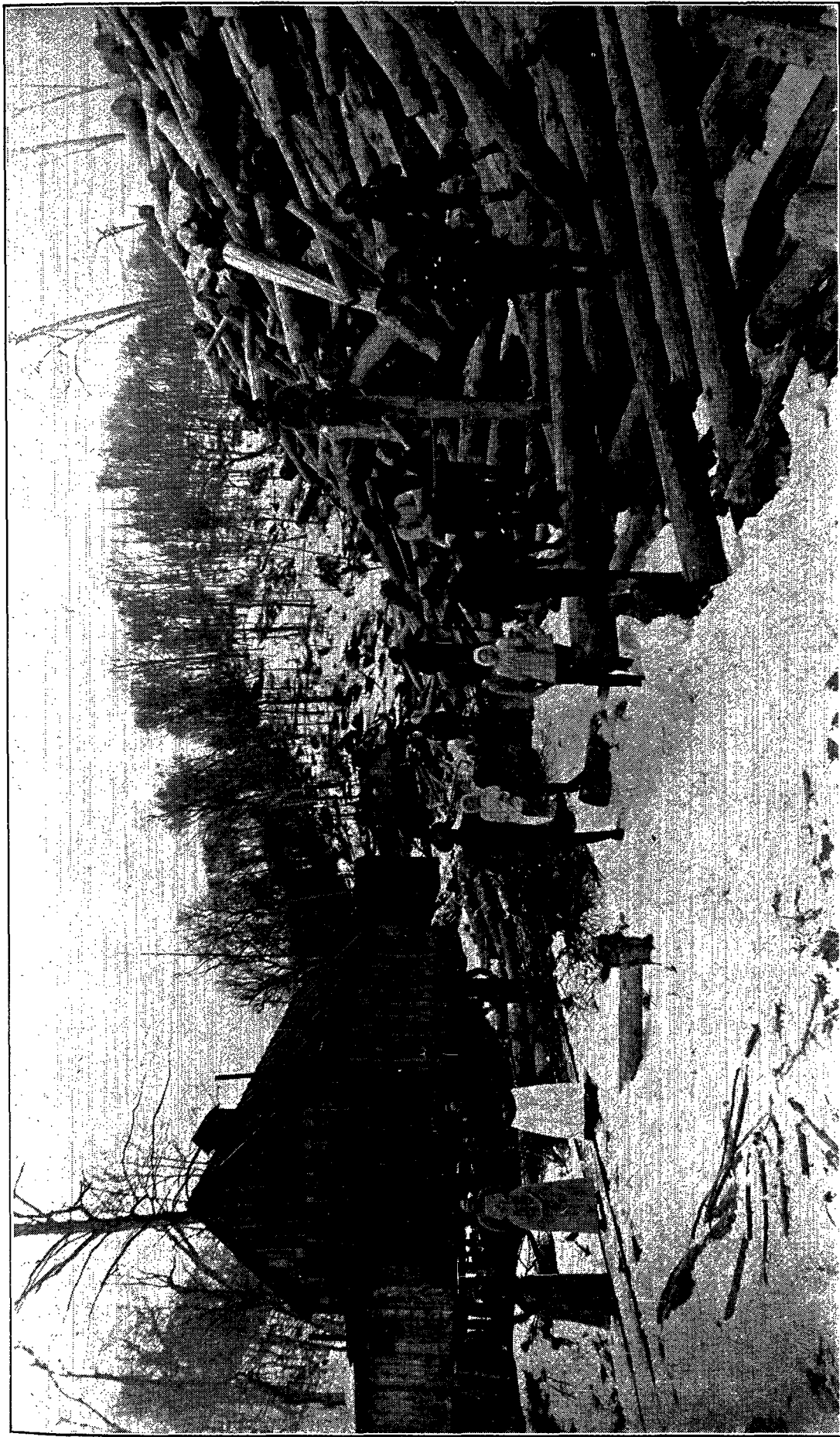
the operation of the factory had ceased the building was used as a milk station by the proprietors of the condensery at Coudersport.

The last two tracts of original hemlock in Potter County were both cut by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company. The Goodyear Lumber Company had cut their last timber in the Galeton mill in 1911. The mill then came into the control of the company just mentioned, who had purchased the remainder of the hemlock on the Dent lands at Brookland. This timber was cut in 1912 and sawed at Galeton. Some few bits of timber owned by the company in other localities kept the Galeton mill running till 1915. It then closed for good. The Emporium Lumber Company kept their mill at Galeton running a year or two longer. A flood destroyed the Goodyear mill dam soon afterwards.

The last piece of hemlock was that surrounding the town of Costello and extending up Portage Run, which enters Freeman Run at Brownlee's, just above town. A mill was built here by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company in 1916, and the very last log was sawed in December, 1920. The bark from this tract gave the Costello tannery a new lease of life, and the extract works of the tannery were kept running till 1922.

Thus the great lumber industry of Potter County covered a period of 105 years, from 1815 to 1920. The few wood-using industries that still remain, such as the mill of James Elliott & Son at Coudersport, the mill of the Builders' Supply Company at Shinglehouse, the plant of the Gray Chemical Company at Roulet, and the wood alcohol factories at Coneville and Genesee do not properly belong in the same class with the great lumber industries of the 19th century. The wood used by the manufacturers of wood alcohol is usually from timber not suited to the sawmill, often second growth on cut-over lands. A small quantity of lumber is still made by the companies just mentioned and a few small sawmills scattered through the county. It is not enough for local needs. The mills employ but few men, and are running only a month or two during the year. The great industry that has contributed so much to our wealth and prosperity belongs to the past.

Not a single tree is now standing of the noble pines that once covered more than half of our county. Of the great hemlock forests, one very small grove remains. Many of the trees are dead and dying, but a small patch of the somber green that once covered all our hillsides may still be seen by the traveler on the Roosevelt Highway, northeast of the village of Roulet. It is owned by Milo Lyman, and has been in possession of the family since the days of his grandfather, Burrel Lyman, who founded the settlement at Roulet in 1813. I know of no other specimen of original hemlock in the county.



#### JOHN COGGINS' LOG JOB.

On Lyman Run, 1905. The people are, left to right: Mrs. George Parhall, Mrs. John Coggins, Mrs. Charley Smith (all sisters), John Coggins, George Parhall holding baby girl, LaSalle Bundy with John Coggins' small son, Fred Bundy, George Smith (boy), Dave Klein, Charley Smith (on pile of logs), George Allen, Charley Walker. The two in the background are not identified.





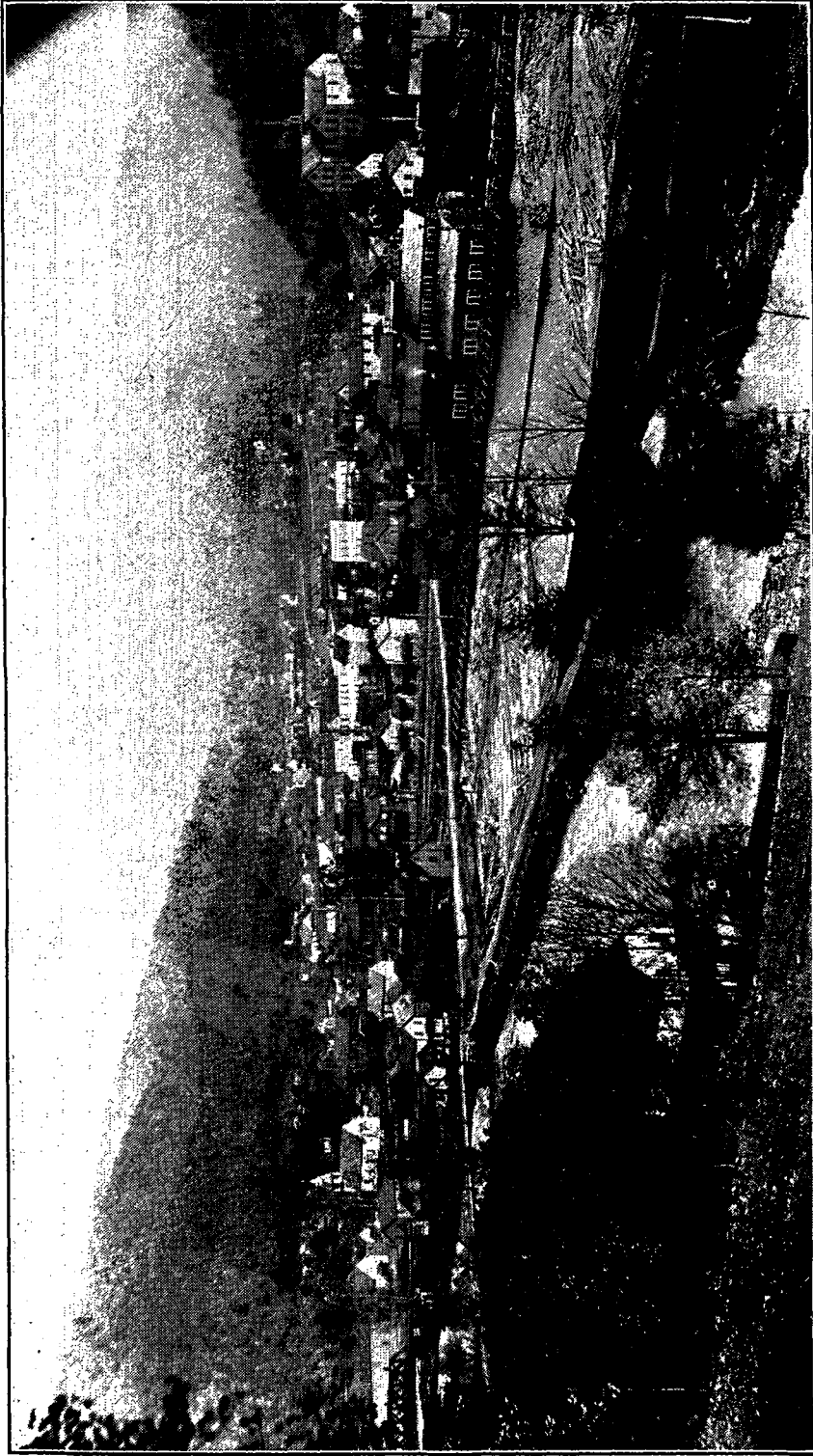
A few maples, birches, and other hardwood trees may be found in certain pieces of woodland, as on the Jersey Shore Pike between Sweden Valley and Cherry Springs, that reached their present stature when struggling upward to the sun between towering hemlocks. By far the greater part of our timber of the present day has sprung up in the wake of the lumbermen of forty and fifty years ago. Our woods are clogged by dense undergrowth, and trodden by hundreds of hunters and fishermen from communities far outside our own. They bear but the faintest likeness to the forests that we of the last century knew.

## CHAPTER IX

### INDUSTRIAL GROWTH. 1885-1904

We will now take up the thread of Potter County history where we left it to relate the beginning of the lumber industry. We have followed the course of events down to the year 1885. At the November election of 1886, the Pennsylvania fence law of 1700 was repealed, the question having been submitted by the Legislature to a vote of the people of the State. The significance of this event will hardly be realized by those of our people who are less than fifty years of age. Previous to 1886, the law permitted a stock owner to let his cattle roam at will, as is still the case in some backward communities of the South. It was necessary to fence in all crops. No damages could, in practice, be collected for any depredations that roving cattle might commit, as the legal specifications for fencing crops called for a fence much higher and more secure than any farmer could afford to build. Many farmers made an effort to confine their cattle on their own premises, but the law did not compel them to do so, and most neighborhoods had one or two stock owners who made a steady practice of allowing their cattle to run the road, boasting of the depredations these cattle committed in other men's crops. All this was ended by the repeal of the antiquated fence law, Potter County as a whole giving a majority for repeal, though a few thinly settled townships preferred the old conditions.

The county fair at the grounds near Lymanville had been losing in attendance and popular favor for some years. The main attraction that remained was the horse races, which were open to any entry, inside or outside the county. Betting on races had not been forbidden by law at this time. The natural consequence was that the fair drew a crowd of gamblers and other undesirables, much like the gang of loafers now usually found in pool rooms, little attention being paid to the purely agricultural and domestic exhibits. In 1890 the Fair Association was reorganized, with 27 stockholders and a capital stock of \$3000. New buildings were erected on the grounds, and an effort made to infuse new life into the Fair, with some small success. But permanent results were not achieved. The Fair was held for the last time in 1897. The races had been discontinued two years earlier, by the decision of the managers, with whom many prominent citizens disagreed. There were horse races and a horse exhibition on the old grounds in September, 1904, the last event of its kind that occurred at the old stand. A Fair with races was held at



THE TOWN OF CROSS FORK IN 1904.  
Pond of the stave and heading mill in the foreground.



Ulysses in 1885 and continued for several years. Since the days of these fairs, no exhibition of the kind has been held for the whole county, though in nearly all the neighboring counties of Pennsylvania and New York, they are held annually and commonly draw a good attendance. The loss has been partially made up in recent years by the local fairs at Ulysses and Millport, which have made an excellent showing in exhibits of farm produce and poultry, but till very recently have had no facilities for the exhibition of stock.

The cut-over lands of the Goodyears were offered for sale to settlers on convenient terms as early as 1891. A few farms were cleared up on these lands within the next few years, and became a permanent addition to our agricultural area. On the whole, however, the number of permanent settlers thus attracted was not large, most of the Goodyear lands not being adapted for farming. A considerable area of these lands was bought up in 1892 by a combination of local capitalists known as the Potter County Land Company, W. F. Junge, manager. This company existed only a few years, many of their lands being sold for taxes. White, Metzger & Cobb bought 30,000 acres of Goodyear's cut-over lands. A large part of what was once the Goodyear lands now belongs to the State Forest reserve.

At an election in the fall of 1886, it was voted by the people of Coudersport to increase the indebtedness of the boro for the purpose of building a new schoolhouse. The old Academy building was in need of repair, and had become out of date and entirely inadequate for the needs of the school. The building was sold for \$36.00 to I. C. Staysa, who tore it down. A brick building was erected on the same site, and was ready for use in the fall of 1887, Walter T. Palmer being engaged as the principal of the school, with Miss Belle Haskell as his assistant. He was reengaged the following year with Miss Jennie Thomas of Mansfield as assistant. The new building housed both the high school and the grades, which at that time were not wholly distinct, as they are at present, Prof. Palmer teaching many classes that would now be relegated to the grade teachers, as well as most of the high school classes. The new building soon proved to be entirely too small. The E. N. Stebbins property on Main Street, formerly the Wales Butterworth house, which stood on the site of the present high school building, was purchased in 1891, and remodeled for school purposes. Two years later, it was torn down and a brick schoolhouse erected on the same site for the primary grades. This building was enlarged in 1902. The high school building had already been enlarged, by a wing on the north side, the year before. The Coudersport High School ceased to charge tuition to students residing in the boro in the fall of 1900. The school at Lymanville (or Ladona) was discontinued in the fall

of 1902, and the pupils transported to Coudersport, this being probably the first school bus line in the county.

A high school had existed in Ulysses since the demise of the academy there in 1874, and one was founded at Harrison Valley in 1883. The old school building in Ulysses was torn down and a new one erected in 1897, Sherman Button, contractor. The Harrison Valley school attained the rank of a three-year high school in 1898. The building burned in February, 1904, and was at once replaced by a brick building. William Harris and Ed Jennings were the contractors. School reopened the following September. In 1903, a four year high school course had been inaugurated with Prof. R. O. Welfling as principal.

A graded school building was erected in Austin in 1888. Pinney & Rees had the contract for \$2550, the final cost being about \$3200. Galeton Boro erected a schoolhouse in 1894, and an additional school building was erected near the Emporium Lumber Company's mill in 1901. Roulet built a schoolhouse in 1894. William Eastman had the contract for \$1750.

Our county superintendents of schools during this time were H. H. Kies, elected in 1887, Miss Anna Bodler, in 1893, and Otis A. Kilbourne, in 1899. These superior educators were all natives of Potter County. H. H. Kies spent his youth in Allegany township; Miss Bodler's girlhood was passed in Germania, and Prof. Kilbourne was born in Hector.

During the summer of 1888, the Court House was remodeled so as to present substantially the same appearance that it does today. Homer Hall of Olean was the architect. There was considerable opposition to certain features of the work on the part of several prominent citizens, among others Judge Arthur G. Olmsted, on account of the expense incurred. As is usual in such cases, the ultimate cost much exceeded the original estimate, which covered only a part of the completed job, new features being added as the work went on. The county commissioners, however, were sustained by the auditors when the final settlement was made. The cost of these improvements was about \$25,000, much more than the original cost of the building. It will be remembered that similar opposition was encountered at the erection of the Court House in 1851, with perhaps better reason than at this time. Only minor repairs have been required on this building since 1888. Nevertheless, it is the belief of the writer that the roof, cornice, and clock tower would better have been left as they were at first. The reason assigned for raising the roof was that the pitch was too low for a slate roof, which is true, but the old roof might have been covered with some kind of durable roofing adapted to a low pitch (at least that is the writer's opinion) at less cost than raising the pitch. The original architecture would, in that case, have been preserved.

Most of the churches now in use in Coudersport were erected during this period. The Episcopal church, the oldest, was built in 1883. The Lutheran church comes next in order. It was built in 1887. A Sunday-school room built in 1923 is the only important change that has ever been made in this building. The present Methodist Episcopal church was erected in 1893 at a cost of \$18,500, W. D. Sweitzer, of Emporium, contractor, replacing the old church erected in 1855. The adjoining lot was purchased to obtain more room, and the building that stood thereon was moved to the river bank on the south side of Third Street, where it still stands. The new church was dedicated March 4, 1894, and the mortgage paid in January, 1900. In September, 1901, the Methodist church of Coudersport was honored by being made the meeting place of the Genesee conference, embracing a large district of western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania. It is an annual meeting at which all the churches in the district are represented, and ministers assigned for the succeeding year.

The Methodist parsonage was built in 1905, at a cost of \$7500, this sum being donated for the purpose by Mrs. John D. Archbold, wife of the well-known oil magnate. She was a daughter of Samuel M. Mills, who kept the old hotel where the Crittenden now stands, 1851-1856, and resided at Colesburg for several years afterwards. \$4000 more of the Archbold money was later donated to build the receiving vault, or chapel, at the Eulalia Cemetery.

The Baptist church, of which only the charred ruins now remain, was built in 1898, Button Bros., contractors. Its further history belongs to a later chapter. The Presbyterian church was erected in 1903, the old church, now Recreation Hall, having become too small. This church was also built by Button Bros.

The present Catholic Church was also erected in 1903, replacing the wooden church built in 1883, which was moved off the site and afterward burned. The old Baptist church, built in 1874, had already suffered a similar fate. The Free Methodist church was dedicated August 25, 1901, and the Seventh-day Advent church in July, 1904.

The Methodist and Baptist churches at Ulysses belong to the same period, the former having been dedicated in 1894. Several churches in Galeton, Shinglehouse, Genesee, Austin, and other localities were all built within a few years; several of them have been torn down, or are not now in use. One of the oldest of these churches, and one which is still in use, is the Methodist Episcopal church of Harrison Valley, built in 1883. A complete list of them all would be too long to insert here.

A preacher well known to the residents of southern Potter during the latter part of the 19th century was Rev. W. S. Holland,



whose home was on the Sinnemahoning, near Nelson Run. He was a forceful speaker, but was somewhat erratic in keeping his appointments. He was one of the moving spirits of the once famous Sinnemahoning camp meetings, and is said to have delivered more sermons than any other man who ever resided in the county.

The rooms occupied by the Coudersport Free Public Library were donated for that purpose by Judge A. G. Olmsted in 1893. The Carnegie fund of \$25,000 was secured in 1900. The library association was incorporated in 1892, taking over the old library that had been founded in 1850, previously mentioned.

The events thus far related in this chapter may seem to the reader to be rather commonplace, and may hold little of real interest, though the development of education and other of these events are indicators of the progress that our people were making through these years. The outstanding feature of this period is, however, its phenomenal development in industry. The history of the lumber industry has been already related, but the story of several other enterprises of these times is yet to be told.

In 1889, the C. & P. A. R. R. was widened to standard gauge, the cost being met by a bond issue. It was extended to Sweden Valley in 1890, in anticipation of further extension to Pine Creek. But the building of the B. & S. from Galeton to Wellsville caused the directors of the road to modify their plans, and the road was graded to Ulysses, meeting the Fall Brook railroad, which had been opened from Harrison Valley to Ulysses in August, 1893. J. S. Good & Company, of Lock Haven, had the contract for grading the Ulysses extension of the C. & P. A. The first train ran from Coudersport to Ulysses November 4, 1895. In 1899 the Fall Brook lines were purchased by the New York Central R. R., which thus came into control of the railroad entering Ulysses from the east. The management of the Pennsylvania Railroad maneuvered in such a way as to force the W. N. Y. and P. R. R., running from Emporium to Buffalo, to sell their road to the Pennsylvania system in the spring of 1900. This put the C. & P. A. in direct connection with two of the great railroads of the Eastern States. The line to Sweden Valley was taken up in 1901, since the mill of J. J. Newman at Sweden Valley had ceased operations. A new depot, the one now in use, was built in Coudersport in 1899 directly on the main line toward Ulysses. The original depot was a wooden building, and stood on Main Street between Maple and Oak Streets, on land now occupied by the park.

The building of the B. & S. from Galeton to Wellsville has already been described. A third line of railroad, which has played an important part in the development of Northern Potter,

is the N. Y. & P., known during its earlier years as the Olean, Oswayo, and Eastern. The building was begun at Genesee, and it was opened from Genesee to Rose Lake in 1893, and to Oswayo within a year. The next extension to Rexville, N. Y., was opened late in 1895, and the connection with the Erie railroad at Canisteo, N. Y., was completed in September, 1896. In 1899, it was extended from Oswayo to Millport, and in 1900 to Shinglehouse, the final connection with the Shawmut lines at Ceres being made in 1901. This railroad, unlike many others, was not built by large capitalists. Joseph B. Rumsey was its general manager and one of its chief promoters, and the line has often been referred to as "Rumsey's Road." Theodore and William Cobb of Spring Mills, N. Y., were also interested, and stock was taken by several citizens along the line. In its earlier days, this railroad did a fair amount of business and paid a profit to its owners. Its subsequent history belongs to another chapter.

The first gas line in Potter County was laid in December, 1886, into Millport from a well drilled by George W. Dodge of Shinglehouse and James B. Donovan of Millport, on land they had leased in Sharon.

In 1892, the Citizens Gas Company was organized to supply Coudersport with natural gas, and a line laid from the gas fields at Port Allegany in 1893, these being the nearest to Coudersport of any that had then been discovered. The town was piped and service begun that year, the towns of Roulet and Mina being also supplied. In 1887 a good producer had already been drilled at Shinglehouse, both oil and gas having been found in the neighborhood several years before, though the value of the gas was not at first realized. After several attempts to finance the project had failed, a line was laid to Coudersport from this field in 1899, competing with the line already in use, and bringing the price of gas down to 12 cents per thousand. A line was laid to Austin over Mina Hill through Odin in 1894. Galeton was first supplied by a line from the oil and gas fields at Gaines. Oil was found here in 1887, but the boom in this field began in 1897, when several gushers were struck. Excitement ran high, this being the first oil field to be discovered east of the Continental divide. But this boom was short-lived, the oilwells ceasing to produce in the latter months of the year 1900. The gas wells also failed within the next year, and Galeton was no longer supplied. The lines were taken up in the fall of 1901. There was no gas supply in Galeton from this time till a line was laid from the Card Creek field in 1903.

The Potter Gas Company was organized in 1898. W. I. Lewis was president of this company, as he had been of its predecessor, the Citizens Gas Company. The first wells of the Potter Gas Company were in the Sharon field. The company laid a line to

Harrison Valley in 1898, and after laying the line to Coudersport, already mentioned, in 1899, they bought out the Citizens' Gas Company, thus gaining control of the gas supply in Coudersport for the time being.

An important new gas field was opened in 1901. It is located at Roulet, and forms a part of the gas field extending from the McKean County line at the head of Card Creek through Roulet, Hebron and Sharon townships to the State line on the Honeoye. The Sharon gas field already developed at this time, belongs to this area. The first producer in this field was drilled on the Pangburn farm at Roulet in 1897, but its significance as opening a new field seems not to have been realized at first. Another producer was struck on the Eckert farm at Roulet in April, 1901, owned by a group consisting of W. W. Crittenden, John F. Spencer, and Addison Stephens. It was followed by several others in the same field within a few months. A new gas line was laid to Austin over the Lookoff from these wells, with a branch to Keating Summit, the older line being eventually taken up, after the consolidation of the gas interests. The depth of the wells drilled at this time averaged about 1200 feet, and one is mentioned as having a pressure of 350 pounds, which was then thought to be a good production. The deep wells recently drilled in Hebron reach a depth from four to five times as great as this, and show a pressure of 2200 pounds. These figures strikingly illustrate the difference between the gas operations of today and those of 30 and 35 years ago.

A gas well on the farm of Robert Peet, finished in August, 1900, is the first on record in the Hebron field. The first well in the Card Creek field is dated January, 1903. A great sensation was produced by the opening of these gas fields, especially as the producing territory was by no means under unified control. Fortunes were made by the shareholders in the lucky companies, and farmers whose land lay in the gas belt suddenly became well-to-do. The gas wells of this period were long sufficient to supply all the towns in the county, and were the means of inducing several industrial plants to locate in Coudersport, Roulet, and Shinglehouse, which will be described further on. A gas line from Roulet to Elmira, 12 to 8 inch pipe, was completed in March 1903, and a pumping station was built on Card Creek. An earlier pumping station had been built at Genesee in 1900. A line from some of the Potter County fields was also laid to Olean. Oil was found on the farm of Lewis Lyman at Sweden Valley in July 1903, but the production was too small to be of commercial value.

The ownership of the gas fields was at first divided among several different companies. But in the course of time, the Potter Gas Company came into control of nearly all the producing

territory. The companies who sold their leases generally realized the value of their property, and several people who held stock in these companies became possessed of tidy fortunes. The Consumers' Gas Company was absorbed by the Potter Gas Company, in 1899, and the Bradford Gas Company was absorbed in 1903. The Roulet Gas Company held out for several years, turning their gas into the lines of the Potter Gas Company at a fixed rate, but were (I believe) finally induced to sell out. The property of the Sharon Gas Company was purchased by the Palmer Window Glass Company of Shinglehouse, to be mentioned later, they also drilling several wells on their own account.

An article in the Journal of February 25, 1903, states that at that time the Potter Gas Company owned 109 wells, distributed as follows: Sharon field, 60; Genesee field, 8; Hebron field 16; Smethport field, 12; Bingham field, 4; Roulet and Card Creek, 9. The best wells were at Card Creek. The capacity of the Roulet field was 10 million feet daily. Lines were in operation to all the towns of Potter County, as well as to several in the Cowanesque Valley, the terminal of the line being at Elmira, where the rate paid by consumers was 40 cents per thousand. The officers of the company were: president, W. I. Lewis; vice president, L. B. Seibert; secretary, F. A. Raymond; treasurer, J. Newton Peck; superintendent, A. A. Mulkin; all these being of Coudersport. The directors were F. L. Andrews, J. M. Carpenter, P. C. Blaisdell, John F. Stone, L. B. Seibert, C. V. Merrick, W. I. Lewis. The capital stock was \$2,500,000. The output of several wells belonging to the Roulet Gas Company, leased to the Potter Gas Company, is not mentioned in the article quoted. In March, 1903, the rate for local consumers was raised to 20 cents per thousand, and those who had been paying a flat rate were required to put in meters. A competing line was laid to Coudersport in August, 1903, and in 1904 the rate was lowered to 12½ cents, but the Potter Gas Company eventually acquired practically all of the producing territory, and with their successors, the North Penn Gas Company, have long been in complete control of the gas supply for Potter County. The original company passed to the control of a group of Pittsburg capitalists in August, 1903.

An electric light plant was built in Coudersport in 1893. The towns of Austin and Galetton were long supplied with electricity from the lighting plants in the sawmills, the plant at Austin, put in operation at the starting of O. S. Garretson's mill in 1887, being the oldest in the county.

As related in a former chapter, the first telephone line in the county was built from Keating Summit to Costello in 1881, and a line from Coudersport to Harrison Valley in 1883. A local

telephone system began service in Coudersport in January, 1897. It was not at first connected with the long distance system of the Bell lines, and for several years the town had two telephone systems, as is still the case in Shinglehouse and Ulysses, and generally throughout the northern part of the county. Twenty new phones were installed in Coudersport in March, 1899. The construction of rural lines began in March, 1903, one of the first lines being to the neighborhood between Coudersport and Mina, built on the cooperative plan by the subscribers. Another early line was built to the Homer neighborhood via Dutch Hill; this line was built by the Bell Company. In May, 1903, the old local phone system in Coudersport came into the control of the Bell Company, after six years of operation. Local lines were built in Shinglehouse and in Cross Fork in 1904.

On the morning of February 24, 1894, the doors of the bank owned by W. K. Jones, in Coudersport, did not open. This bank was then the only one in the county. It was founded by Capt. Arch Jones in 1873, earlier attempts to found a bank in Coudersport having come to naught. No stigma was attached to the name of W. K. Jones in consequence of the bank's failure: his investments had simply failed, owing to the general financial stringency at that time, and he lost his money, like the rest. He made an assignment to W. I. Lewis for the benefit of his creditors, who eventually received 85 per cent of their deposits. Had some of his creditors forbore for a few months, he would probably have been able to pay his depositors in full. This is the only bank failure that ever occurred in Coudersport.

The First National Bank of Coudersport was organized in March, 1894, with a capital stock of \$50,000, and has remained in business ever since. Its original officers were: R. L. Nichols, president; N. J. Peck, vice president; N. A. Pinney, cashier. The directors were R. L. Nichols, N. J. Peck, William Cobb, Milo Lyman, M. S. Thompson, F. L. Peck, F. C. Leonard, George H. Doane, W. I. Lewis. Of this board of directors, nearly all are now deceased. Milo Lyman is no longer able to take an active part in business. Mr. G. H. Doane is the only one of the original directors who belongs to the Coudersport business circle of today. The Coudersport Trust Company, a department of this bank, was organized in April, 1903, with M. S. Harvey, secretary and treasurer. No changes were then made in the personnel of the bank.

A bank was opened in Ulysses May 1, 1896, by John S. Rowley, assisted by his brother, F. E. Rowley. This bank was robbed of \$650 in April, 1903, the thieves escaping with their booty. The Rowley brothers were already preparing to close the bank.

The following concise account of the Galeton Banking Company was given me by Mr. Henry W. Lush:—"The company was

organized in September, 1895. Members of the firm were W. D. VanHorn, president of the First National Bank of Wellsboro; William O'Conner, a retired lumberman of Wellsboro, and Henry W. Lush, proprietor of the tannery store formerly belonging to the firm of W. & L. R. Gale. The capital stock was \$30,000. September 1, 1899, H. W. Lush, on account of the increasing population of Galeton and the growth of his own business sold his interest to W. D. VanHorn and William O'Conner. They in turn sold half interest to E. W. Gleckler, cashier of the First National Bank of Wellsboro, and George R. Mathers of the firm of Mathers, Graves & Company of Wellsboro. In 1905 E. W. Gleckler accepted a position with the Chemung Canal Trust Company of Elmira as cashier, and sold his interest in the Galeton Banking Company to H. H. Griswold, who at present holds the position of president of the Merchants' National Bank of Elmira. This bank continued in business till March 4, 1933."

The Citizens Safe Deposit and Trust Company was organized in May, 1903. The original officers were: P. A. Stebbins, president; James L. Knox, first vice president; Robert Olmsted, second vice president; N. A. Pinney, secretary and treasurer. The directors were G. H. Doane, J. Walter Wells, John Bodler, Charles P. Fee, Milo Lyman, Mrs. Lydia C. Lewis, D. W. Van Wegen, Homer R. White, Owen G. Metzger, A. C. Palmatier, Thomas J. Lawler, M. S. Thompson, Robert Olmsted, James L. Knox. The bank was opened for business June 1, 1903. The building the bank now occupies was erected immediately after the bank's organization, and was opened for business in October, 1904. The bank of Austin opened in their new building in the fall of 1902. The First National Bank of Galeton opened for business June 20, 1904, W. B. Layton, cashier.

To properly understand the development of railroads, telephones, and finance, just described, we must now consider the industries that were being built up at the same time. The years from 1899 to 1904 witnessed the most rapid growth of industry that ever had been seen, or probably ever will be seen, in Potter County. Such of these enterprises as were connected directly with the lumber industry have been already described in the preceding chapter. Besides these, several other manufacturing plants were located in our county during these years, most of them attracted by the prospect of gas for fuel, from the fields that were just then being opened up.

In 1899, the glass factory at North Coudersport was built. The owners were the Bradford Glass Company, in which Blaisdell Brothers were the chief stockholders. The factory was completed in September, and it was nearly ready to start, when the owners sold out to the American Window Glass Company. This caused some delay, but the factory finally started December 30, 1899.

95 men were on the initial payroll, and 37 tenant houses had already been erected by the company.

The Webb tile plant at the east end of Coudersport was built the following year, stock being taken by several local capitalists, and a site purchased from Carl Zimmerman on the old fair grounds. The factory started in the fall of 1900, and operated for a short time, but soon shut down. It is said that the reason was that their product was covered by a patent that belonged to another party. The plant remained idle till the fall of 1903, when it was leased by the Bastow Glass Company, makers of ornamental glassware, the workers in the factory and several local capitalists taking stock. A season of activity followed, but the plant burned in May, 1904. The financial backers of the firm refused to furnish the means to rebuild, and the whole enterprise was relegated to the list of ill-advised and defunct business ventures. The Potter Enterprise of that date quotes John B. Coulston, one of the capitalists interested, as follows: "Not by a d--d sight, we don't want any more glass factories."

In June, 1903, began the building of the cooperative glass factory at Roulet. This factory was owned mainly by the glass-blowers themselves. It started during the following season, and was in full operation at the close of the period we are now considering.

The Palmer window glass factory at Shinglehouse was built during the season of 1901. It employed 300 men, thus being considerably larger than the glass factories at Coudersport and Roulet. The population of the town was considerably increased, creating a demand for new houses. Thirty tenant houses were built by the owners of the factory, besides some by other land-owners. The Palmer Window Glass Company invested considerable capital in gas leases, and their aim was to control their own fuel supply, independently of the gas companies.

Another industrial plant built at Coudersport in 1900 was the plant of the Northern Condensed Milk Company, at the lower end of town. This alone of all the industrial enterprises launched in Coudersport during this period has endured to the present. Its original promoters condemned it as a failure within the first year of its existence. The Northern Condensed Milk Company operated only a few months. It then remained idle till the fall of 1902, when it came under new management. The many vicissitudes through which this industry passed before attaining the stability it now possesses will be related in the following chapters.

In 1899, Carl Zimmerman built a brick yard on the site he afterwards sold to the Webb tile plant, at the west end of the old Fair Grounds, and began the manufacture of brick. This brick yard was operated only a single season, before the owner

sold the land, which was in 1900. But the two brick houses near by, now occupied by Mrs. Frona Corsaw and Mrs. Blanche Braitmeyer, were built by Mr. Zimmerman from brick burned in his own kiln, 125,000 having been made in the season of 1899. In the season of 1901, Mr. Zimmerman, in partnership with George Clark and L. F. Andrews, opened a brick yard on the Taggart place below Coudersport; and burned 217,000 brick, most of them being used in the construction of the buildings erected in Coudersport that season.

The Gray Chemical Company began in 1898 with a small plant for the manufacture of wood alcohol located on the C. & P. A. R. R. just east of Port Allegany, built by John Gray. Monta C. Burt, now the president of the company, was then bookkeeper and helper in the plant. In 1902, another factory was built at Roulet, the nucleus of the plant as it is today. On the death of John Gray in 1910, Mr. Burt succeeded to the management of the business. This industry will be again mentioned in a later chapter.

The biggest industrial plant built in the county during the period from 1899 to 1904 was that of the Bayless Pulp & Paper Company at Austin, erected in 1900. After considerable negotiation between the company and the citizens of Austin, who were represented by W. H. Sullivan, an agreement was signed June 6, 1900, locating the plant at Austin, right of way to be furnished for a switch to the plant, and some other concessions to be made by the citizens. The buildings were erected during that season, the complete outfitting of the plant occupying a part of the following year. The original dam across the valley of Freeman Run for the water supply required at the plant, built in 1901, was a comparatively small one, and was submerged when the larger dam was built in 1909. Its remains may still be seen above the ruins of the big dam that was destroyed in 1911, and below the dam now in use. It was built of native stone laid in cement and flanked by earth embankments on both sides. The mill, during its early years of operation, obtained its stock from the slabs and other waste of the hemlock saw mills, as well as from cordwood cut expressly for the purpose. The later history of this industry belongs to the next chapter.

There was a long succession of fires from 1895 to 1904, in addition to those I have already described in connection with the lumbering industry. Besides the great forest fires of 1891 and 1895, one occurred in May, 1900, along the line of the C. & P. A. railroad northeast of Coudersport, that menaced adjoining buildings and blocked railroad traffic by burning the ties and causing the rails to spread. Another series of forest fires occurred in the spring of 1903 at various points in the county, threatening



Coudersport, endangering buildings at Odin, Reesville, and other points, and destroying the mill at Cross Fork, which however, was promptly rebuilt.

In July, 1896, a fire of major proportions occurred in Ulysses, destroying the business section on the west side of Main Street. The office of the Ulysses Sentinel, Hosley's clothing store, Beagle's grocery, Marion's hardware, a hotel barn and three small barns, all burned. Ed Bourdoff, caretaker for the Methodist Church, was burned to death.

A fire at Costello in March, 1898, destroyed two blocks, embracing several stores and an opera house. Another fire in Costello occurred in October, 1898, consuming three business places, three dwellings, and an empty building belonging to Dr. Rees. In May, 1904, two more houses were burned at Costello and two little girls burned to death.

In April, 1898, the town of Genesee suffered a fire loss estimated at \$30,000. It comprised four stores owned by Bryan McGinnis, the hotel barn of A. L. Ewell, the dwelling of R. R. Raymond, and the store and storehouse of John H. Carpenter. In February, 1903, another fire destroyed two stores, a blacksmith shop, and the Methodist church.

On January 2, 1899, six business places burned in Galeton, and several families were burned out.

On February 10, 1899, occurred the worst fire in Coudersport since the great blaze of 1880. It destroyed a portion of the block on the west side of Main Street, beginning with the feed store of M. L. Gridley, located where Jack Smith's drug store now stands. Next to this stood Mark Gillon's tailor shop, where the fire started, then Hugh Kernan's barber shop, Allen's hardware and tinware, Schilderberger's cigar store, partly occupied by W. M. Metzger, bakery. On the second floor of the Gridley building were living rooms occupied by Charles Andress, who saved his goods, and over the other stores were the dwellings of S. B. Monroe and Charles Thompson, whose loss was total. The business places were mostly insured. This fire occurred on an excessively cold night, and it is claimed that the water pressure in the city lines was low on account of so many residents of the town leaving their faucets open to prevent freezing. More trouble was caused by frozen hydrants.

On the Sunday following, February 12, a fire at Sweden Valley destroyed three buildings, two of them occupied as dwelling houses by Art Kimball and Martin Graves.

In March, 1899, occurred the worst fire in the history of Harrison Valley, levelling all the main business section. Another fire in June, 1902 destroyed two stores, the Erway Hotel, and a dwelling. Not all of these buildings were ever rebuilt.

In October, 1900, a fire at Lymansville destroyed the saw and planing mill of L. A. Glase, the creamery, and three dwelling houses.

In November, 1900, the McGonigal hotel at Oswayo burned, and four lives were lost. It was only by the utmost exertion that the adjoining buildings were saved. A few days later, five buildings burned at Cross Fork. Six more burned in April, 1901.

In December, 1901, the Weisert block of four stores at North Coudersport burned. These stores had been built in 1899 where the filling station of C. G. Hoover stands now. A portion of the railroad shops at Austin burned at almost the same time.

In January, 1902, occurred a fire of major proportions at Roulet, destroying most of the business places in the central part of the town, including the postoffice, Eimer's hardware, the Odd Fellows' hall, the Spafford store, and the hotel of Tim Cavanaugh.

In April, 1903, there was a \$30,000 fire at Shinglehouse. The main section of the old part of the town was destroyed, including ten buildings. Little insurance was carried, as this district was known by insurance companies to be a bad risk, and their rates were almost prohibitive. Heretofore, the town had had no fire protection.

In May, 1903, the store, railroad depot, and five houses belonging to the Lackawanna Lumber Company at Mina all burned.

Two more fires occurred in Coudersport before the close of this period. The store of Thomas Moffatt at North Coudersport burned in July, 1903. In May, 1904, the third major fire occurred in the business section of Coudersport, recalling the conflagrations of 1880 and 1899. It started near the south end of the block on the east side of Main Street between Oak street and Allegany Avenue. It spread rapidly northward, driven by a strong breeze, and could not be stopped till the entire block was consumed, as well as the Knox barns on the west side of East Street near the foot bridge, and a house belonging to Gates Brothers, occupied by Clayton Elliott. At this time there was no building where the Clark Garage now stands. The East Street foot bridge caught fire, but was extinguished. The Knox residence, now the Old Hickory Tavern, also caught fire, but was saved by extra exertion, as it was only too plain that if it should burn, the whole section north of it on First Street would also be doomed. The burned block consisted of the following business places and dwellings:—

J. E. Forster store, occupied by Underwood Brothers, grocers.

Thomas Mulcahy store, occupied by Philip Evans, flour and feed; Mrs. Wakely in dwelling above.

Joseph Feltwell store, occupied by C. C. Chapman, music and feed store; W. M. Herrington, residing above.

Grabe & Klesa brick store, occupied by Caroline Blanchard, groceries. Building damaged, but not destroyed; B. D. Ives, residence above.

Farmers' Hotel and barns.

One story building of H. D. Fleschutz.

Knights of Labor building, occupied by W. H. Hausheer, groceries; hall on the second floor.

The Baptist parsonage was saved by hard work.

Not all of this block has been rebuilt, a considerable space being now occupied only by billboards and weed patches. This fire is the worst that ever occurred in Coudersport with the exception of that of 1880.

The reader will naturally pronounce this an appalling amount of fire loss for so short a time, especially when we add to the fires just enumerated that at Austin in 1897 and that at Galeton in 1893, already described in the preceding chapter, completing the list of major fires in every important town in the county. A few communities, like those at Harrison Valley and Costello, did not completely recover what they had lost. But these fires occurred simultaneously with the rise of the highest tide of prosperity our county has ever known. Most of the burned buildings were insured, and nearly all were rebuilt in a very short time. The progress of industry was affected hardly at all. New buildings arose in Coudersport, Ulysses, Genesee, and Shinglehouse, better built than those that had been destroyed.

As a matter of course, the founding of so many new industries was accompanied by the erection of many new houses and business places. The number of new houses built at this time can not be accurately stated, but is very great. The expansion of Coudersport included the 37 houses built by the owners of the glass factory, in the district we now call Rubbertown; the Coulston Row on North Main Street; the Doane Row on East Second Street; several houses on Ross and Dwight Streets, and a block of houses on East Seventh Street and Woodlawn Avenue. Other buildings erected in Coudersport were the Grabe brick store; the C. & P. A. depot and roundhouse; the residence of W. I. Lewis, now belonging to his son, Judge Robert R. Lewis; the Stephens brick block on the corner of Main and Second Streets, and the brownstone front on the National Hotel. The Dreamyland Inn, on the old Fair Grounds, was built by L. B. Seibert in 1903, as a summer hotel. At the close of the period under consideration, it was at the zenith of popularity, and its dance hall regularly drew crowds that paid a profit to the owner. In a few years more, it fell into disuse.

In Austin, the Bayless Row and the Starkweather houses were built during this period, most of them in the season of 1900. Coincident with this expansion, Sullivan & Collins announced a

10 per cent increase of wages in the Goodyear mills at Austin and Galetton, affecting 500 men.

At the February election in 1901, the people of Potter County voted to build a county house. The site was purchased from Frank Andrews, with the farm of about 400 acres and accompanying equipment, for \$10,000. Plans for the building were drawn by Charles M. Robinson of Pittsburg. The contract for the building was taken by Dean & Havens of Olean for \$58,300, the work to be completed by March 1, 1902. The County Home as then erected has since required only minor repairs and alterations.

The paving of the streets of Coudersport was the next public work to be undertaken. After an attempt in 1901 that was almost successful, the obstacles, financial and otherwise, that had held up this undertaking, were overcome, and a contract signed in May, 1902, for the paving of Main Street from the Allegheny River bridge to Sixth Street with buff brick, the specifications including the necessary sewers, traps, and curbs, two-thirds of the cost to be borne by the owners of the property abutting on the street, the boro to have the option of further extending the limit of the paving at the same rate. Such extension was made, so that the finished pavement extended from Maple Street to Seventh Street. It was completed in November, 1902. The total cost was \$32,684.63.

There was considerable agitation in 1903 for municipal waterworks in Coudersport; in fact, a vote taken that fall showed a majority of one in favor of this plan. But so narrow a majority was not deemed sufficient, and the project was not carried out.

A vote on the same question in the boro of Austin in August, 1901, gave the decisive result of 157 to 59 in favor of waterworks owned by the boro. The people of Austin were seriously handicapped in this undertaking by the fact that most of the available sources of water supply were owned by the Bayless Pulp and Paper Company and the Goodyear Lumber Company, who refused to allow their water to be diverted for the use of the town. But the project was eventually carried to success. The strong popular support it commanded was due to the wretched condition of the waterworks then existing, which had caused several cases of typhoid fever. The water company had been either unable or unwilling to make any improvements. The boro at once prepared to build waterworks.

But they were restrained in January, 1902, by an injunction granted by Judge Olmsted in behalf of the water company, represented by John P. McIntyre, who foresaw the loss of his business. This led to further litigation, the case being carried to the Supreme Court and Judge Olmsted's decision affirmed in May, 1903.

But the people of Austin were not beaten. They now entered suit to compel the annulment of the charter of the Potter Water Company, on the ground that by furnishing impure water, they had not performed their part of the contract with the boro. This case was decided for the boro at the June term of court, 1903, but was appealed by the water company. In June, 1905, the case, having reached the Supreme Court, was finally decided in favor of Austin Boro, putting the Potter Water Company permanently out of business. The long and costly fight for pure water that had been waged by the people of Austin was won. The construction of municipal waterworks was begun in September, 1905.

In 1895, Coudersport was divided into two wards for election purposes, and the boro enlarged to its present limits. As originally organized in 1848, the boro consisted of only 93 acres, nearly all of this area lying north and west of the Allegheny River. This was enlarged in 1851 to include what is now the South Side and a part of what now constitutes the eastern edge of town. No further change was made between 1851 and 1895.

The town of Oswayo was organized as a boro in March, 1901. The year 1901 also marks the organization of Shinglehouse as a boro, and the division of Sharon township into two election districts. Galeton was divided into wards in December, 1904. No boro has since been organized in the county, and no township lines changed, except that the East Fork district, a part of Eulalia township, was finally allowed a separate polling place several years ago.

A milestone of progress during this period was the opening of the rural mail routes from several of the postoffices in the county. Coudersport routes 1 and 2, covering the district of Crandall Hill, Steer Brook, and Baker Creek, were established in October, 1902. Routes were established from Roulet and Oswayo at about the same time. Other routes followed at intervals from both Coudersport and Roulet, and later, from Ulysses, Genesee, Costello and Galeton. The first route from Shinglehouse was established in 1906. One of the last routes to take place in the list was that from Keating Summit, in January, 1916.

A host of newspapers came into existence prior to the year 1904, besides the three already mentioned in the preceding chapters. Only a few survived any length of time. The first Shinglehouse paper was the Palladium, which appeared in 1880, A. A. Pearsall, editor, L. H. Bailey, publisher. The name was changed to the Signal in 1883, and Frank E. Bailey became the owner. The Sharon Leader was founded in 1888 by John P. Herrick, who purchased the equipment of the former paper. He soon afterwards consolidated with the Ceres Courant, and moved

across the county line to Ceres, the paper being called the Oswayo Valley Mail, afterwards the Ceres Mail. This paper was purchased by C. A. Herrick in 1898, and in 1900 he removed to Shinglehouse, renaming the paper the Oswayo Valley Mail. The paper has since endured.

Next in order is the Potter Democrat, established in October, 1893, by Luther Seibert, D. S. Seibert, and Lewis T. Lewis, the last named retiring after a few months. John F. Stone, John B. Coulston, and C. R. Unkrich were editors in short succession. The paper had good financial backing, and some of the elements of permanency. F. S. Thomas was the editor at a later period. It was purchased by Arch Bernard and W. D. Fish in July, 1919, and the name changed to the Potter Independent. It ceased publication in March, 1920.

The Galeton Leader-Dispatch began as the Galeton Paragraph in November, 1894, Ralph Lord and James B. Turner, editors. The paper was sold to the Galeton Publishing Company in 1895, and renamed the Galeton Gazette. In 1896, Lord & Eaton were the proprietors and the name was the Galeton Dispatch. There were several changes of ownership from 1896 to 1903, when the paper was consolidated with the Galeton Leader, which had been founded in 1902 by Effie R. Beever. The paper has been continued under the name Leader Dispatch ever since.

The Austin Autograph was established in 1887 by Arthur J. Hughes. Harry D. Caskey was the editor, and he purchased the paper in 1890, and continued as editor during the life of the paper, which endured till the great Austin flood of 1911. The Autograph was always Democratic in politics. The editor delighted in picturesque language and sensational news items, and was the target for many gibes from the more conservative Potter County papers. He was from first to last a foe of our local prohibitory law. Only a partial file of the Autograph is in existence. The following item from an issue of March, 1899, is characteristic:—

“Monday morning witnessed another evacuation in Austin. It was the date for the convening of the regular March term of court. Professional men, business men, drinking men, temperance men, gamblers, fighters, and thieves, were all on one common footing, as near as a subpoena would make them. One would have thought that it was an excursion over the ‘picturesque B. & S.’ route.” Caskey, himself, was subpoenaed on this occasion.

The Austin Republican was established in 1898 by William H. Sullivan. It passed through several changes of proprietorship till it was purchased by O. N. Bouton in 1904. It ceased publication in February, 1906.

The Roulet Recorder was founded in 1898 by Arlie L. Corwin, one of the most talented and enterprising newspaper men that Potter County has ever produced. He found it very difficult to put his paper on a paying basis, but managed to continue its publication during his lifetime. His untimely death in March, 1917, removed a genius from the newspaper fraternity. His heirs continued the publication of the paper till July, 1919.

The Cross Fork News was established in September, 1897, by R. J. Lord. After changing owners several times, it was purchased by M. J. Colcord, of the Potter County Journal in 1903, W. D. Fish, now of the Potter Enterprise, being the editor. He afterwards purchased Mr. Colcord's interest in the paper. The demise of this paper in 1906 was principally due to the fact that the town itself was verging to extinction as a result of the waning of the lumber industry. Mr. Fish removed to Richwood, West Virginia, where he remained only a short time.

The rest of the papers established in Potter County during this period had no enduring qualities, lasting in most cases only a few months. I give here a list of names, proprietors and dates of publication, so far as they are obtainable. Possibly one or two papers are not mentioned. Coudersport papers:—

The Union Workman, James B. Turner, 1888. Purchased by A. J. Quimby in 1889, and removed to Johnsonburg, Pa., a few months later, and incorporated in the Breeze.

The Farmers' Voice, October, 1891, James B. Turner, later editors, George W. Gladwin and Charles Nelson. Herman D. Fleschutz became the proprietor in November, 1892. Sold to Victor M. Allen, March, 1893, suspended July, 1893. Farmers' Advocate, 1893, Bailey & Peterson. Lasted one year. The Potter Populist, A. J. Quimby, 1895. Lasted 8 months.

Harrison Valley:—The Valley Mail. George Wood leased a newspaper outfit of J. S. Ryan of Elkland in 1895. He changed the name of his paper to the Prohibition Banner for a short time, afterwards resuming the name of the Valley Mail. 8 months existence in all.

Genesee:—The Genesee Times, 1899, V. M. Allen, sold to W. D. Fish and repurchased. Suspended in January, 1902. Followed by the Review, a monthly magazine; suspended in November, 1902. The paper was purchased by R. L. Hurd in 1903, and renamed the Genesee Times. It endured under various proprietorships till February, 1914.

Oswayo:—The Oswayo Record, December, 1900, F. S. Blackman. Discontinued March, 1902. The editor moved to Port Allegany and established the Argus.

Galeton:—The Worker, April, 1904, Oliver W. Grimm. Short-lived, date of suspension I have not learned.

Sweden Valley:—The Sweden Valley Times, Elymas Hackett, March to June, 1896.

Besides the mushroom papers just named, there were a few sponsored by Potter County citizens and printed outside the county: Strang's Leisure Reading, Mills, 1885; the Union Messenger, John J. Klein, Mina, some time between 1890 and 1900; the Crystal Fountain, Parker & Alvord, Coudersport, 1894.

For the above information on Potter County newspapers I am chiefly indebted to an article in the Journal of May 25, 1904, by W. W. Thompson, one of the ablest newspaper men of our county seat, and author of several invaluable articles on Potter County history.

The Austin Hospital came into existence in 1898, at first in a small building. In 1899, F. H. Goodyear donated his residence on the hill for this purpose, also contributing towards furnishing the building as a hospital, the townspeople assuming part of the expense, and raising a sum of money by means of a fair held for that purpose. An appropriation of \$2500 per year for this hospital was recommended by the State Board of Charities in 1901, putting the institution on a basis that enabled it to continue. An appropriation of \$6000 was secured in April, 1903. This support was continued for about twenty years but was finally withdrawn. The building was sold and torn down in 1930.

Only a few data can be found concerning the part played by Potter County in the Spanish War of 1898. The following men from Coudersport served in the army during this war: James G. Covey, Charles Wolverton, Almeron Lyman, James Groves, John Allen, Frank Metzger, Thomas Harrington. William Blanchard and Victor Baker served during the Philippine insurrection. Mrs. W. L. Nuschke in her History of Austin mentions the names of Edward and William Campbell, Larry Johnson, Alfred Trude and Alex Rambeau (who became a captain) as having enlisted from that town. To the names already given, I am able to add those of Hugh McLeod and Wallace S. Mix, of Keating Summit, Arthur M. Devall, of Wharton, and Charles Chilson, then of Ulysses, who served in the Philippines, and was discharged for disability in 1900. This is by no means a complete list. Without doubt there were men who enlisted from other Potter County towns.

The rapid increase of population in the lumbering and industrial districts, bringing, as it always does, a large influx of transient and irresponsible dwellers, brought an increasing demand for the repeal of Potter's local prohibitory law. The Schwarzenbach brewery of Germania obtained a license in May, 1891, and had then been operated for upwards of thirty years, breweries having been exempted in the provisions of the local



prohibitory act of 1866, but not permitted to sell beer in quantities less than one gallon. At the May session of court, 1891, Frank Murdock applied for a wholesale liquor license in Austin, it being hoped by the liquor men that Judge Olmsted would so construe the law as to exempt wholesale liquor dealers, as well as brewers, from its application. In this they were disappointed, and Murdock's application was refused. The pig's ears, as the illegal drinking places of those times were dubbed, were held in contempt by people generally, and were sometimes raided by irate citizens. Such a thing happened in Galeton in August, 1896. A low dive and pig's ear kept by Erastus Stiles was surprised one night by a crowd of men among whom were some of the volunteer fire company. Windows were broken, and the inmates driven out by vigorous application of a stream from the fire hose. This of course was mob law, and Stiles threatened legal action, but it appears that none was taken on his part. But at the September session of court in 1896, Erastus Stiles and Eliza Stiles were found guilty of selling liquor.

A similar incident took place at Ellisburg in August, 1897. The proprietor of a pigs ear at that place was rudely disturbed one evening by a gang of masked men who proceeded to set his furniture and stock in trade into the middle of the road. An exciting scene followed, and the proprietor gave vent to some loud and abusive language. At a picnic at Genesee a few days later, he indiscreetly boasted that he could "lick the hull of Ellisburg". Certain young men from Ellisburg who were present speedily proved to him in a very practical way that this was an error.

The agitation against our local prohibitory law finally led to the passage of an act by the State Legislature to submit the question to the voters of the county, which was done at the election in February, 1900. The act of April, 1866, forbidding the sale of liquor in Potter County, was repealed by a decisive majority, but the boro of Coudersport gave a majority against repeal, this vote, in the opinion of the court, leaving the act of March 27, 1866, still in force, which forbade the selling of liquor in Coudersport Boro. Saloons were ready to open in all the wet districts of the county. In May, 1900, licenses were granted by the court as follows: Three in Germania, five in Austin, one in Hulls, seven in Galeton, two in Genesee, two in Costello, three in Roulet, four in Cross Fork, one in Oleona, one in Wharton. It will be noted that Genesee is the only point in the north of the county where license was granted at this time.

Judge Olmsted's term expired in 1903, and at a closely contested election in November, 1902, John Ormerod, of Coudersport, was elected as his successor. There is no doubt that he was elected largely by means of the liquor vote. In May, 1903,

Judge Ormerod granted license in Coudersport, holding that the act of March 27, 1866, was also repealed by implication when the act of April 11, 1866 was repealed. A legal contest followed, and the Superior Court decided that the whole act of repeal was unconstitutional, and that no license could be granted in the county. This decision, however, was reversed by the Supreme Court, and license was granted all over the county, including Coudersport. Judge Ormerod granted many licenses in communities such as Ulysses, Gold, and Harrison Valley, where the sentiment of the community was strongly opposed to liquor and the requisite number of signers to a petition for license could be obtained only with difficulty. It is quite certain that if Judge Ormerod had, like Judge Olmsted, refused licenses in these places and at Coudersport, his decisions would have remained unquestioned by the higher courts. The further history of this subject belongs to the next chapter.

From 1883 to 1903 our courts were presided over by Judge Arthur G. Olmsted. Judge Olmsted's career is so closely identified with the progress of Potter County, that a sketch of his life and activities properly belongs here.

Arthur George Olmsted was born in 1827, the son of Daniel Olmsted, who settled in Ulysses township in 1836. Young Arthur attended the old Coudersport Academy, and studied law in the office of John S. Mann. He was admitted to the bar in 1850, and was an ardent Free Soil man in the days preceding the Civil War. In 1860 he married Ellen Ross, daughter of David and Mary A. Ross, well-known among the early citizens of Coudersport. Mr. Olmsted was elected to the Legislature in 1862, and was a member of several important committees, later becoming Republican leader in the House, and being elected Speaker in 1865. He was elected to the State Senate in 1868, and served with distinction, retiring to private life only because of the defeat of the Republican Party in the State. He was appointed additional law judge in 1881, and on the creation of the 48th judicial district, composed of Potter and McKean counties, was elected President Judge in 1883, the first Potter County man to attain that honor. He was one of the original directors of the C. & P. A. railroad. As judge, his decisions were rarely reversed. The rooms occupied by the Coudersport Public Library were donated by Judge Olmsted for that purpose. He also, in 1905, erected the building now occupied by the Coudersport volunteer fire company at a cost of \$4000, which he donated to the fire company, together with equipment costing \$550.

Judge Olmsted's declining years were afflicted by poor health, requiring the services of a professional nurse for some time preceding his death, which occurred September 18, 1914, at the

age of 87. His estate at the time was estimated at \$689,000. His predecessor as President Judge in the courts of Potter County was Judge Henry W. Williams, of Tioga County. Judge Williams was an able and high-minded public servant. During his latter years, he was elevated to the Supreme Court of the State. He died suddenly, January 25, 1899.

Some minor events that occurred during this period are worth noticing. The first automobile in the county was purchased by Father D. S. Sheehan of Coudersport in May, 1903, and was used by him on a trip to Galeton and Germania with C. P. Fee as a passenger. John B. Coulston bought another of the new-fangled machines in August following, also Robert R. Lewis. An X-ray machine, the first ever used in this section, was bought by Dr. E. H. Ashcraft in January, 1903. The Sweden Valley ice mine was opened by John Dodd in the summer of 1901. Its original owner derived little profit from it. A similar cave on the property of Napoleon Pelchy on Dingman Run was known to exist so long ago as 1904, but has never been developed and exploited to catch the attention of curiosity-hunters. The mineral spring at Harrison Valley was tapped in the fall of 1900, and the adjoining hotel was built in 1903. This spring is still regarded by many as possessing valuable curative properties. Several new roads were opened during this period. Many of these are now abandoned, but not all. Among those still in use are the road up Bark Shanty Run from Odin to Keating Summit, opened in 1895, and the back road from Galeton to Watrous, opened in 1902. In the summer of 1896, the bridge over the Allegheny on the Reed Run road below Mina, broke down with a wagon load of picnickers, plunging them in the river. Fortunately no one was seriously injured. The bridge was not rebuilt till the summer of 1904. In March, 1902, George Hoffman, of Coudersport, won \$2750 in damages from the boro for injuries received when a wagon tipped over on West Street, which he claimed was due to the negligence of the boro in not keeping the street in repair. Public opinion was so much at variance with this verdict that Hoffman found Coudersport a very unpleasant place to live in, and soon afterwards removed to a small farm near Buffalo, where he spent the rest of his days.

At the December term of court, 1893, occurred the conviction of George W. King, of Hector, of barratry. Few readers will understand the nature of the offense denoted by this word. Mr. King had become a nuisance to his neighbors by going to law over petty grievances, winning many such cases on some legal technicality. He made so many enemies in this way that they at last acted in concert and consulted an able attorney, who advised them that the continual use of the law by a man as a means to annoy his neighbors constituted a legal offense called

barratry, which was punishable by a small fine and costs of prosecution. The case was carried to court, and King was convicted. So many witnesses were called to testify against him that the bill of costs that he was forced to pay amounted to about \$300. It is to be presumed that his relish for litigation was thereafter somewhat impaired.

The stone quarries at Coneville and near Galeton were developed into industries of some importance. Stone from the Galeton quarries were used in construction at such a distant point as the Delaware Water Gap.

The winter of 1903-04 was the coldest ever known in Potter County. The ground froze on November 17, and remained frozen till spring. The thermometer registered  $-34^{\circ}$  on the morning of January 5, some localities having records from 2 to 6 degrees lower.

A few industries came to an end prior to 1904. The R. J. Gaffney wood alcohol plant at Austin ceased to operate some time during the 1890's, after running a few years. The Roulet tannery closed in April, 1901, and removed to Portville, N. Y. The plant of the Penn Tanning Company at Oswayo was so badly damaged by fire in January, 1903, that it closed for good in the summer of that year. The tannery at Shinglehouse also shut down for good about the same time. The old Keystone grist mill at Coudersport ground its last grain in the fall of 1903, and the carding and woolen mill of C. J. Marble near by had been dismantled and moved to Troy, Pa., in 1898. The ill-starred glass tile factory was in ashes. But despite these deflections, industry in Potter County may fairly be said to have reached the peak of its development at this time. The population of Potter in 1900 was 30,621, and 1904 was estimated at 33,000—nearly double what it is today. The estimated figure for Galeton, then the metropolis of the county, was 4213. Coudersport boasted a population of about 3500. Our mills hummed with activity, and lumbering gave employment to an army of woodsmen. Two glass factories lit their fires in the fall of 1904, and a third, the Elk Flint Bottle Company, had already begun blowing bottles at Shinglehouse. People talked of Coudersport and Galeton as likely to become cities in the near future. The B. & S. railroad was projected to Buffalo and to Pittsburg, and was already running into the coal fields of Indiana County. It was expected that it would become an important trunk line, and plans had been made to build a new cut-off from Austin to Cutler Summit, driving a tunnel a mile long through Mina Hill and passing through Coudersport. A certain newspaper even went so far as to announce that this was a sure thing and that work would begin soon. New farms were being cleared on the cut-over lands, and older farmers were putting up modern barns and

houses. Produce found a ready market in the busy towns and lumber camps. Gas production was on the increase, and fortunes were being made thereby. Banks had been established in Coudersport, Galeton, Austin, and Ulysses, and one was just being organized at Genesee. Preparations were in progress for the celebration of the Centennial of the organization of Potter County, the greatest achievement in its line that Potter has ever reached. Such was the state of affairs in Potter County in August, 1904.

## CHAPTER X

### THE DECLINE OF INDUSTRY. 1904-1915

On August 10, 11, and 12, 1904, was held the biggest and most worth-while celebration that has ever taken place in Potter County, in honor of our hundredth birthday. The success of the undertaking was due to the work of a very able committee, with a representative in each township and boro in the county. To Mr. M. J. Colcord, more than to any other man, belongs the credit of the management, though several others contributed almost as much in talent and whole-hearted support. The addresses that were delivered on this occasion take a leading rank among the papers that I have consulted in preparing this history. First comes a speech by Hon. Marlin E. Olmsted on the organization of Potter County, a masterly oration revealing much research and study in its preparation. Marlin E. Olmsted was a Potter County boy, son of Henry J. Olmsted, the well-known hardware merchant of Coudersport, and nephew of Judge Arthur G. Olmsted, whose life I have already sketched. While still a young man, he located in Harrisburg, and was sent to Congress from Dauphin County in 1878, serving eight terms. He took a prominent place among the lawyers of the State capital. He died in 1913.

The other leading speaker, Hon. Hugh Young of Wellsboro, lived in Coudersport as a young man, but spent the greater part of his life in the neighboring county of Tioga. He was born in Ireland, coming to America in 1850 with his twin brother, Thomas L. Young, who afterwards became Governor of the State of Ohio. Another brother, Robert K. Young, was a well-known farmer of Portage township, on whose land a large part of the village of Costello was built. Hugh Young studied law in the office of John S. Mann, taught school, and surveyed land. He lived for a time in Kansas before the Civil War, taking part in the fierce struggle to make Kansas a Free State. At this time, he was a special correspondent to the New York Tribune. Returning to the East, he became a bookkeeper in the office of the Bingham Estate, and in 1858 became the owner of the Wellsboro Agitator, and later the president of the Tioga Savings and Trust Company, the leading bank in Wellsboro. His wife was before her marriage Lois Ann Butterworth of Coudersport, niece of David Wilmot. Thus Hon. Hugh Young was especially identified with the interests of Potter County, though not himself a resident of the county since his youth. He died in October, 1912.

Besides the two illustrious speakers I have just sketched, Hon. W. I. Lewis delivered an address on old times in Ulysses, of equal merit with the two orations just mentioned. He was so well known by people still living, and so prominent in public affairs during his lifetime, that a sketch of him is hardly called for here. He organized the Citizens' Gas Company in Coudersport in 1892, and the Potter Gas Company in 1898, besides being a leader in many other business enterprises. He died in 1913.

A. Sidney Lyman, a veteran of the Civil War, delivered an address to the old soldiers. During the greater part of his life he was a farmer on the Eleven Mile in Oswayo township, but he lived in Coudersport in the latter years of his life. He was a son of Eleazer Lyman, an early settler on the Eleven Mile, and a cousin of Major Isaac Lyman.

A gorgeous parade was one of the features of the celebration. All the industries of Coudersport were represented, as well as the business places, and several floats were gotten up by private citizens, the whole making up a splendid array of Potter at the zenith of prosperity. The B. & S. ran a special train to Coudersport, sending a log-loader and crew to demonstrate the work of the Goodyear Lumber Company. A large collection of priceless relics of early days was on exhibition at the old Presbyterian church, now Recreation Hall. The owners of these keepsakes would have been willing that they should remain as a permanent historical museum, but adequate arrangements for their storage and care could not then be made, so they were returned to their owners. A few of them are now in the collection of the Potter County Historical Society.

Besides these valuable features of the Centennial, there were many attractions of a popular nature; an ox-roast, merry-go-rounds and other amusements, and a balloon ascension—airplanes were then in the future. The Centennial will be remembered by those of us who were present as the most noteworthy event of its kind that ever took place in Potter County. The crowd was the largest ever seen at Coudersport up to that time, estimated at 6000 people, though this was little more than a guess.

In the summer of 1905 was held the Five County Firemen's Convention at Coudersport. By some it is believed that this event drew a bigger crowd than the Centennial. This may or may not be true, but some of the features of the Firemen's Convention were of a questionable sort, gambling games and other catchpenny devices. The Convention was held annually till 1914, each year in a new locality, till its territory finally included seven counties in New York and Pennsylvania. It was at length discontinued, ostensibly because it had become so large that no town could be found willing to extend an invitation to the fire

companies. The truth is, that the Firemen's Convention was a noisy, boisterous affair, taxing policemen to the utmost to keep order, and alienating the more conservative citizens of the towns where it had been held.

The most important business enterprise in the county up to the year 1904 was the B. & S. railroad. The road had not yet reached its greatest extension. The shops at Galeton were enlarged in the fall of 1904. In June, 1905, the southern extension of the road was completed as far as Dubois, the road being ultimately extended beyond that point to the coal fields owned by the Goodyears in Indiana and Armstrong counties, the terminal being at Sagamore, Pa. It was planned that trains should eventually be run into Pittsburg. The B. & S. and the Powhatan Coal Company, a subsidiary corporation, were estimated to control 39,000,000 tons of coal.

The route from Wellsville to Buffalo had been surveyed in the summer of 1902, and this division of the road incorporated in September of that year. In January, 1905, the Buffalo Attica and Arcade Railroad was purchased and added to the B. & S. system. F. H. Goodyear succeeded Marlin E. Olmsted as president of the company in November, 1905. Twenty-five new heavy engines were ordered, and in the following February, six new passenger coaches. The Buffalo division of the road began regular service as far as Springville, N. Y., on September 17, 1906, and the first B. & S. train ran into Buffalo December 11, 1906. The use of the union passenger station in Buffalo, belonging to the New York Central railroad was secured for the B. & S.

But a higher Power willed that Frank H. Goodyear should not carry through the ambitious plans that he had prosecuted with such genius and energy. Death cut short his career in May, 1907. Had he lived to carry out his designs, we may easily believe that Mina Hill would have been tunneled, new business would have been found for the B. & S., and the road would have been brought to an equal footing with the other railroads entering Buffalo from the coal fields of Pennsylvania. From this time on, the story of the B. & S. is a reversal of its previous history. C. W. Goodyear did not possess the vim and enterprise that had belonged to his brother. He himself died in April, 1911.

In February, 1908, a number of the B. & S. employees were discharged at Galeton, and wages were cut 10 per cent, the men having been already reduced to 32 hours work each week. Several costly accidents had already happened on the road. A passenger train was wrecked at Cross Fork Junction in January, 1907, due to an open switch; one man was killed and seventeen injured. Another passenger train was wrecked near Keating Summit in the following April, ten persons being injured, though



none seriously. In June, 1907, a collision occurred at First Fork, in which two men were killed and several others seriously injured. This last accident was the fault of the train-dispatcher. But the steep grades and sharp curves of the B. & S. made the road especially liable to train wrecks.

Several more employees were discharged in October, 1909, bringing on serious discontent among the men. A strike and lockout ensued, 150 strike-breakers being put to work in November. In January, 1910, the officials of the road were taken to task by the railroad commissioners of the State of New York, the road being charged with poor service. Trains were often late, freight trains were allowed to hold up mails and passengers, and there were delays due to engine failures. Within a week, five train crews were laid off at Galeton, besides several at other points. Fisk & Robinson, bond dealers of New York City, failed in February, 1910, because of the depreciation of the 4½ per cent bonds of the B. & S. held by them.

In April, 1910, the road became insolvent, and a receiver was appointed. In August, 1910, the strike was finally adjusted after a duration of ten months. There was then a period of over two years of operation without incident of special note. But the business of the road had immensely fallen off. A small amount of coal was still shipped, but it was necessary to keep two engines busy day and night putting freight up each of the two hills at Hogback and Cutler Summit. Seven cars of coal were all the two engines could handle at one trip.

The last train ran into Cross Fork on May 31, 1913, the lumber business there being at an end. The town had already shrunk from a population of 1500 to less than 200. The rails on the Cross Fork branch were taken up soon afterwards.

In August, 1913, the B. & S. was advertised for sale to satisfy the mortgage holders. The sale took place in December, the names appearing as purchasers being J. A. Farlee and Lyman Rhoades, who were supposed to represent the bondholders. H. I. Miller, who had been receiver of the road since its bankruptcy, still took a cheerful view, saying that the road was then earning its fixed charges. The Goodyear interests were no longer identified with the road, which was reorganized at this time.

In October, 1914, it was announced that the division from Wellsville to Buffalo would be discontinued. It had then been in operation seven years. The time for continuance was extended in February, 1915, and again in August. It was bought by the bondholders in September, 1915, who announced in November that it would be junked. Nevertheless, a purchaser was found, Charles A. Finnegan, who made an attempt to operate it under the name of the Wellsville & Buffalo R. R. But the last train was run on November 7, 1916, and the rails were soon afterwards

torn up. It is doubtful if any part of the B. & S. system has paid a profit since. N. N. Metcalf, the right hand man of the Goodyears through their busy years of lumbering and railroad building, did not live to see the B. & S. junked. He died in March, 1915.

The trolley line from Shinglehouse to Bolivar and Olean had been opened in 1902. An attempt was made in 1904 to build a trolley line from Olean to Coudersport. The boro council of Coudersport granted a franchise, but difficulties in Port Allegany and elsewhere defeated this enterprise. Subsequent events have proved that, even if this project had been carried out, it would long ago have followed the Shinglehouse and Bolivar trolley lines to the realm of the past. The Shinglehouse trolley line is the only electric railroad that ever actually entered Potter County.

The business of the N. Y. & P. railroad decreased in volume with the decline of the lumber industry, and finally ceased to pay operating expenses, but service was maintained, with two passenger trains each day, down to the close of this period, though the resources of the road did not admit of keeping it in very good shape. An amusing incident occurred at Shinglehouse in June, 1905, when the Olean and Shinglehouse trolley line attempted to put in a crossing over the tracks of the N. Y. & P. on Academy Street. The officials of the railroad sent an engine to stand on the site of the proposed crossing and hold the ground. But the people of Shinglehouse were favorable to the trolley company, and a number of men appeared on the scene, with teams and equipment. A hose was turned on the engine, drenching the engineer and fireman, and then was effectively used to extinguish the fires in the locomotive. Teams were then hitched on, and the engine hauled off the disputed ground. Stones and lumps of coal flew, but no one was seriously injured. Before any new move could be made by the railroad company, the rails had been cut and the crossing put in. An injunction was served on the trolley company, which caused a few days delay, but the victory was theirs. The crossing was not used for several years preceding the abandonment of the trolley line. The N. Y. & P. railroad lost their founder and chief promoter, Joseph B. Rumsey of Oswayo, near the close of this period. He died in 1915.

In the summer of 1906, the C. & P. A. railroad built a brick depot at Roulet, replacing the old wooden building which had become out of date with the growth of the town. In April, 1906, three new trains were put on between Coudersport and Port Allegany, plans for a trolley line from Olean to Coudersport having failed. Most people traveled by rail at this time, few automobiles being yet in use. In May, 1906, two trains each way on Sunday were added to the schedule. Some of these extra trains were taken off in April, 1908, and it was attempted by

Superintendent B. A. McClure to discontinue the Sunday trains. But a Sunday mail service had been inaugurated at Coudersport and Roulet, and the U. S. postoffice department intervened. So Supt. McClure was thenceforth obliged to run one train each way on Sunday. Two more trains that had been taken off were restored in March, 1909. They were again discontinued in February, 1911, and no train schedule has since given as full service as that of 1906. The New York Central railroad built a new station, long needed, at Ulysses in 1911.

The exhaustion of the timber supply and consequent decline of the lumber industry resulted in a considerable decrease in population in several sections of the county. I have already spoken of the depopulation of Hulls and Cross Fork. Three other sawmill towns had a similar history. The town of Mina had come into being with the building of the Schutt mill in 1883, the lumber business continuing with the mills of the Lackawanna Lumber Company, taken over in 1904 by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company. The mill ran steadily till June, 1908, when it shut down for several months, throwing 100 men out of work, besides 20 more that were employed on log trains. Work was resumed, however, in the following November. The last log was sawed some time during the season of 1911. Six of the company's houses burned in January, 1912. Those that remained were offered for sale, as well as the mill, after the machinery had been removed. The store, kept by E. J. Nordstrom, was removed to Norwich in the spring of 1912. In May, 1914, the land on which the town of Mina had stood, together with the few buildings that had not been already sold, was purchased by Jake Swanson, who proceeded to bring the whole area back to cultivation as a modern dairy farm. The farmhouse of Judge Lyman Nelson, built in 1844, and the house of Giles Allard, built during the operation of the Schutt mill, were among those torn down by Mr. Swanson.

The beginning of Keating Summit as a town was coincident with the opening of the B. N. Y. & P. railroad in 1872, and the building of the Avery sawmill a year or two afterwards. The Emporium Lumber Company, who built a mill at the other end of town in 1892, which remained for a period of over twenty years, rarely refused to hire any man who asked for a job, and their mill seldom shut down. But the last available timber was cut in 1912, and the mill dismantled in 1913. William Caffisch and W. T. Turner, so long engaged in the management of the mill, moved to the company's new location in the Adirondacks. Three fires in February, April, and September, 1914, destroyed nearly all that was left of the town, including the famous old Forest House Hotel. The place is now only a railroad junction of secondary importance, and furnishes employment, other than

farming, only to a few section hands and telegraph operators in the service of the two railroads. The mill of the Emporium Lumber Company at Austin was dismantled about the same time.

The tannery at Costello had not been running at full capacity for some time, and previous to July, 1913, had been idle for several months. Work was then resumed and continued till September, 1915, when Superintendent C. A. Kellam was transferred to the tannery at Coudersport. Only the extract works of the tannery were then running. Though the plant was but a ghost of what it had been, it was still running in 1916, receiving a new supply of bark that year from the hemlock timber near by that was being cut by the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company, the last in the county. The last of this timber was cut and the mill closed for good in 1920. The extract works of the tannery continued to run till 1922, when the plant was dismantled and the remaining tenement houses sold and torn down. What was formerly the town of Costello is now a mere country crossroads.

The store of D. P. Tadder at Elmer, in the Cowanesque Valley, was burned in May, 1911. It was the last business place in town. The chemical wood plant, the oldest factory of its kind in the county, had ceased operations several years before. Thus another Potter County town disappeared from the map.

The town of Galeton was hard hit by the slump in the affairs of the B. & S. railroad, but the hemlock mill continued to operate under the ownership of the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company till 1915, and the mill of the Emporium Lumber Company lasted a year or two longer. The heading mill, though it burned in 1914, was rebuilt the succeeding year, and a short period of activity followed. The hub factory of R. M. Whitney, built in 1899, had been removed in the fall of 1908. Some small industries had meanwhile been established. A white goods factory, built some years before, was reopened in April, 1909. It was transferred to a New York firm in February, 1910, on the condition that they pay \$2700 indebtedness on the building, and maintain a payroll of \$900 per week. A hosiery factory commenced work in the fall of 1913, employing 15 to 20 hands, mostly women and girls.

In the fall of 1910, the Gaffney Wood Products Company built a large plant at Walton, seven miles from Galeton. The company bought 24,000 acres of timber, and wood on 6,000 acres more, the whole amount of wood being estimated at 500,000 cords. The Welfing farm at Walton was purchased as a factory site. In the season of 1911, another plant, having half the capacity of that at Walton, was erected by the same company at Lyman Run, in West Branch township. These factories started about

the beginning of the year 1912. In the summer of 1914, the owners were compelled by the State to install filters to prevent pollution of the stream. In May, 1911, a factory for making cot beds was located at Telescope, near Walton.

In October, 1904, the sand-lime brick works of Genesee, built in 1899, which had been burned in 1903, were rebuilt and ready to begin operations anew. The officers of the company were G. R. Brown, Theodore Cobb, and L. S. Anderson. William Kelly operated the plant under contract. But this industry did not attain success. In the fall of 1907, the company went into bankruptcy, and no more brick were made. It appears that, for some reason, they were not wholly satisfactory to builders, though they presented a fine appearance, and at one time many of them were used. In the fall of 1910, a more permanent industry was brought to Genesee. A chemical wood plant was located a mile above town, the Angie C. Tullar farm of 200 acres being bought for the factory site. The interested parties were T. F. Connelly, L. E. Mallory, William C. Kennedy, and C. H. Lavens, of Bradford; J. B. Rumsey and W. M. Britton, of Oswayo; John F. Stone, of Coudersport. The factory was built in the spring of 1911. This industry proved to have staying qualities, and is still in operation. A minor industry in Genesee was a factory for making wooden level stocks, Burden & Company, proprietors, in operation in 1906.

In April, 1909, the plant of the Palmer Window Glass Company at Shinglehouse, which had been running since its opening in 1901, had become involved in financial difficulties. Disagreement with the employees led the factory to shut down. The plant went into the hands of a receiver in June, Owen G. Metzger being appointed to that place, as trustee of the creditors. Ill-advised investments in gas properties, dull times in the glass business, and mistakes in management, had brought on the crisis. It was arranged to sell the plant at public sale, with little hope that enough could be realized to pay more than the first mortgage bonds, leaving the holders of the second mortgages to lose their money. The sale took place August 25, and the property was bid in by F. L. Bartlett, representing the holders of first mortgage bonds. The plant was at once resold to William Barnsdall of Bradford for about \$130,000, which as had been expected, left little for the holders of second mortgage bonds. The factory started soon afterwards. The proprietors were now the Empire Window Glass Company, and Thomas Camp was the manager. There was some trouble arising from shortage of gas, but in 1914 new wells were drilled in the company's gas fields, so that this difficulty was overcome for the time. At the close of the period we are now considering, this plant was in operation, as well as that of the Elk Flint Bottle Company, which had been

running steadily since its opening in 1904. The Wolcott gasoline factory was started in Shinglehouse in 1911, making gasoline from natural gas. It thus appears that, despite some setbacks, the town of Shinglehouse held its own up to 1915 to a greater degree than most other towns in the county.

The window-glass works at Roulet, a cooperative factory controlled by the glass blowers themselves, was built in 1903. No serious difficulty seems to have occurred in its affairs for several years. On March 10, 1908, the plant burned, after lying idle a few months. It then became known that the affairs of the company were in a critical condition, and that the factory was to have been sold at a trustee's sale in April. The office and warehouse, containing about \$40,000 worth of glass, was not destroyed. The original cost of the plant had been \$75,000, and \$34,000 insurance was carried. A comparison of the above facts naturally invited suspicion, but nothing happened in consequence.

In her other industries, the town of Roulet was more fortunate. The Gray Chemical Company, of which Monta C. Burt had risen to the presidency, enlarged its plant in the spring of 1911. In 1913, the plant of the company at Port Allegany was dismantled, and the equipment used to enlarge the factory at Roulet. During the period under consideration, the company began to develop a gas supply on their own account. By the summer of 1913, they were able to produce their own gas. The plant still continues in operation, Monta C. Burt and Robert Lyman being now among the large stockholders.

In the fall of 1906, the Palmer stave and heading plant was built in Roulet, operation beginning in January, 1907. The stock was largely owned by local capitalists, and the plant was operated steadily till 1918, when it was sold to the Warner Sugar Refining Company, dismantled and moved to Vermont.

In the fall of 1911, the V. & S. bottle factory was established in the buildings formerly belonging to the Roulet tannery. The factory started in February, 1912, but the company was not adequately financed, and became bankrupt within its first year. In May, 1913, sufficient capital was obtained so that work was again begun, John F. Stone and W. G. VanKuren having become the owners of the plant. Several years of operation followed.

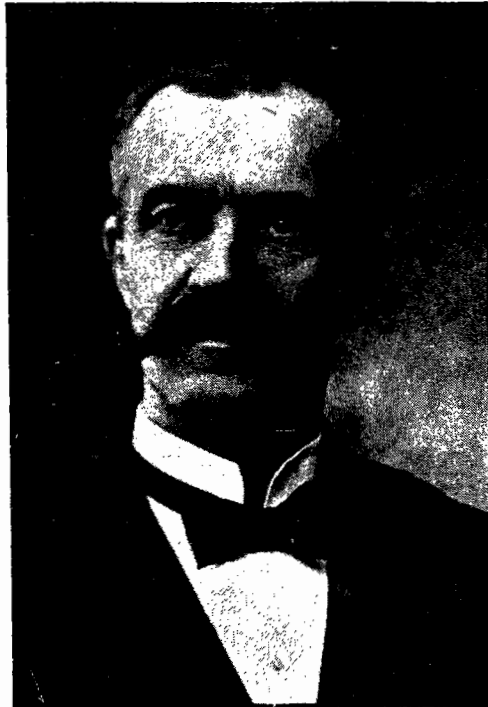
The industries of Coudersport during this period passed through many vicissitudes. In January, 1905, a bonus was raised by the business men of the town to start the glass factory at North Coudersport. It had been shut down since April, 1904, and had been running only for short periods for the two or three years preceding. Work was begun in February with M. L. App as business manager and W. J. Edgar, foreman in charge. The

blow room and clay room were destroyed by fire in June. This caused a shutdown till October. By that time, the plant had been rebuilt at a cost of \$50,000, and three new apartment houses erected. The proprietors were now the Kneass Window Glass Company. The period of operation lasted only till February. Late in the succeeding fall, work began again, and lasted for a few months. A long shutdown then ensued, partly due to a critical situation in the glass industry. The creditors organized a new company to buy the plant in May, 1908, several local capitalists being interested, and made arrangements with the Roulet Gas Company for a supply of fuel. Work began again in February, 1909. A strike occurred in April, and in the following November, the plant again shut down, and many workers left town. The persevering stock holders met in January, 1910, and decided on another attempt to run the factory, provided that satisfactory rates could be obtained from the Potter Gas Company. It was voted to expend \$10,000 in improvements. But at last, in August, 1910, the plant shut down for good, the owners abandoning all hope of putting it on a business footing.

In June, 1911, the whole plant, except the tank house, was sold to the American Truss and Rubber Company for \$20,600. Work was at once begun remodeling the plant, and it was ready to start in November, 1911. The new company was made up of three companies, the Upriver Company, the American Silver Truss Company and the Seamless Hosiery Company. The equipment was brought from Yonkers, N. Y., the company's previous location. The necessary capital was largely furnished by citizens of Coudersport. The business was not at first successful, and went into a receiver's hands in July, 1912, Frank A. Raymond being appointed. Poor business methods were assigned as a cause of failure. The expense of moving and installing the machinery and equipment had also told heavily on the company's resources. But the plant continued to operate, Mr. Raymond believing that the business could be put on a paying basis within a few months. The products of the factory consisted of rubber gloves, syringes, hot water bottles, etc. It was expected that from 80 to 100 people would be employed.

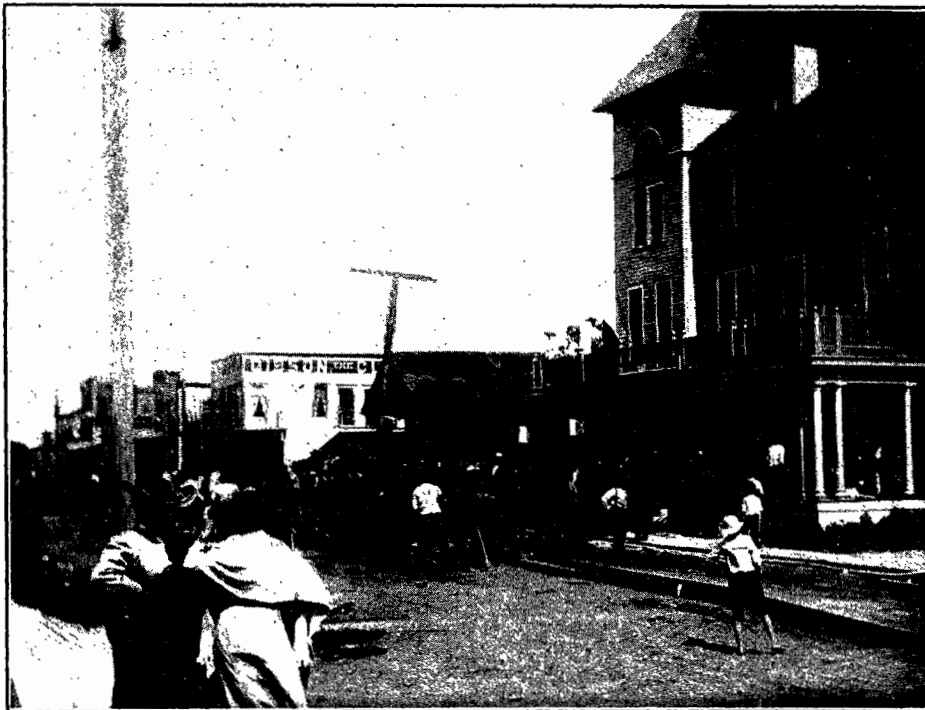
The plant, however, did not succeed directly in the attempt to get on a business footing. It was sold in March, 1914, to the Coudersport Trust Company, and reorganized under a new charter. From that time on, its operation has been nearly continuous.

The basket factory closed for good in June, 1913. Under the management of J. B. Steele, it had run steadily, and had been kept on a paying basis, but timber had become scarce. The clothespin factory of A. W. Dodge had already closed and moved



**JOSEPH B. RUMSEY**

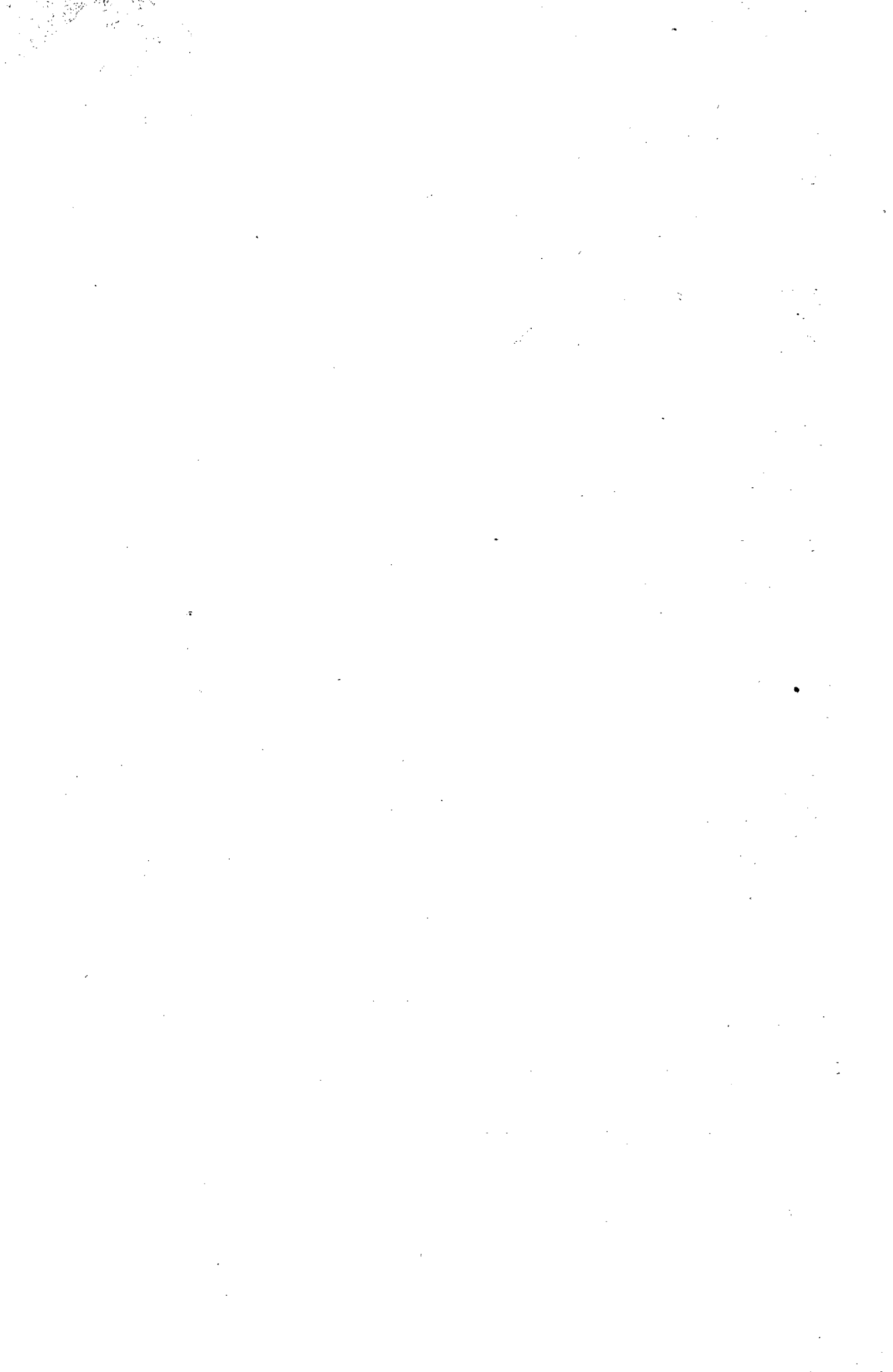
Builder of the N. Y. & P. railroad from Canisteo to Shinglehouse  
Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



**FIGHT OVER TROLLEY CROSSING**

Trouble ensued when the Shinglehouse trolley company attempted to put in  
a crossing over the N. Y. & P. at Shinglehouse, 1905.  
Courtesy of Oswayo Valley Mail





to another location, having been forced to shut down a part of the time for lack of timber. The remaining timber owned by Mr. Dodge was sold to Lowell N. Palmer, owner of the stave and heading factory at Roulet.

The Coudersport condensery experienced nearly as much trouble during this period as the window glass factory did. It had been branded by the stockholders as a poor investment and was sold to the creditors in January, 1902. It burned in June, 1907, and a subscription of \$3000 was called for to enable the company to rebuild. This was finally obtained, and the factory was rebuilt later in the year. In March, 1909, the ownership passed from the Northern Condensed Milk Company to the Mutual Milk & Cream Company, J. N. Hannahs of New York, manager. The factory shut down in October, and did no more business till it was purchased by the Rose Dairy Company, of Mansfield, Pa., in July, 1910. Warren D. Rose, the manager of the company, had long been in business among the farmers of Tioga County, and was known to them as a man of unimpeachable integrity and fidelity to his word. It is related of him that he once advertised in his home county for veal calves to make up a carload for shipment, naming the price he expected to pay. Before any calves had been delivered, a sudden drop in the market deprived Mr. Rose of his entire profit on the carload, and caused him some loss besides. But he held to the price he had offered, continuing to buy till the shipment was fully made up. This incident made a strong impression on the farmers of Tioga County, winning for him the confidence and loyalty of every man who dealt with him.

The condensery was reopened August 15, 1910, continuing operation for several years under the new ownership. Nevertheless, one more crisis in its affairs was yet to come, the account of which belongs to the next chapter. In January, 1914, the building of the extinct Lay butterdish factory at Ulysses was purchased as a milk station for shipment to the condensery at Coudersport.

The Eulalia grist mill was built in 1905 by D. W. VanWegen, who had as a partner Frank Johnson, the two men having been previously associated in the operation of the mill of the Lackawanna Lumber Company at Cross Fork. This industry has proved to be a permanent addition to the business life of Coudersport, though it has passed through a few changes of ownership. It was purchased by C. A. Clark in December, 1914, E. P. Huntington being the manager. Mr. Huntington remained the proprietor till a few years ago. The mill is now controlled by the G. L. F. Company. Mr. VanWegen purchased the Ellison grist mill at North Coudersport in 1906, and soon afterwards tore it down, thus removing competition in his business.

The Currier Koeth foundry, established in the 1890's, burned in 1910, but was rebuilt a year or two later. The King Manufacturing Company, makers of King Menthol, etc., was organized in 1914, with August Luft as manager.

When we consider the many obstacles that beset practically all of the industries that have ever been located in Coudersport, we can but admire the pluck and perseverance of our local capitalists in their untiring efforts to build up the town. Thousands were sunk in attempts to revitalize industries that were doomed to extinction, and more thousands were spent in strengthening those that finally emerged from the formative stage, and became producers of wealth. The loyalty and public spirit of these Coudersport capitalists is too little appreciated by the rank and file of our citizens.

The period from 1904 to 1915 is not marked by such enormous fire losses as were recorded in the last chapter. Yet several destructive fires took place. The town that suffered the greatest fire loss during this time was Roulet. Ten buildings burned in July, 1905, including the hotel of T. J. Cavanaugh, the barber shop of I. W. Adams, the new store building of George Brehmer, the H. O. Bailey block, the restaurant of Charles Knowlton, the grocery of S. W. Barr, the general store of George Ray, the livery of Menzo Burt, and the residence of E. G. Baker; nearly \$35,000 loss in all. Two more buildings burned in August. The Methodist church was burned by lightning in June, 1908. In October, 1908, another fire on River Street destroyed several buildings that had been erected on the site of those burned in 1905. Another fire of major proportions occurred in January, 1911, destroying most of the business places in town. Ford & Patchen, department store; Leslie Stilwell, barber shop; W. F. Cool, drug store; Card & Barr, hardware; Bell Telephone Company; H. E. Cromwell, dentist; Milo Lyman, owner of several of the burned buildings, were the principal losers. The store of G. H. Yentzer and the blacksmith shop of John Weimer were burned in July, 1911. The historic Roulet House, formerly the Boyington House, built in 1851, burned in 1915.

The heavy toll taken by the fire fiend in Roulet was partly owing to the lack of adequate fire-fighting apparatus, but, in the belief of the writer, still more to the proximity of the town to the gas fields. Many property owners had free gas, and were very careless in its use, and the pressure from the wells, always variable, was poorly controlled. Some of these fires were pretty surely due to such causes.

The most noteworthy fire that occurred in Coudersport during this time was the one that destroyed that ancient landmark, the VanBuren Hotel, in 1908. A hotel had existed on the site since

1828, and it seems to be proved that the building then erected formed the kitchen wing of the hotel when it burned. The history of this hotel has been related in a former chapter. The site remained vacant till the erection of the Potter County Garage by Will Phelps in 1915. One other fire of major interest occurred in Coudersport from 1904 to 1915. This fire started in the house of Mrs. Minnie Wilson on South West Street in May, 1911. Four houses were destroyed and two others badly damaged. Two of the burned dwellings were owned by W. A. Harris, one of which he occupied with his family; his livery stable was also burned. Numerous other blazes started in various parts of the town, caused by flying embers, but they were all extinguished before any of them had gained headway. A strong breeze made the work of the fire fighters very difficult.

Three blocks burned in Galeton in January, 1912. The buildings destroyed contained a grocery store, millinery store, law office, photo studio, and several apartments. The loss was about \$15,000, partly insured. The Edgcomb House, the oldest hotel in town, built by William Ansley in 1874, burned in May, 1914.

The primary school building at Austin burned in October, 1904; it was immediately rebuilt. The Pelham Hotel burned in October, 1904, taking the lives of two men. The old shops of the B. & S. burned in February, 1906, one Lima engine also being destroyed. Little use was made of these shops at the time, most of the work being then done at Galeton. A major fire took place on Main Street in July, 1909. The Davis Hotel, Paterson Hardware, Buckley's clothing store, W. H. Warner's jewelry store, a restaurant, Welch's drug store, Sykes Bros' dry goods store, William Nelson's grocery store, all burned. The loss was about \$100,000. Most of these buildings were easily ignited, being built of brick veneer over wood frames, lined with cloth and paper.

A \$20,000 fire occurred at Shinglehouse in March, 1909. Five buildings were burned, including the store building of C. P. Van De Boe, a news stand, barber shop, meat market, the general store of W. A. Nichols & Son, the printing office of the Oswayo Valley Mail, and one dwelling. Two stores burned in January, 1910. In March, 1910, the Arlington Hotel was badly damaged by fire.

Country stores were burned at East Hebron, 1905; Sweden Valley, 1910; West Bingham, 1912; West Pike, 1913; Raymond, 1915. The railroad depot at Genesee burned in October, 1912, and the hardware store of Easton & Pierce in November. Allen's jewelry store, D. C. Chase's general store, and a few small buildings adjoining at Ulysses burned in April, 1905. Another store, occupied by R. E. Long, burned in 1913.

The other fires that occurred during this period were not of major importance; those just described comprising, I believe, all in which more than one building was destroyed that had not been mentioned in the chapter on lumbering. Forest fires had by this time decreased considerably in extent, and did little damage outside of denuding the land and preventing recovery of cut-over areas. The fire record for Roulet and Austin is about as bad from 1904 to 1915 as from 1885 to 1904, but that of Coudersport, Galeton and some of the smaller towns, shows a distinct improvement.

The Potter Gas Company built a pumping plant at Roulet in 1905. This company now controlled the gas supply in most of the towns of Potter County, the Roulet Gas Company turning their gas into the lines of the former company at a fixed rate. A monopoly of the supply had been secured that enabled the Potter Gas Company to establish rates as they pleased. An unsuccessful attempt was made in 1904 to force the company to lower its rates. Several good producers were drilled in the Hebron field, which was the last of the fields to be developed, prior to the recent drilling of deep wells, to be described in the next chapter. Not all of these wells belonged at first to the Potter Gas Company, but the smaller operators were generally willing to sell at a figure that eventually enabled the Potter Gas Company to become possessed of the whole source of supply, except a few wells owned directly by large consumers, such as the Gray Chemical Company. Rates were raised from 22c to 27c in June, 1907. Gas rights had then been acquired by the company on 8,000 acres in the Hebron field, 8 cents royalty being paid to the landowners. A new field was opened on the head of Sartwell Creek in March, 1908. In September, 1911, the Potter Gas Company bought out the Wolcott Gas Company in Shinglehouse, which gave the purchasers a monopoly in that town, and the rate was raised to 27c. They were obliged by the terms of the sale, however, to exempt the Elk Flint Bottle Company from the regular rate. The rate was again advanced to 30c in April, 1912. Drilling was constantly going on, and new producers are frequently recorded in the newspapers of these times. Three or four wells in Potter County produced oil in commercial quantities.

During this period began the construction of the hard surfaced roads that have now become so much a matter of course that it is hard to realize that in 1904 the only piece of road in the county that was not a sea of mud in every spell of wet weather was Main Street in Coudersport, which had been paved in 1902. In the summer of 1905, work was begun on the section of road from Sweden Valley to the township line near Lynn Neefe's and later in the season on the river road between Steer Brook and the Coudersport boro line. At this time, the State

built no roads without application from the township in which the road in question was located, accompanied by a signed agreement to pay one-third of the cost of construction. Only a small sum was allotted each year by the State for road construction in each county, and to obtain this appropriation, application must be made and money contributed locally, as stated above. Applications for State roads were sometimes on file for several years before State funds became available. Sweden township was the first in Potter County to apply for State Aid roads. The first contracts in Sweden and Eulalia were taken by John McManamy of Philadelphia. In the spring of 1906, the boro of Coudersport acted to obtain State aid in building roads to connect with those already built in Sweden and Eulalia, the short section in Eulalia township between Lynn Neefe's and the boro line at Allie Nelson's being also applied for, also another section in Sweden township to the present terminus of the macadam road near Milo Freeman's. All of these contracts were taken by John Ryan, as well as the contract for the construction of the brick pavement on Second Street, for which State aid was also obtained. The State now paid three-fourths of the cost of these projects, instead of two-thirds, as at first.

The construction of these early macadam roads was much more laborious than is the case with those built in recent years, the foundation being made of stone set on edge and laid by hand, instead of being dumped in loose and rolled down, as is now done. The width of the macadam roads built at that time was 14 feet; all of these early roads that are now included in the primary and secondary system of State highways have since been widened. The roads that were begun in Coudersport boro, Sweden and Eulalia townships in 1906 were not finished that year, but remained under construction and in very bad condition through the winter. They were completed the following season, except the road from Sweden Valley to Milo Freeman's, which was not finished till the summer of 1908.

In May, 1907, an application was filed by Portage township for State Aid to build a road from the Austin boro line at the Emporium Lumber Company's mill to Costello, and this application was granted by the State. The road was built the same year. In September, 1908, the contract was let for the section of road from the railroad crossing near the Eulalia grist mill in Coudersport to the boro line near Justus Mehring's. A petition was also filed by Roulet township in 1908 for the Roulet section of the river road. But the allotment of State funds for Potter County had been exhausted, and the people of Roulet were doomed to more than ten years of mud before any more hard roads were built in that part of the county. The river road from Coudersport as far as Fred Lehman's was built by Hammond & Sloan

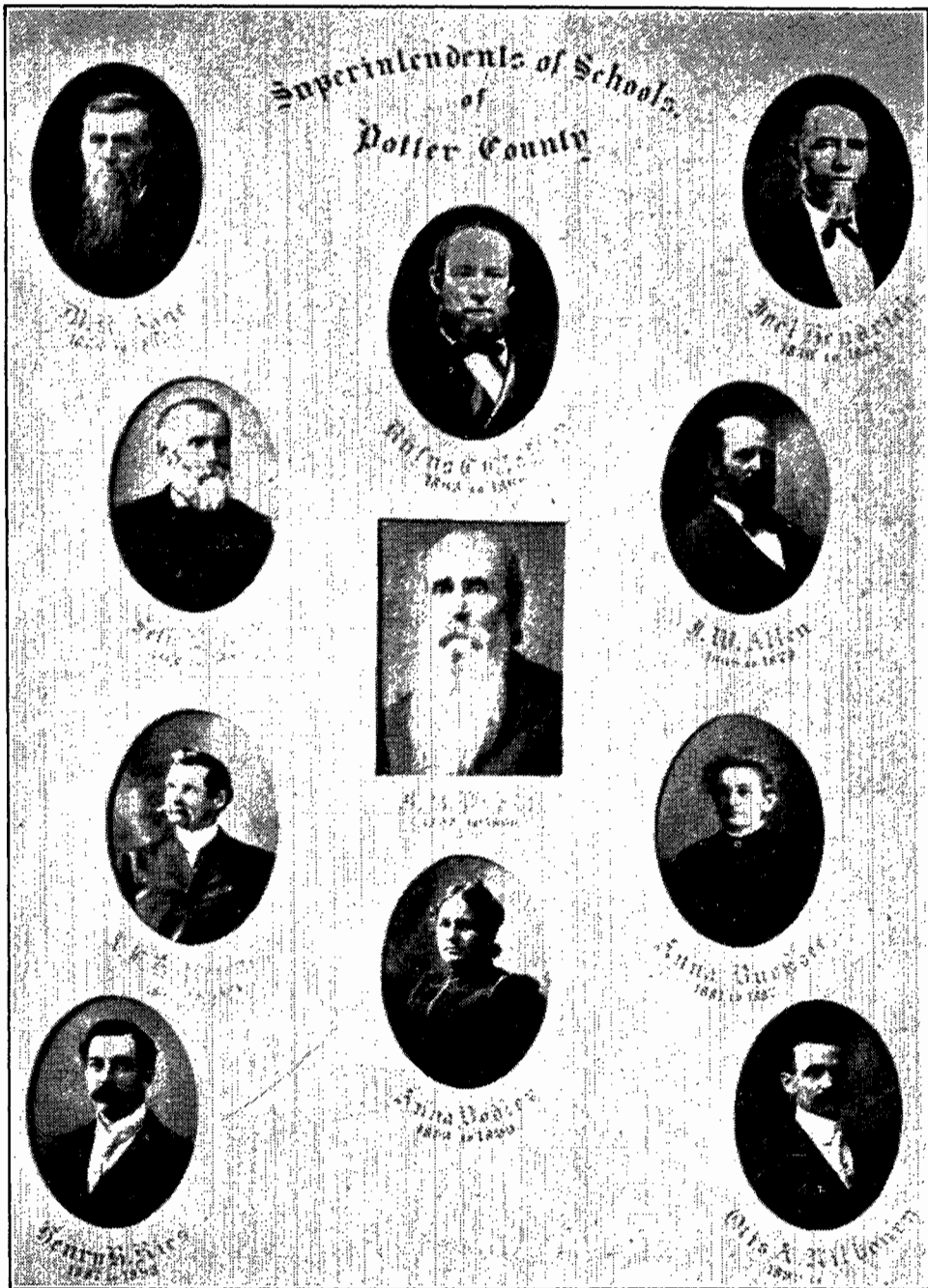
of New York, who used a 22 horse traction engine and a train of wagons to haul the material from Olmsted Station, the bridge at Coudersport not being strong enough to bear the outfit. The road was completed in the fall of 1909.

In the winter of 1910-11, the Sproul good roads bill passed the State legislature. It was at this time that the first roads were taken over by the State in Potter County. Those taken over in the spring of 1911 were the following: Emporium to Port Allegany via Keating Summit; Coudersport to Port Allegany; Coudersport to Wellsboro via Brookland and Galeton; Coudersport to Westfield via Ulysses and Harrison Valley; Coudersport to Sinnemahoning via Austin and Wharton. This last route was later changed so as to run from Coudersport to Keating Summit via Austin. At the same time, sufficient signers were obtained at Galeton to ensure paving when the State should act. The Jersey Shore pike was added to the list of State roads in 1912.

In the spring of 1912, Frank E. Baldwin, who had been elected State Senator from our district in 1909, opened his long record of service in obtaining State road construction for Potter County by securing the paving of Main Street in Galeton. Pike township had already applied for a State Aid road both east and west of Galeton, so Senator Baldwin obtained the macadam road at the western edge of Galeton boro as a connecting link. In August, 1912, the job was let to E. Whalen of Towanda for building the whole section of road, including both the brick pavement in Galeton and the macadam road in Galeton and Pike. The application for the section in Pike township east of Galeton, like that in Roulet four years before, did not secure action by the State. No more hard surfaced roads were built in Potter County till 1919, except the pavement to Austin, to be mentioned later.

The widening and grading of the dirt roads that had been taken over by the State began during the season of 1912, and the first road signs were placed on State highways. The Jersey Shore pike was surveyed in 1912, but work was not actually begun putting it into shape till 1915. At the time the State assumed its maintenance, it had been neglected for years, becoming partially overgrown and almost impassable in some parts of its course.

Comparatively few automobiles appeared till 1908. Robert Dunn was already running an auto livery, however, in 1905. Auto licenses were required by the State after February 1, 1906. The operator, not the vehicle, was then licensed, thus allowing the shifting of plates from one car to another, which the law now forbids, and the cost of a license was \$3.00. The speed limit in cities and boros was 10 miles per hour; in open country, 20 miles. These figures seem strange to the driver of today.



M. R. Gage.

Seth Lewis.

A. F. Hollenbeck.

Henry H. Kies.



Rufus T. Claffin  
 J. B. Pradt  
 Anna Bodler  
 R. O. Welfing

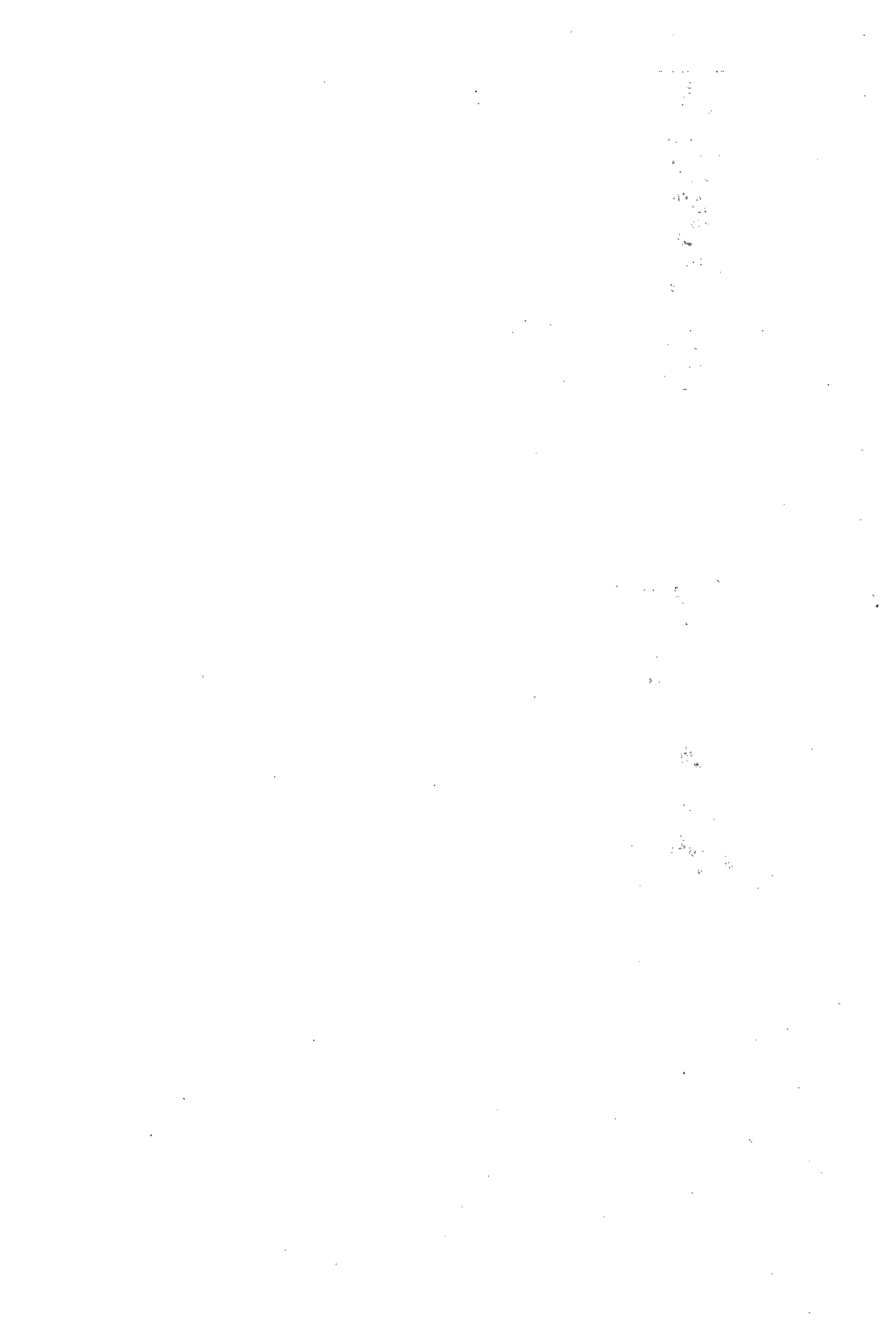
Joel Hendricks.

J. W. Allen.

Anna Buckbee

Otis A. Kilbourne





The breaking of the dam of the Bayless pulp mill at Austin is stamped on the minds of all our people who are old enough to remember back to September 30, 1911. The dam was built in the season of 1909, the small pond that had previously been used having proven to be insufficient for the needs of the factory, which requires an abundant supply of water. The new dam was 350 feet long and 42 feet high. It had already cracked and nearly given way in January, 1910, springing four feet with the pressure of the water. A hole was blasted in the top of the dam, near one side, releasing three feet of water. This arrested the movement of the dam, and the people of the town below were lulled into a false sense of security.

The incidents of the flood are too well known to call for a minute recital of details. The water remained at its height for only a few minutes, and it is said that one or two persons who were entrapped and submerged in some of the rooms of the factory held their breath till the flood subsided, escaping with no injury at all. Most of the lives lost were those of persons who were clubbed and crushed to death by the mass of wreckage driven forward by the rushing torrent, which first swept away an immense pile of pulp wood, driving it through the most populous part of the town, piling up wreckage in the van of the advancing flood, and destroying everything in its path, which embraced the whole of the valley of the main branch of Freeman Run, including all the business places in town, as well as more than half of the residential districts. Only two or three buildings on the south side of Main Street escaped complete demolition. They were almost buried under heaps of wreckage. Exactly how many lives were lost was never known, as there were a few visitors in town at the time, some of whom may not have been counted.

The number of deaths was from 85 to 88, probably the latter figure. A lady who witnessed the flood from her home, which was situated on the hillside, well out of danger, tells me that it was the most awe-inspiring spectacle she ever beheld. She also says that, since it happened on Saturday afternoon, many people were caught undressed in their bathrooms, losing precious minutes striving to put on their clothing. The writer was himself a resident of Odin at the time of the flood, and his telephone was on a party line of 17 phones over which the first news reached the world outside. Words fail to describe the condition that resulted on the phone line. Several people were continually talking over the line all at one time, and no call could be made through the central office, except by some lucky chance. One woman, I remember, whose husband was peddling produce in Austin with a horse and wagon when the flood struck, was nearly

driven crazy before the news finally reached her that he had escaped, though he lost his horse and wagon.

Fires broke out at once in the wreckage, fed by gas from broken mains. By exertions that taxed human endurance almost beyond its limit, these were extinguished by some of the men of Austin who worked all the following night to keep the flames from spreading through the whole mass of wreckage, in which some of the living might still be imprisoned. Fire engines were sent from neighboring towns, but the road was blocked so that they could not be brought far enough into the wrecked district to be of any use.

Three telephone operators risked their lives at the switchboard, sending out warnings till it was no longer possible to do so. Kathleen V. Lyons, operator for the Bell Telephone Company, was rewarded with \$250 cash, a gold watch, and an increase in salary. Lena Binckey received \$100 and Hazel Knapp \$50.

Relief from neighboring towns was prompt and generous. The following were some of the contributions: Williamsport, \$3300; Wellsboro, \$2500; Westfield, \$2500; Coudersport, \$2500; Emporium, \$2000; Olean, \$1700; Clearfield, \$1000; Bradford, \$750; Buffalo, \$500; Lock Haven, \$500; Wellsville, \$400; Knoxville, \$400; Johnstown, \$300. A tabular statement issued by the Austin Relief Association in October reported the total sum received as \$28,962.62. A later report gives the sum as \$30,000. The officers of this organization were W. F. DuBois, president, and Rev. George P. Donehoo, secretary. State police patrolled the ruins, on the alert for thieves and miscreants.

It was at first doubted whether the Bayless Pulp & Paper Company could continue after this disaster. But the company had completed arrangements to repair and rebuild the plant by the first of December. An auxiliary dam, farther up the stream, had been finished in November, 1910. It was now proposed to use this as the main water supply for the factory. By this means, the plant started a few months later.

It would require too much space to give a detailed account of the deaths and property losses in this great catastrophe. It was featured in many of the city newspapers, and was a topic of discussion all over the eastern United States. Official investigations followed, attempting to fix responsibility. There is no doubt that the construction of the dam was at fault. Even to the average mind it is clear that so large a dam should not offer a perpendicular face to the pressure of the water, as it did in this case, but that the dam should slope at a considerable angle on the pond side as well as on the lower face. It is also claimed that the construction of the base of the concrete on the bed rock was incorrect; the rock should have been cut in steps, to

prevent slipping of the dam on its foundation. In any case, the superintendent, F. N. Hamlin, was open to blame for not heeding the warning when the dam cracked a year and a half before.

Damage suits were brought against the Bayless company by the people of the devastated area. As one would expect, a long legal struggle ensued, which I shall not trace through all its details. Feeling ran so strong that a change of venue was ordered, and the case was finally on the calendar for trial at Wellsboro in November, 1913. The claims totaled about \$550,000. But the attorneys for the prosecution induced most of their clients to sign an agreement to settle the case out of court, each claimant to receive in cash a percentage of the amount due him, and the balance in stock of the company. It was asserted that a full settlement of the claims would have bankrupted the Bayless company and driven them out of business altogether. The claims paid, with costs and attorneys' fees, amounted to about \$600,000. At the same time, the Bayless company acceded to the demand of the State authorities for a partial abatement of the nuisance of polluting the stream. The settlement obtained was satisfactory to most of the claimants, since it would not have served their interests to drive the Bayless company out of Austin. It was now the only industry in the town. The big hemlock mill had closed for good February 28, 1911. Tom Lawler alone of the flood sufferers refused to compromise. He obtained \$51,000 damages, but was obliged to pay half the costs in his case. The mill of the Emporium Lumber Company suffered only minor damage by the flood, not being in the track of the main mass of debris, but its work was finished in 1913.

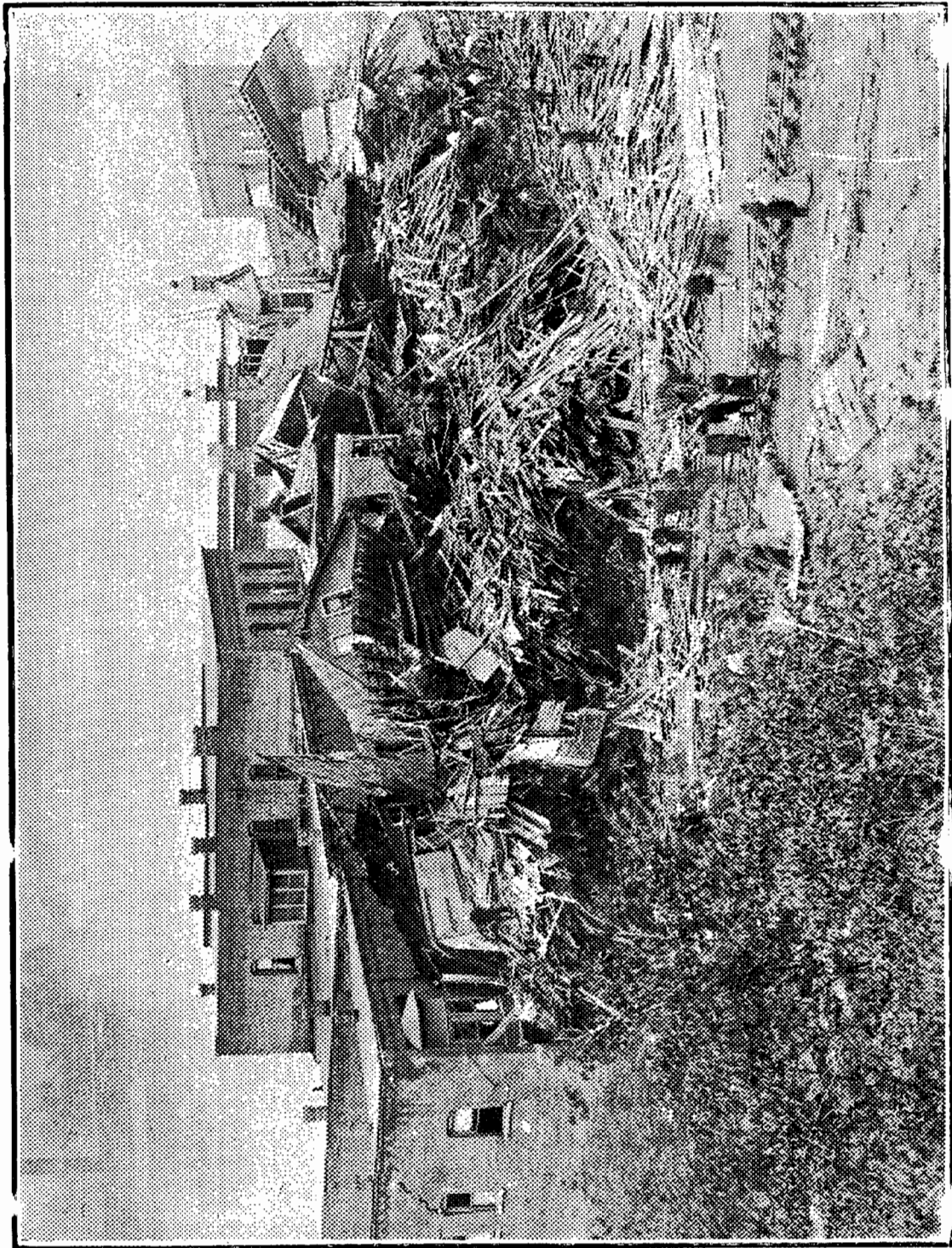
In July, 1914, an appropriation of \$29,500 was voted by the State Legislature for the rehabilitation of Austin, this fund to be used for clearing up rubbish, reopening streets, and rebuilding sewers and sidewalks. Just before the flood, a petition had been granted for a State Aid highway through Austin to connect with that already built from Austin to Costello, and some of the materials for construction were already on the ground when the flood came. Through the influence of Senator Baldwin, a brick pavement was granted by the State for Costello Avenue, and was built during the summer of 1912. The macadam road near Costello had been badly damaged by the flood. Since this road was not then a part of the State Highway system, the State authorities were not willing to put it in repair, and it remained in bad condition for a year or more. It was finally repaired at the expense of the State.

After various attempts to organize an independent telephone system in Coudersport, the Interocean Telephone Company reorganized in 1908 with local capital and installed a system which was in operation several years, though it did not displace the

Bell telephone to any great extent. Crankless phones were installed on all except the rural lines by the Bell company in December, 1912. The independent system made little headway in Coudersport, and was finally discontinued altogether. In the northern part of the county there are still many phones on the Interocean system. The rates of this company are lower, but for efficiency and service it bears no comparison to the Bell company. But the Bell Telephone Company, like the Potter Gas Company, has its subscribers at its mercy, except for the limitations imposed by the public service commission of the State.

During the early part of this period, O. A. Kilbourne was our county superintendent of schools. He was elected in 1899 and reelected in 1902 and 1905. He was succeeded by Prof. R. O. Welfing in 1908. In 1906, the annual Teachers' Institute was held for the first time in Galeton instead of Coudersport. This venture was not a complete success; many teachers did not attend, since Galeton was not convenient of access from many points in the county, and travel was expensive, few automobiles being yet in use. The question of where the Institute should be held was submitted to the teachers themselves at the session in Coudersport a year later. Though a majority of the votes cast favored Coudersport, enough votes were obtained for Galeton so that the Institute was located at that place once in three years, the next time it was brought to Galeton being in the year 1910. This arrangement continued till 1916; but Coudersport was finally established as the meeting place of the Institute. It was held in Ulysses for the last time in 1888.

A summer normal school for the convenience of teachers was opened in Coudersport by Principal George E. Zerfoss of the Coudersport schools in the summer of 1910, and continued to hold a session each year following the close of the regular school term in June, the sessions of the summer normal being in charge of Prof. John A. Entz, who succeeded to the principalship of the Coudersport schools in 1911. Prof. Entz was one of the ablest educators we have ever had in our county, ranking with such teachers as J. B. Pradt, John R. Groves, and Henry H. Kies. He remained in Coudersport till the summer of 1916. He is now (1933) Principal of the State normal school at California, Pa. His moral character and ability as instructor had a lasting influence in holding the Coudersport schools to the high standard to which he raised them. Under his leadership, a diploma from the Coudersport High School came to be accepted as admission to most of the colleges that our high school graduates entered. His summer normal in Coudersport became well known, and students were enrolled from all the principal high schools of the county. In 1915 the old Presbyterian church, then owned by the W. C. T. U. was purchased by Alfred W. Dodge and John F. Stone,



AUSTIN AFTER THE FLOOD OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1911.  
Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



and donated for the use of the schools as a Recreation Hall. It was improved and enlarged at this time with funds raised by subscription.

New two-room schoolhouses were built at Sunderlinville in 1905 and Keating Summit in 1906. A new brick schoolhouse was built at Shinglehouse in 1911, also a two room school at Walton.

A free library was established in Galeton in 1907, and at Shinglehouse in 1915. The Coudersport free library received in 1915, as a gift from Mrs. Lydia Lewis, a valuable library that had belonged to her father, Sobieski Ross. The library building was improved and modernized in 1915.

Among the ministers who served Potter County churches during this period, two deserve special mention. Rev. R. J. Thomas, of Roulet, died in November, 1911. We often read in stories of the devoted pastor, his heart engaged in the well being of his flock, a friend to the needy, a valued spiritual adviser to all, but we seldom meet such a man in real life. All the above virtues were embodied in Rev. Thomas. He had served the Baptist church at Roulet for a long period, often traveling on foot to hold services several miles away. He was loved and esteemed by all who knew him, in or out of his church. The other man I shall mention happens also to have been a Baptist, Rev. D. Percy French of Coudersport. He led a crusade against a house of ill fame near Coudersport in 1913, so arousing public sentiment that the mistress of the bawdy house became frightened, and her place of business mysteriously burned, while she and her associates left the neighborhood. So many people in the town were displeased with the activity of Rev. French in driving out this establishment, that he found it expedient to resign his pastorate. He left the ministry, and was thereafter engaged in other pursuits.

The Austin hospital continued its service through this period, receiving an appropriation of \$12,000 from the State in 1911. In 1910 stock subscriptions were taken by a committee of several prominent citizens for a hospital in Coudersport. The sanitarium of Mrs. Alice Dean, established several years before, was taken over for the new hospital. In the summer of 1913, another hospital, an excellent one while it lasted, was opened in Coudersport by Miss Grace Denny and Miss Hendrickson, with a few assistants. Miss Denny was obliged to close her hospital in 1918, because the departure of some of our doctors for the World War left her without enough medical men to take care of her surgical cases.

Some of the notable buildings erected from 1904 to 1915 were the country house of John F. Stone at Brookland, with its immense porch 98 feet long and 12 feet deep; and the Masonic



Temple, in its original form, Breunle & Abson, contractors. The house formerly belonging to Hon. Isaac Benson had been purchased by the Masons, and formed an annex to their new building. The county jail was refitted and modernized in 1912, steel cells being installed to replace those formerly used, which had become insecure.

In May, 1905, Charles Brewster shot his stepfather, Marshall Stryker, inflicting a wound which caused the death of the victim in about two weeks. The case was tried before Judge Ormerod in September. Brewster was convicted of murder in the first degree, and Judge Ormerod sentenced him to be hanged. The decision was appealed by Brewster's attorney, but an appeal was refused by the Supreme Court in December. Brewster was hanged in the jail yard on March 6, 1906, on a scaffold erected by Contractor H. A. Button after a plan of his own. About fifty people witnessed the execution, which was not public; only legal witnesses, physicians, and others who were especially concerned were allowed to be present. The scaffold was taken down and stored in the County Home, and was afterwards sent to Lock Haven for an execution in Clinton County. This was the second and last hanging that ever took place in Potter County, the first being that of Joshua Jones in 1839, described in a former chapter. That this sentence was just and that it had a wholesome effect in curbing homicide in the county, there can be no doubt. Judge Ormerod did his duty and served our county well in pronouncing the sentence that he did. The respect for human life among those inclined to criminal acts was greatly increased. With the exception of a knifing affair at Galeton in which an Italian was killed in November, 1907, no such crime was committed in Potter County for more than five years following Brewster's execution.

It may be well here to review the history of Potter County murders since the execution of Jones in 1839. Two killings took place in Hector. Charles Razez killed Henry Young with a club in 1867, and George Chisholm shot William Watrous in 1882. In both the cases the verdict was manslaughter. Razez was sentenced for 5 years and 9 months, but was pardoned in three years. Chisholm was sent to prison for four years and pardoned in two years. The notorious Graves poisoning near Millport has been already related in a former chapter, the chief criminal, Mrs. Graves, escaping punishment altogether. The shooting of John Van Coy and the wounding of Walter Woodard by Herman Neilson in a pig's ear at Bakertown in April, 1891, is the next in point of time. Neilson received only a prison sentence. Tom Kennedy, who shot Tom Glover at Hulls in 1893, was never apprehended. In January, 1894, a shooting affray occurred in which Lewis Root shot O. E. Harris and his son, John Harris, the latter dying of his wounds. Julius Zimmerman killed Andrew Stroup

in a quarrel over a game of cards in the basement of the Crowell House at Coudersport in January, 1896. He was lodged in jail, but seems to have received only a light sentence, if any. Farnham Lyon was acquitted of crime in the killing of George Patterson in 1896, but it is hard to question the justice of this verdict. In March, 1897, Mrs. Flora Ellsworth of Genesee drowned one of her children under the ice. She was sentenced to 15 years and 3 months. James Whitehead murdered his wife at Hulls in October, 1898. There is no record of his apprehension. Arthur Gordnier shot and killed C. Don Banfield in the barroom of John Kelly's hotel in Austin in July, 1901. Banfield was drunk and dangerous, and it seems to be well proved that Gordnier was obliged to kill him in self-defense. The only crime of which Gordnier was guilty was that of selling Banfield the liquor that made him drunk. The hotel of John Kelly (not John R. Kelly, of the Goodyear Hotel) was a famous resort in those days for drunks who had been turned out of the other liquor shops in Austin as being too tipsy to behave. In August, 1903, Myron McNess was shot and killed by Eben Pierce on the Prouty. Pierce received a prison sentence, but there seems to have been no very good reason why he should not have been hanged. He was, however, declared to be insane after he had served some length of time in prison.

Thus it is not strange that the belief had grown up on our county and was often expressed, that in no case, however strong the evidence, would a murderer suffer the loss of his own life as a penalty; that some sort of wire-pulling would always enable him to "get by", to use a slang word. This illusion was dispelled with Brewster's execution.

One more murder case came before Judge Ormerod. J. D. Robinson shot and killed John Ripple in the bawdy house of Cora Brooks, near Austin, in October, 1910. The verdict was second degree murder, and Robinson received a prison sentence of 5 to 20 years. The justice of the verdict was not seriously questioned at that time or afterwards. There were a few other murders in Potter County before 1915, besides those I have mentioned, but in most of them the criminal was not apprehended, and it seems to me not worth while to dwell further on this subject.

In December, 1904, Judge Ormerod directed an indictment against the County Commissioners for lowering the tax assessment of the Goodyear mill and the Bayless paper mill in Austin boro. It was charged that through undue influence the assessment of the Goodyear mill had been lowered from \$35,000 to \$15,000, and that the Bayless plant, said to have cost \$360,000, had been assessed at \$60,000. The county commissioners at this

time were D. A. Sunderlin, R. H. Young, and Dana Drake. Charges of graft and extravagance in the conduct of the County Home were also preferred, the county auditors being also implicated. As usually happens in such cases, delay ensued, and the case did not reach a decision till December, 1905. D. A. Sunderlin was then convicted of receiving a bribe from the Groton Bridge Company, from whom a bridge had lately been purchased and erected near Oleona. Sunderlin was fined \$500 and costs by Judge Cameron, of Wellsboro. The case was appealed, and in July, 1906, the judgment was reversed by Superior court. The reason for this reversal is not apparent, and the citizens of Potter were naturally not satisfied.

Charges were again preferred against the county commissioners with regard to the management of the County Home in June, 1908, by a report of the grand jury, who recommended that F. A. Crowell, superintendent, be discharged. He resigned, and John T. Smith was appointed in his place. The commissioners were acquitted at the September term of court. Thus in neither of these cases were the corrupt officials brought to justice.

In April, 1910, another similar case arose, confined this time to Coudersport boro. The boro auditors charged back several items to the boro council at the annual settlement. Illegal abatement of the taxes of the Mountain Window Glass Company. (proprietors of the plant at North Coudersport), payment to firemen of \$150 from the boro treasury for expenses in attending the Firemen's Convention at Wellsville, a mere holiday affair, and the payment of \$92.75 for horns for the Coudersport Band, were the chief items in question, but there were other smaller ones. The entire report was set aside by Judge Ormerod on a mere legal technicality, namely, that the boro auditors had failed to serve the members of the boro council with official notice of the items surcharged. So justice was again defeated, and the honest people of Coudersport were disgusted.

In the annual settlement by the county auditors in the winter of 1911-1912, it was discovered that Henry E. Page, who then held the office of County Treasurer, had deposited the funds of the county in his own name, and had kept for himself the interest that accrued at the bank, as well as receiving the commission allowed by law. The county auditors very properly surcharged the amount of this interest, \$895.41, against Mr. Page, but he refused to pay, and the matter was brought into court in March, 1912. The county auditors were much surprised when Judge Ormerod exonerated Page, deciding that he had a legal right to put the people's money in a savings account and pocket the interest. Naturally, the auditors were not satisfied, and appealed the case. In April, 1913, the case was reversed in Superior court,

and Page was compelled to settle for the interest he had filched from the county funds. It is hard to understand why any decision to the contrary should ever have been rendered.

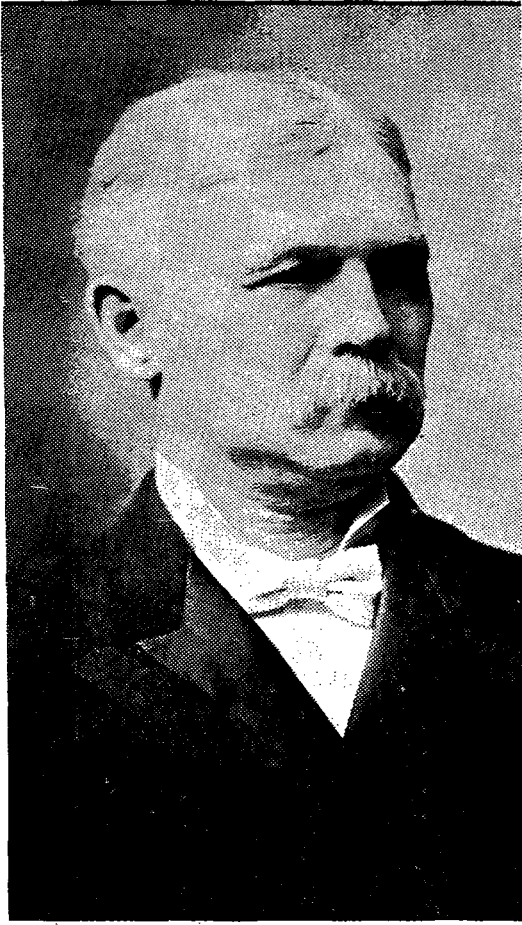
Proceedings were brought against the Bayless Company by residents down the stream, so long ago as 1903. The First Fork of the Sinnemahoning had become such a stinking, noisome torrent of refuse that fish were exterminated and farmers were even obliged to fence their cattle away from the river, though it is claimed that this juice from the pulp mill, however offensive its odor might be, was not injurious to health, and contained no disease germs, being too corrosive in its nature. The company was acquitted by Judge Ormerod in March, 1903, of any responsibility in the matter. No further action was taken till July, 1912, when suit was again brought against the Bayless Company for the same offense, the nuisance having reappeared after an intermission caused by the Austin flood. But the case was nolle prossed in September; one can only guess the reason why. At the same term of court, the Bayless Company was indicted by the grand jury for pollution of the stream. In November, 1913, the Bayless Company finally agreed to a partial filtration of the refuse of their plant. The matter had been taken up by the State officials, on account of the vast number of fish killed. The policy of the company in ignoring the interests of the dwellers along the Sinnemahoning and depending on the county court to balk all attempts to force them to filter their refuse, did not avail in the conflict with the officials of the State. Several other industrial plants, such as the Gaffney wood alcohol factories on Pine Creek, and tanneries using lime in their vats, were forced at the same time to install filters.

The history of one more case of graft and dishonesty that escaped adequate punishment remains to be told. In January, 1905, the Genesee Banking Company opened for business in the town of Genesee. The personnel was J. B. Jones, president; George B. Wilcox, vice president; E. J. Johnson, cashier; William L. Norton, bookkeeper. This bank closed its doors in 1909. Steps were taken to organize a new bank in 1910. But the organizers were forbidden by the national banking department at Washington to have anything to do with the paper of the bank that had failed. The defunct bank made a statement in August, 1910, and Ira E. Easton was appointed trustee. In June, 1911, indictments for dishonesty in the conduct of the bank were returned against its officers by the grand jury. These officers had already been branded as rascals by the depositors who had lost their money. The evidence against the defaulting officers of the bank was conclusive, only legal technicalities standing in the way of conviction. But Judge Ormerod quashed the indictments as not being based on sufficient evidence. Only three of this gang of swindlers had

been apprehended, the ringleaders, Jones and Norton, having skipped to the West, their bail being forfeited. The three remaining stockholders of the bank, William Appleby, George B. Wilcox, and E. A. Rathbone, persisted in declaring that they did not know of the false statements made by the two rascals who had gone West and by Johnson, the cashier. These men had stated that their bank was a branch of the First National Bank of Wellsville, and had a paid-in capital of \$25,000. So the only members of this gang of thieves that had been caught were released by the court.

Later on, W. L. Norton, one of the bail jumpers, was arrested and convicted in the courts in Oklahoma, whither he had fled, of violation of the U. S. banking laws. He was sentenced to 15 years in a federal prison. The remaining thief, J. B. Jones, after having dodged the officers for a long time, was apprehended in September, 1912, and both he and Wilcox were convicted in county court that year. Their attorneys promptly appealed the case. A new trial was refused in July, 1913. In September, they were each fined by Judge Ormerod \$500 and costs, and each sentenced to two years imprisonment. The case was once more appealed, but the decision was affirmed by Supreme court in June, 1914, five years after these two rascals had defrauded the citizens of Northern Potter of their hard-earned money. They were charged in the final decision with having used the funds of the bank for private speculation and padding the credit and capital of the bank. A correspondent from Genesee in the Potter County Journal of Sept. 17, 1913, asks pointedly why a man who stole \$40,000 should be let off with a fine of \$500.

Judge Ormerod granted liquor license at every point in the county of any importance, regardless of the wishes of the people of the neighborhood, the township of Bingham being the only one, so far as I know, where the dry sentiment was strong enough to prevent a would-be liquor seller from obtaining the requisite number of signers on his petition for license. In several other neighborhoods, signers to license petitions were obtained with difficulty, notably at Ulysses, Gold, and Harrison Valley. W. H. Hubbard, hotel-keeper at Gold, only obtained signers by going to Brookland, which chanced to be in the same township, and at the head of the list were the names of the Brookland hotel-keeper, his bartender, and a few men aptly described in plain language as "professional booze-histers", whom the proprietor of the hotel generally had in his employ, getting back at his bar all that he paid them in wages. License was first granted in Ulysses in May, 1904, to W. C. Rowley, proprietor of the Hosley House. Public sentiment was so strong against liquor, and Rowley was so much harassed by arrests for minor violations of the law, that his hotel at last mysteriously burned in September, 1912, and the



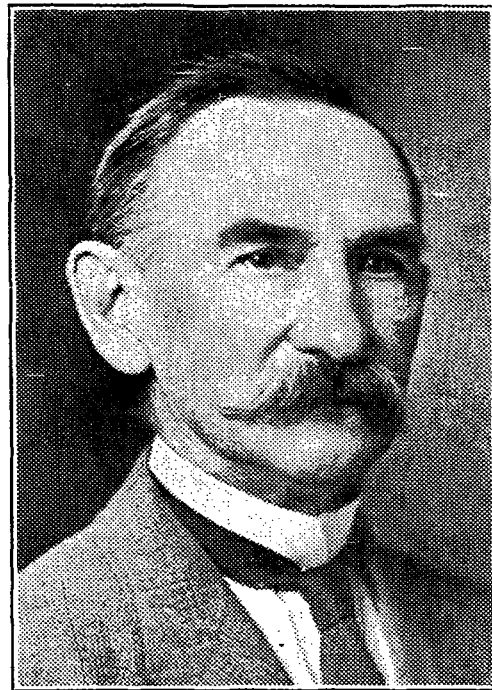
**JOHN ORMEROD**  
President Judge of Potter County.  
1903-1913.  
Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



**ALBERT S. HECK**  
President Judge of Potter County,  
1913-1930.  
Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



**EDWIN HASKELL**  
Senior editor of the Potter County  
Journal, 1883-1912.



**W. W. THOMPSON**  
Founder of the Potter Enterprise,  
1874, and writer on Potter County  
history.  
Courtesy of Potter Enterprise



owner left town. A similar thing happened at Gold about a year later. W. H. Hubbard was keeping the hotel, which he purchased from J. K. Morley on contract for \$5,000, but he had as yet made only a small payment. The hotel burned Dec. 1, 1913, having been insured for a considerable sum. Two of the Hubbards and a third man, Steve Wakely, were arrested. Wakely was acquitted in March, 1914. The case against the Hubbards was difficult of proof, and dragged through the courts for upwards of two years. The three men were finally convicted of conspiracy to defraud the insurance company, in June, 1916. W. H. Hubbard was fined \$100 and costs and received a prison sentence of one year. The other two men were each sentenced to a fine of \$50 and six months in the county jail. No license was again granted either in Ulysses or Gold.

In the fall of 1913, the time again arrived for the election of a president judge in Potter County. It was generally believed that Judge Ormerod would be reelected. He was supported by conservative papers, stood high in fraternal orders, and generally was credited with a full measure of that intangible asset commonly defined as "pull". The candidates were Judge Ormerod, Albert S. Heck, and Nelson L. Allen. The vote in September primaries was Ormerod 1460, Heck 1382, Allen 699. Since only the two highest candidates were entitled to a place on the ticket at the regular election in November, the race lay between Ormerod and Heck. The result was; Ormerod 1853, Heck 3156.

The reader who has followed the account just given of the many important cases in which the interests of the county or that of large groups of citizens were at stake, in almost every one of which the ends of justice were defeated, will not be slow to guess why Judge Ormerod failed of reelection. It would be rash to say that in all these cases the fault was his, but it was inevitable that many voters should believe that it was. In the H. E. Page case, the reversal of Judge Ormerod's decision had saved the county a large sum of money. The Genesee bank swindle still rankled in the minds of the voters in the north of the county, and the failure to recover anything from boro officials who had made free with the taxpayers' money had disgusted the citizens of Coudersport. Judge Ormerod had alienated the dry voters by granting licenses in places like Ulysses and Gold, where the prevailing sentiment was overwhelmingly against liquor, and whence petitions against license signed by all the leading citizens had been presented to him, to which he had publicly announced that he would pay no attention whatever.

Judge Ormerod was discouraged and disheartened by his defeat. He not only retired from public life, but sold his residence and property in the county and removed to California, where he died in April, 1922. He was born in Brantford, Ontario,



Canada, March 25, 1848. He came to Coudersport as miller for Knox & Jones, then the owners of the Keystone grist mill, in 1869. In 1874 he began the study of law with John S. Mann, and was admitted to the bar in 1878. He removed to Knoxville, Pa., where he practiced law a few years. In 1883 he returned to Coudersport and became the law partner of Arthur B. Mann. Later, he became the partner of H. C. Dornan. He was elected District Attorney in 1883. No shrewder legal mind ever occupied the judge's chair in Potter County. The conviction and execution of Brewster will always stand to his credit.

One more murder must be recorded in Potter County during this period. Clinton Salmon was stabbed to death by Elmer Hill in a quarrel over a girl in a dance hall at Gold in June, 1915. The verdict was voluntary manslaughter. Hill received a prison sentence of 7 to 10 years.

Judge Heck at once justified the strong support he had received from the dry element whose vote had enabled him to win the election. He refused twelve applications for liquor license in May, 1914, including several in dry communities. Several keepers of saloons and bawdy houses were indicted in June. In May, 1915, no licenses were granted at Roulet or Harrison Valley. The destruction of the licensed hotels at Gold and Ulysses by their owners has been already related. Judge Heck defeated an attempt to attach Potter County to Clinton for judicial purposes in 1915. Most of his acts on the bench belong in the next chapter, and will be related in their proper place.

There was some agitation for the organization of Roulet as a boro in 1907, but a few of the chief property owners did not favor this plan, and it came to nothing. A dispute over the township line between Homer and Eulalia in 1911 was settled in favor of Homer, placing the Tidewater Pump Station in that township, also making Homer responsible for schooling a few children at the Pump Station who had formerly been regarded as belonging in Eulalia. An effort was made in 1913 for municipal water works in Coudersport, and a vote of the boro was favorable, but legal obstacles prevented the project from being carried out. It is doubtful whether the people of the town would have gained by such an undertaking. Potter County was declared to be out of debt in February, 1912, a condition that has rarely existed. The Grange National Bank of Ulysses, established in 1907, and the new Genesee bank, organized by Coudersport capitalists to replace the defunct bank of Jones and Wilcox, furnished banking facilities hitherto lacking in the northern districts.

Among the newspapers of Potter County, the Galeton Leader-Dispatch, the Oswayo Valley Mail, the Potter County Journal, and the Potter Enterprise suffered no radical change in proprietor-

ship from 1904 to 1915. Edwin Haskell, senior editor of the Potter County Journal, died in 1912. The Potter Enterprise was during this time owned and edited by M. T. Stokes. The genius for news gathering, which all who knew him agree that he possessed, got him into trouble on more than one occasion. During the summer of 1907 he printed considerable news about the family affairs of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Aeschbaugh that gained him the ill-will of the Aeschbaugh family. Mr. Aeschbaugh was then the proprietor of a barber shop opposite the Crittenden Hotel. Since no legal action against Stokes was warranted, Mrs. Aeschbaugh took it upon herself to punish him for his intrusion into her family affairs. She attacked him with a horsewhip on the street September 21, 1907. He made no resistance, but fled to the shelter of the men's room in the Crittenden. Naturally this made a sensation, and poor Stokes never heard the last of it, but no damages resulted to his subscription list. Another accident befell him when in retaliation for some derogatory remarks in the Enterprise, Stokes was again attacked on the street in October, 1908, and a sound spanking with a paddle administered by Herman D. Fleschutz. Stokes threatened legal action, but as one would expect, that was the end of it.

The Enterprise office was nearly destroyed by a fire in the print shop in January, 1910, which also did some damage in the stores adjoining. In October, 1913, the Enterprise office was damaged, but not destroyed, by a blast of dynamite. The editor claimed that this was the doing of some political enemy, and one innocent man was named as the possible miscreant. But this story was not generally believed. There were suspicions, but the true cause of the explosion never became known.

The first issue of the Galeton Democrat appeared in August, 1904. O. W. Grimm became the editor in February, 1906. In November, 1908, it was purchased by F. C. Maltby, and the name changed to the Galeton News in January, 1909, politics independent. The paper suspended and the proprietor moved to New York in July, 1909.

The Genesee Times had been founded in 1899 by Victor M. Allen. He repurchased the paper in March, 1907. In April, 1908, appeared the Genesee Venture, Fred S. Blackman, proprietor. He bought the Times and consolidated it with the Venture in May, 1908. The paper was purchased by Clyde Allen and Jay Fuller in December, 1908. It was suspended and the proprietor moved to Hinsdale, N. Y., in January, 1909. It was purchased by the business men of Genesee and revived as the Genesee Times in February, 1911. The Whitesville News bought the paper in February, 1912, but it was still published as the Genesee Times. It was suspended in January, 1914, and was not again revived.

Arlie L. Corwin, of the Roulet Recorder, brought out the Harrison Herald for Harrison Valley in July, 1907, and the Oswayo Observer for Oswayo in January, 1908, each with a local editor. Both papers were short-lived.

The Austin Autograph died with the Austin flood of 1911. The Austin Republican had already suspended in 1906.

The Potter Democrat was purchased by F. S. Thomas and J. J. Mundy in January, 1906. Mundy left Coudersport and went on the staff of the Erie Dispatch in 1911. The Democrat was sold to Thomas H. Higgins in July, 1912. It is related that in October, 1910, a skunk gained access to the office of the Democrat. What followed needs no description.

The first regular movie show in Coudersport was opened in the building now occupied by Moore's Restaurant in 1907. It closed in a few weeks because it was unprofitable. Judge Ben B. Lindsey, the noted lecturer on juvenile delinquency, spoke in Coudersport in April, 1913. The first Coit Alber Chautauqua came to Coudersport in June, 1915. A guarantee of \$1500 was required of the townspeople, to be obtained by selling 750 season tickets at \$2.00 each. The leading feature of the first Chautauqua was the world-famous Creatore band. Galeton also secured a Chautauqua in 1915. The first aviator to come to Potter County was the famous stunt flyer, Lincoln Beachey, who flew at Coudersport in July, 1911, under the auspices of the Odd Fellows. Glenn H. Curtis, the well known inventor and builder of pioneer air-planes, was present on this occasion, but was not introduced to the public.

Among the talented musicians of Potter County, one man deserves special mention. John Tripp Lewis was one of those rare old-time fiddlers who are born, not made. He had some eccentricities, and lived and died a bachelor. He often traveled on foot, and his charges were always moderate. He could play all night for a party of young people, rarely playing a tune twice on the same occasion. All who have listened to his playing agree that he could not be outclassed as a producer of dance music. Unlike many fiddlers, he was a ready reader of music, but he nearly always played from memory. He died in March, 1909.

The planting of trees, both by the State and by private land-owners, began in this period. Two of the first farmers to plant trees furnished by the State Forestry Department were John B. Bundy of Odin and Joseph Guenther of Dutch Hill, both about 1910. John Lehman was also one of the first. The forest belonging to the Masonic order, near their temple, was planted in 1915. Merchants began closing their stores during the evening hours in January, 1911. Before this time, it had been the universal custom to keep stores open every week day till 8 or 9 P. M.

The period of Potter County history from 1904 to 1915 is most remarkable for the decline of the industrial undertakings that had caused such a phenomenal growth of population in the period just before. With the death of Frank H. Goodyear, the prosperity of the B. & S. railroad had rapidly declined. The road, which had given promise of becoming an important through route, had sunk to the status of a third-rate line of little importance and poor service, and the rails were about being torn up between Wellsville and Buffalo. The lumber business in Potter County was almost finished. The great sawmills at Galeton, Austin, Cross Fork, Mina, and Keating Summit, all had shut down for good. The towns of Cross Fork, Mina, Keating Summit, and Halls had disappeared from the map. The window glass factories at Coudersport and Roulet were no longer in existence; only the V. & S. bottle factory at Roulet and the two glass factories at Shinglehouse remained, even these fast following the others to extinction. Austin had been destroyed by the flood of 1911, and was no longer the Hemlock City; the town as rebuilt could boast only one industry, the Bayless plant. Dozens of empty houses lined the streets of Coudersport and Galeton. The census of 1910 already showed a decrease in the population of nearly every township and boro in the county, and this decrease was still steadily going on. The peak of population had been reached about 1904 or 1905.

Yet there were signs of encouragement. The transient and irresponsible element among our people had been largely weeded out, those who remained being mostly men who were an asset to their communities. The Coudersport High School, under the leadership of Prof. Entz, had won an enviable place among the schools of this part of the State, and drew a large attendance from outside the town. The beginnings had been made on the splendid system of State highways that we have today. Farmers were beginning to ship their products to the city markets, instead of depending on transient sawmill towns and lumber camps to buy what they raised. Forest fires were no longer so destructive as they had been during the big lumber operations, and the planting of trees on denuded lands had begun. These were the conditions in Potter at the close of the year 1915.

## CHAPTER XI

### ADJUSTMENT TO NEW CONDITIONS. POTTER COUNTY AS WE ARE TODAY. 1915—1933

At the opening of the year 1916, the lumber industry in this county was nearly at an end. The only tract of original timber remaining was that at Costello, which was finished four years later. The extract works of the Costello tannery continued to run till 1922, when the tannery, too, became a thing of the past. The tannery at Harrison Valley was damaged by fire in April, 1918, but not destroyed. Work continued, though the plant was not run steadily or at full capacity, till the fall of 1920. Little, if any work was done at this plant thereafter. The buildings were torn down in 1923. The tannery at Galeton lasted a little longer. After a long shut-down, the Elk Tanning Company made preparations to reopen in the fall of 1927. But trouble ensued with the State authorities in regard to the pollution of the stream. The plant was not reopened and was torn down in the summer of 1930. The only tannery in the county is now the one at Coudersport, and hemlock bark is no longer used in the process. It is the oldest industrial plant in the county that is still running, having been in operation 54 years.

The V. & S. bottle factory at Roulet, after once changing hands and meeting many obstacles in the attempt to secure a supply of gas at any figure that would enable the factory to run at a profit, was purchased by the Vacuum Process Corporation of Buffalo in the spring of 1923. It was announced that the factory would start in September, but little, if any more work was ever done at this factory.

The Puritan glass works at Shinglehouse were junked in 1919. By the summer of 1922, the last industry in the town was idle, and the window glass factory was dismantled in 1924. No glass factory has been operated in Potter County since.

The Palmer stave and heading plant at Roulet had increasing difficulty in obtaining timber, and in April, 1918, sold to the Warner Sugar Refining Company, who dismantled the factory and removed the machinery to Vermont. The Gray Chemical Company now own the only industry remaining at Roulet. They built a sawmill in the spring of 1919, later adding a planing mill, both of which still run so much of the time as is required to manufacture the logs which the company obtains from its own timber land in connection with the cutting of wood for the chemical plant. The company is one of the live industrial firms of the present day.

The heading mill at Oswayo closed in December, 1916, removing the last industry from the town. The plant of the Gaffney Wood Products Company at Walton, after several busy years, shut down and the works were dismantled in 1924. The company's plant at Lyman Run had already been taken up some time before. Their remaining maple timber was sold to Seeger, Prindle, & Company of Belvidere, N. Y., and the rest of their timber went to the chemical works at Genesee. This plant is still running, also the chemical plant at Coneville, which was built in 1901. These factories, as well as that of the Gray Chemical Company at Roulet, have suffered lately from the dull market for wood alcohol, but at present it would seem that they have a fair chance to weather the storm. Another wood-using plant of the present period is the Wells & Fuller shoe-last and mangle roller mill at Shinglehouse.

The factory of the American Silver Truss Company at Coudersport has proved its staying power, and has been able to operate on part time through the recent dull season. The Graham Roller Bearing Company located here in 1916, and at one time employed 25 men, several local capitalists being interested. Some work for the U. S. government occupied this factory during the World War, and more contracts for its products were obtained in the spring of 1919. The business began to wane in 1921, the working force was reduced, and a shut-down followed. The plant started again in June, 1923, as the Supreme Roller Bearing Co. The business went into the hands of a receiver in March, 1924, and the property was sold at sheriff sale in May, 1925. It was bid in by Monta C. Burt, trustee for the creditors, who were all Coudersport men. The factory has been idle since.

The Hyslip furniture factory was established in 1916 in the buildings of the defunct basket factory at North Coudersport. Mark B. Hyslip of Wellsville was the president of the company, the other owners being Coudersport capitalists. August Luft was superintendent of the plant. The business changed hands in September, 1919, the new owners being Thomas F. McCabe of Salamanca, Frank A. Beyer of Buffalo, and John F. Stone of Coudersport. Mr. Beyer now took charge of the work. The chief product was bedroom furniture. Thomas F. McCabe, the head of the company, died in March, 1929. The factory shut down not long afterwards. Several efforts have since been made to start this plant, but for several years the only parties who were willing to take it over asked for so heavy a subscription from local men that our capitalists demurred. At this writing, a contract has been signed by George B. Hansberg of Long Island to locate a factory here producing various novelties. The new industry will probably be in operation when this reaches the reader.

The building and equipment of the Beckman sawmill and mangle roller factory, idle since the death of Mr. Beckman in 1922, was purchased in August, 1926, by the Union Chemical Company, makers of various chemical products, insecticides, etc. The mill machinery was removed and the buildings remodeled and equipped under the management of August Luft. Within a year, the company was prosecuted for fraud by the U. S. post-office department and barred from the mails, it being discovered that some of their products were void of the virtues the manufacturers claimed. The company by some means contrived to do a small amount of business in Coudersport as recently as 1931. Some of the employes of the factory were injured in health, due to handling poisons with poor ventilation in the work rooms. The factory is now idle.

There is yet to be mentioned one manufacturing plant in Coudersport that has proved its ability to endure. The milk plant at the lower end of town had been operated since August, 1910, by the Rose Dairy Company. This company became embarrassed and farmers failed to receive their milk checks in the latter months of the year 1920. In February, 1921, the company gave notes to the milk producers for the sums due them, and the factory, which had been closed for a time, reopened in March. It was forced to close in October. The Dairymen's League refused to allow their members to furnish any more milk till that already delivered should be paid for. The farmers employed W. F. DuBois as their attorney. He found the affairs of the company to be in a very critical condition, but by consummate skill he succeeded within about a year in obtaining payment of the amount due, which the company was able to raise only in installments. This settlement should have been satisfactory to the milk producers, but they demurred because their attorney reserved for his fee the interest on the sums he had collected, in consideration of the immense correspondence and very large amount of labor that it had cost him to collect these claims. It is quite plain that these farmers had no just cause for complaint against Mr. DuBois. He levied on the plant in the interests of his clients, and it was sold for their benefit at sheriff sale in March, 1922. The former proprietors operated the plant for the benefit of their creditors till September, when it was sold to Abbott's Alderney Dairies, Inc., of Philadelphia. Charles Shaw became the manager of the plant and Tom Toles was in charge of receiving and testing. The plant has been conducted on a business basis ever since, and bids fair to continue indefinitely.

During the season of 1916, a new industry was introduced into Potter County. Silk mills were built in Coudersport, Galeton, and Shinglehouse, offering employment chiefly to girls, many of whom were thus afforded a better opportunity than they had

ever before had. These three mills began as the Harbord Silk Company, afterwards coming under the proprietorship of John Dunlop's Sons, Inc., and their business was spinning only, doing no weaving. The Coudersport mill ran quite steadily with only short intervals of idleness till June, 1931. Since then it has been shut down. The Galeton mill had about the same period of operation. During the season of 1932, the mill was bought by local capitalists, to whom it was offered at junk prices, and again put in operation. At the present writing, it is running and bids fair to continue. The Shinglehouse mill ran only a short time. But in January, 1923, the Oswayo Valley Silk Company was chartered in Shinglehouse, composed mostly of local capitalists. A building was erected on the site of the old bottle plant, and the factory started in December, 1924. Unlike the mills previously built in Potter County, this factory was engaged in weaving. It barely paid operating expenses the first year, but continued to run till 1929, when the company became bankrupt. H. D. Kent was appointed trustee and B. L. Langworthy and Earl Gibson appraisers. The mill has not run since.

Another silk weaving mill was established in Shinglehouse by the Shinglehouse Silk Company and started in August, 1927. The company was composed of four men from New Jersey, assisted by local capitalists. The building of the John Dunlop's Sons silk mill was rented, this company having shut down their mill in Shinglehouse some time before and removed most of their machinery. The new mill ran by electric power from a long distance line that had just been brought into the town. This mill was still running in April, 1930. A silk mill was built at Austin in 1919, but shut down after a short period of operation. It started again in 1927, the new proprietors being the Kanter Silk Throwing Company, weavers. This mill is now running with a full force. At present it would seem that the silk industry has a future in our county. A cotton glove factory was opened at Galeton in 1917 by M. M. Smith of Gaines, and is still running.

Besides the milk plant at Coudersport, there are several others in Potter County. A condensery was opened in Galeton in 1919. The same year, a milk plant was also opened at Genesee, at first under the proprietorship of the Pet Milk Company, later acquired by the Borden Condensed Milk Company. The Dairy-men's League built a milk station at Millport in 1929. Most of the towns in the county now offer farmers some means of marketing milk.

The farmers of Potter County have found dairying to be, on the whole, their most profitable line. Potato-raising also ranks high. The Potter County Cooperative Potato Association was organized in May, 1920, and secured a charter in September. The potato warehouse in Coudersport, erected in 1922, has not proved



a complete success, but potatoes are shipped from several different stations in the county each year, and their quality is of the best. Potter County in 1925 ranked fourth in the State in acreage of potatoes, despite our large area of State forests and other wild land. A farm products show has been held at Millport yearly, beginning in 1928, and a similar fair was held at Ulysses in 1930, to be a regular annual feature thereafter. An agricultural fair was held at Genesee in the fall of 1932, sponsored by the business men of the town and the rural schools. These fairs have no facilities for the exhibition of stock, but their showing of farm produce and poultry is equal to anything of the kind to be seen at the larger annual fairs in adjoining counties. A farm bureau has been in service in Potter County since the spring of 1916.

Among the fires of this period, by all means the worst was the great Galeton fire of January, 1916, which swept a large part of the business section on the south side of Main Street and on Bridge Street. The losses were as follows:

F. C. Edgcomb, Central Hotel.

Spiro and Barkus Company, store and living rooms.

Albee & Seltz, hardware. Galeton Leader Dispatch on the second floor. Third floor, living rooms occupied by Nellie and Mary Ward.

Building owned by E. M. Dickinson, two business places and living rooms of L. J. White.

J. W. Zindel, store. Living rooms above occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Greicke.

W. S. Kelly, store and living rooms.

A. Lehman, city drug store and living rooms. Rooms in basement occupied by L. C. Marsh.

T. E. Baldwin, store, occupied by C. R. Mosch. Office of Dr. J. G. Steele and K. of C. hall overhead.

T. E. Baldwin, store, occupied by G. F. Slobodnik, tailor and Cady, jeweler. Living rooms of V. D. Acker overhead.

Methodist church.

Dr. H. A. Laye, residence.

Earl White, music store and undertaking, living rooms in the same building.

J. W. Zindel, residence.

Mrs. C. A. Speigel, opera house, tenants on second floor, two story building and residence.

Mrs. J. T. Hurd, dwelling occupied by S. J. Briam.

Mrs. Lizzie Kohler, dwelling occupied by Mrs. B. J. Campbell. Guillotte Gasket Company, factory.

W. D. Allen, insurance office. V. D. Acker, law office overhead.

This fire entailed a loss estimated at \$300,000 to \$350,000, the greatest ever sustained in any fire that ever occurred in Potter County, exceeding even the amount of loss in the Coudersport fire of 1880. But the western part of the business section on Main Street was not destroyed. Galeton was ill-prepared to meet such a loss, as the fire occurred just at the time of the closing of the big sawmills, when the town was losing in population. Nevertheless, the burned district was practically all rebuilt. The Leader Dispatch was published in Westfield for a short time following the loss of the printing plant.

Another major fire in Galeton was that of March 10, 1933. It originated in a bowling alley owned by T. C. Cochran. A stiff breeze was blowing down the valley, making the flames difficult to control. Six buildings on Main Street were destroyed, containing seven business places, besides the hall of the I. O. O. F. and some apartments. But better fire-fighting machinery was then at hand than could be had in 1916. The town owned a pumper, and pumpers were called from Coudersport and Wellsboro. Pine Creek was full, furnishing plenty of water. Had there been no better fire protection than in 1916, the destruction would probably have been even greater than it was then.

A fire occurred at Oswayo in April, 1917, that destroyed the store of A. G. Wells, occupied by Clarence Head. The fire started in an unoccupied building east of the store, and was believed to be incendiary. Mr. Head had some insurance on his stock.

In May, 1922, the house of Arthur Smith at Keating Summit burned, and three children lost their lives.

There was a big fire at Shinglehouse on March 2, 1926. The following were the principal losses: First National Bank and living rooms overhead, Dodge hardware, Reed and Gross hardware, Mrs. Susie Keir, Kate Newton's drug store, McClure's shoe shop; about \$120,000 in all. Shinglehouse had then no fire department. Help was called from Bolivar, Richburg, and Olean, arriving in half an hour. Without this aid, the whole town would have burned. All the buildings destroyed were of wood, except the bank.

The most important fires in Coudersport during this period were those that destroyed both of the schoolhouses. The primary school-building, which stood on the site of the present high school, burned early in July, 1916. The janitor was at this time engaged in burning the refuse from the toilets that had accumulated during the year, the system of disposal being the same that had been installed when the building was erected. The fire could not be located till the flames had gained such headway that no fire-fighting apparatus that the town then possessed could be of use. Only \$10,000 insurance was obtained.

The school board at once prepared to erect a larger and better building on the site of the one that had burned, and to remove the high school to the new building, the old one on the hill to be used for the primary grades. Temporary quarters were obtained to enable the school to open in the fall of 1916. The question of a bigger and better schoolhouse was submitted to the voters of the boro in September, resulting in a vote of 180 to 122 in favor of the new building. Plans were submitted by several firms of architects, one of these being Hirsch and Hirsch of Altoona, Pa., who gave an estimate of cost on their plans much below that given by any of their competitors for theirs. The Board finally agreed to accept the plans of Messrs. Hirsch and Hirsch, if any contractor could be found willing to undertake the building at the estimate given. Through the influence of the architects, P. W. Finn & Son of Altoona offered a bid at this figure, which was not far from \$50,000, and they obtained the contract. The work of preparing the ground for the new building was begun in the fall of 1916.

The Coudersport school board discovered by the time the work was well under way that they had made a mistake, not only in awarding the contract to P. W. Finn & Son, but also in accepting the plans and specifications of Hirsch & Hirsch. Several details of the plans, which I need not describe here, were found to call only for cheap and unsubstantial construction, and several of these details were afterwards changed at the expense of the Board. The contractors proved to be without adequate resources, and expended some of the payments received from the Board in settling bills outside of their job in Coudersport. In this way their credit was exhausted, and they were not able to obtain the necessary material to go on with the work. The Board was obliged to take the matter in hand, and to guarantee payment for material. Complaint was made by some of the citizens of Coudersport that the work was not being well done. This led to the employment of a building inspector, but had little or no effect on the workmanship. The writer was himself employed on the building during the entire season of 1917, and can state from personal knowledge that the workmanship is defective in many details, these defects being mostly of such a nature as not to be at once apparent, but to develop and become evident within from two to five years. Few local mechanics were employed. Material was purchased from George Beckman, Julius S. Colcord, and perhaps one or two other local men, which was never paid for and became a total loss to these dealers, which they could ill afford. The building was nearly completed in February, 1918, when the brick schoolhouse on the hill burned. The fire is believed to have started in the furnace room, but its cause is not known. Within about two weeks school reopened in the new

building, the contractors completing the job some two or three months later. The cost of the building much exceeded the original estimate.

The school was continued in the new building and in the various rooms leased by the Board elsewhere during the season of 1918-1919. In July, 1919, a house on West First Street belonging to Dan Haskins and John Buchanan was purchased and remodeled for school purposes, being on the north side of the square on which the new schoolhouse stood. In April, 1922, the question of another new schoolhouse was submitted to the voters of the boro, the result being 404 to 37 in favor of the new building. The plans were drawn by a firm of Buffalo architects for a building with twice the number of rooms that the present schoolhouse contains, one-half the capacity shown in the plans being deemed sufficient for immediate needs. The Board had already purchased two pieces of adjoining property, and sold the wooden building that served as a schoolhouse to Charles Welfing, who moved it to a lot of his own on West Street. The contract for the new schoolhouse was taken by Breunle & Abson of Coudersport, and the work, completed in the fall of 1922, was executed in the thorough manner that is characteristic of these well-known builders. The contract price was \$39,131.

Two other schoolhouses burned during this period. The first of these was at Ulysses in December, 1921. It was replaced by a new building that was completed in April, 1924. The schoolhouse in Genesee burned in February, 1924. This building had been in use less than two years. Lumber that had been put on the ground for an addition to the building was saved, and a new schoolhouse was erected. A new two-room schoolhouse was built at Sweden Valley in 1926. Its design is one that is recommended nowadays by the State Board of Education, and the building contains up-to-date features found only in a few of the newest schoolhouses.

On December 20, 1923, the Baptist church in Coudersport burned. The fire resulted from an overheated furnace, and had made only small headway when discovered. But the fire was difficult of access, and reaching the roof, was soon out of control, since Coudersport did not then possess a pumper, and the small water pressure that could be had was of no use except to save adjoining buildings. The pumper we now own would speedily have stopped the flames. A pipe organ had just been purchased by the church and stored in the main room, not yet being installed in place; it, too, was destroyed. The loss was too great to be borne. Some effort was made to finance the rebuilding of the church, but this was not achieved. The members of the church had struggled for years under a load of debt that had only just been paid off, and were in no mood for beginning over again.

The pastor, Rev. A. G. Lawton, was reluctant to give up, and services were held for a time in Cane's theatre, but finally discontinued. The church still retains its organization, but holds no services.

Two other fires of this period in Coudersport are worth noticing. The Neefe wagon shop burned in May, 1922. In attempting to remove some of the contents of the burning building, Dan Neefe and Harry Owens were seriously hurt, and Victor Lunn received injuries to the spine that resulted in death. A fire started in the Moran pool room on Main Street on March 27, 1926, believed to have been caused by a cigarette stub thrown into a basket of excelsior and waste paper about the time that the place closed for the night. It had gained much headway when discovered, and destroyed the pool room and adjoining millinery store of Miss Blanche Cummings, both of which were ablaze when the fire was discovered. But for the pumper, the entire Crittenden block would have been doomed. The pumper had already been the means of stopping a bad fire in the home of Mrs. Angie Flegal a few weeks before, the roof and upper floor of the house being all that was destroyed. This pumper was purchased in the fall of 1924, and delivered in March, 1925. A pumper was purchased by the boro of Galeton at about the same time.

The Potter Gas Company, by 1916, controlled practically the entire gas supply for the county. In February, 1916, a minimum charge of \$1.00 monthly for each consumer was announced. The rate was raised from 30c to 32c in July, 1918. On August 23, 1919, rates were again raised to 50c for Coudersport, 55c for Oswayo, Austin, and Ulysses, and 60c for Genesee, Keating Summit, Costello, and Galeton. But this raise in rates was not approved by the Public Service Commission of the State. In April, 1923, the Commission ordered the rate reduced to a uniform charge of 50c, the order to be retroactive to 1921. However, permission to raise rates was finally granted, the rate of 55c at present in force dating from February, 1924. Only the intervention of the Public Service Commission has saved the people of Potter County from paying a much higher price for their gas.

The first of the deep gas wells was drilled in the Farmington field in Tioga County in September, 1930. The first deep well in Potter County was the Booth No. 1, in Hebron township, which was completed in November, 1931, with a production of 8,250,000 feet per day at a depth of 4941 feet. This well could not be capped till a special outfit was brought from the Western oil and gas fields for the purpose. Eight other producers have since been drilled in the Hebron field, and drilling is still going on. The production of these wells runs from 3,600,000 to 28,000,000, the latter figure being reached by the Tassell well No. 2, owned

by the Wyoga Oil and Gas Company. The following companies also own producers in this field: Hungiville Oil and Gas Company, Williamsport Natural Gas Company, G. K. Rodgers, Potter Development Company, Sylvania Corporation. A producer has also just been struck (March, 1933) in Oswayo township near the head of the Eleven Mile, yielding 12,000,000 daily, opening a new field. It is owned by the Cunningham Oil & Gas Company. A gas well was begun on the lands of the Emporium Lumber Company on the East Fork in the fall of 1931. It has recently been abandoned at a depth of 6437 feet, a production of 85,000 being all that was obtained. It is the deepest well yet drilled in the county, and is owned by the Potter Development Company. It is extremely probable that the deep gas resources of Potter County are greater than has yet been realized, and that by the time this sketch reaches the reader, more big producers will have been struck, and very possibly new fields opened.

In September, 1916, the stockholders of the N. Y. & P. railroad voted to ask permission of the Public Service Commissions of the two States to abandon the road, which had not been profitable for several years. This permission was finally granted, and operation on the eastern end of the line ceased in December, 1917. A movement was begun to save the road from the scrap heap. The owners offered to sell for \$325,000, and 20 men were found before December who each agreed to take \$5000 in stock. W. W. Crittenden finally succeeded in raising the necessary capital to buy the road in August, 1919. Only freight trains were then running west of Genesee, and east of Genesee the road had been partially dismantled. In September, 1919, the road was reorganized with the following directors: John F. Stone, of Couderdport; John Troy, of Olean; N. E. Coasten, of Greenwood; Churchill Cobb, of Spring Mills. Stock subscriptions were taken by nearly all the manufacturing concerns on the line, also by several farmers and business men. Eight miles of track had already been torn up, but preparations were made to put the whole line in shape for service. A train was once more run to Canisteo November 11, 1919. No passenger trains have been run on this road since 1917. The road was run at a loss of \$9000 in 1923. Since that time trains have been run only when warranted by the amount of traffic, generally once a week.

Service was reduced on the trolley line at Shinglehouse in October, 1922, only six cars being run each day, with poor connections at the junction at Ceres. The power house at Ceres was dismantled in the fall of 1924, electricity from the Niagara Falls power line being used. The whole trolley system from Olean to Bolivar and Shinglehouse was sold at sheriff sale in March, 1927. The line from Ceres to Shinglehouse was torn up in April and the line from Bolivar to Portville in August, 1927.

Superintendent B. A. McClure of the C. & P. A., who had been in the service of the road since its opening in 1883, retired in August, 1919, on account of old age. He was succeeded as general manager of the road by Rathbone A. Knox, who still retains the position. In November, 1922, the motor car now in use on the road was put on as a substitute for some of the passenger trains, eventually handling all of the passenger, mail, and express business. In January, 1923, the roundhouse at Coudersport burned, disabling all the engines owned by the road except one, which was the poorest of them all. The road can not use the type of engines now employed on all the principal Eastern railroads. It was attempted to procure a new engine from the Baldwin Locomotive works, but none could be delivered in less than two years' time, and no shop outside of Coudersport would undertake to repair the damaged engines. The motor car, fortunately, had not been in the fire, and enabled the road to continue mail and passenger service. The manager finally succeeded in leasing a freight engine from the Shawmut railroad for \$30 per day, to which extortion he was compelled to assent for a short time. Meanwhile, new parts for the disabled engines were ordered, and the road's own mechanics undertook the necessary repairs. Service on the Ulysses end of the road was suspended, but only for a short time.

The east end of the road ceased to pay a profit, and permission was granted by the State Public Service Commission to abandon the line from Newfield Junction to Ulysses, which was done in October, 1925, and the rails taken up. The roundhouse again burned in March, 1931, but this time not all of the engines were disabled.

Mail to Ulysses is now carried by a motor stage, which was put on between Coudersport and Newfield on August 17, 1925. A motor stage was put on between Coudersport and Port Allegany in 1930, and motor stage lines are now running from Shinglehouse to Oswayo, Oswayo to Genesee, Ulysses to Westfield, and elsewhere. These lines are probably destined to increasing importance in the future. The B. & S. lines have recently been acquired by the B. & O. system, the service thus far remaining unchanged since the transfer. It is reported that the change in ownership was permitted by the Interstate Commerce Commission only on condition that service be maintained on all branches of the road. The portion of the B. & S. system especially desired by the B. & O. is said to have been the line between Driftwood and DuBois.

In the World War, Potter County boys upheld the noble record that their sires had made in the Civil War, 56 years before. Committees of Public Safety were organized in the chief towns of the county in the spring of 1917. A few Potter County men, like Capt. John D. Groves, Allen Eggleston, and Stanley V. Coyle,

had already enlisted in the army before President Wilson began drafting men. 1666 men were registered for military service in June, 1917. Twenty had already enlisted. The first squad started for Camp Lee, September 7, and another contingent left for Camp Meade two weeks later. The third squad started for Camp Lee early in October. Liberal subscriptions for the Y. M. C. A. were raised at the principal points in the county. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other organizations for home war work all received hearty support. Another contingent left for Camp Lee in February, 1918. At the Liberty Loan drive in April, 1918, Potter's share was oversubscribed, Galeton being the first to go over the top. The first Potter County man to lose his life in the service was Stanley V. Coyle, killed in an airplane collision in a training field at San Diego, California. Clarence Halsey of Ayres Hill died of wounds, also Philip Godfrey and Allen Eggleston of Coudersport, and Archie Thompson of Harrison Valley. But the chief toll taken of Potter County men is found in the roll of those who died of influenza in training camps. Many of our boys thus sacrificed themselves for our country simply because they were deprived of home care and home nursing, an all-important factor in fighting this dread disease. I shall not attempt to give a list of all our boys who did not come back. No such list, so far as I know, has ever been compiled for the whole county, and if it could be obtained, it would be too long to insert here. The Croix de Guerre was won by Corporal Walter Pfuntner of Coudersport. At least two Red Cross nurses went overseas from Potter County, Miss Florence Cobb, of Coudersport, and Miss Barta Wold, of Austin. Rev. J. F. Leffler of Buffalo, formerly pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Coudersport, and one of the best-loved ministers that ever served a Coudersport congregation, spent several months as a Y. M. C. A. worker in France. The loyalty of our citizens of German birth and descent was remarkable. The first six men who enlisted from Eulalia township were all from German families. One of these, John Six, had trouble to persuade the recruiting officer to take him, on account of his nationality, but he was accepted after he had invested his small savings in Liberty bonds. He was numbered among the victims of the flu.

The outstanding development of this period in Potter County is the building of our system of State roads, which has more than made up for the decline in railroad service, and has put Coudersport, Galeton, and Roulet on a transcontinental highway. Before the World War, the only hard-surfaced roads in the county were the brick pavements in Coudersport, Galeton, and Austin, with three short pieces of narrow macadam leading out of Coudersport and one each out of Austin and Galeton. The first piece of concrete pavement in Potter County was laid in 1919, extend-



ing from the east end of the village of Roulet west to the Marsh curve, a distance of a little over two miles. A petition for this piece of road had been filed by Roulet township in 1916. The petition was granted and the job let to Horn & Devling of Galeton in July, 1918, but conditions arising from the World War compelled the State to cancel all road contracts that season. The job was relet in April, 1919, to Tyne & Willing of Binghamton, N. Y., and completed during the year. In June, 1919, the contract was let to Horn & Devling for the remaining section of road between Coudersport and Roulet. It was finished in 1920. The piece of road from the Marsh curve to the McKean County line at Burtville was advertised for bids in December, 1919, and finished in 1920. The next section of the Roosevelt Highway in Potter County was the piece beginning at the end of the macadam road west of Galeton. It was built as far as West Pike in 1920, and extended nearly to Walton in 1921. J. C. Bradley & Company of Wellsboro were the contractors. The farmers between Galeton and West Pike claimed heavy damages for the relocation of this road, which was moved across the B. & S. track. Damages were awarded, but in a much smaller amount than the land-owners claimed, the amount being reduced from \$4000 to \$1000. As often happens in an issue between public and private interests, these farmers seem to have disposed to "hog" the county or the State. This road was opened for traffic late in 1921.

A new bridge on Main Street in Coudersport was built in the summer of 1922, the abutments being paid for by the boro while the cost of the bridge was borne by the county. Tom Leete had the contract for \$9372. No State aid had then been granted for projects wholly within the limits of a boro. The next extension of the Roosevelt Highway was in McKean County, from Burtville to Port Allegany. This piece of road was built by George Metzger of Emporium, and opened to traffic in October, 1923. South Main Street and the adjoining portion of Chestnut Street in Coudersport was the next piece of road to receive attention. The State assumed one-half the cost of an 18 foot pavement on that portion of the streets in question which was a part of the Roosevelt Highway. The remainder of the cost, together with the whole cost of that part of the pavement on Main Street that lay south of Chestnut Street, was apportioned so that the boro paid one-sixth, the county one-half, and the abutting property owners one-third. The contract was taken by George Metzger of Emporium, and the road opened late in 1924, some concrete pavement adjoining the Main Street bridge being also laid at the same time.

The section of the Roosevelt Highway east of Galeton came next. Galeton boro was obliged to buy a few adjoining lots to secure right of way, since the original road towards Gaines was

narrow, so much so that parking is still forbidden on a portion of the Roosevelt Highway in the east end of town. Most of the road between Galeton and Wellsboro was built during the season of 1924 by David Schoentag, Jr., of Saugerties, N. Y., a few portions between Gaines and Ansonia not being finished till the summer of 1925.

The remaining section of this road in Potter County from Walton to Sweden Valley was built by D. L. Dennis of McKean County. He began work in the fall of 1925, having just built those portions of the Roosevelt Highway between Port Allegany and Larrabee and between Kane and Sheffield, thereby establishing a reputation as a builder of concrete roads. This road was opened October 16, 1926, completing the Roosevelt Highway in this part of the State. The last link connecting Coudersport with New York City, between Wysox and Wyalusing in Bradford County, was opened in the fall of 1927. The viaduct at Ansonia, built in 1926, and the adjoining pavement, three-fourths of a mile in length, laid in 1929, completed the construction of the Roosevelt Highway.

The next road-building was in the Oswayo valley. The main road through Shinglehouse was paved in the fall of 1920, partly at the expense of the county, by George Metzger of Emporium. In June, 1924, Sharon township voted 214 to 61 in favor of a bond issue of \$15,000 to build more road. The piece of concrete from Shinglehouse to Sharon Center was built in the summer of 1925. Later in the year, another section of road was granted by the State in Hebron township between Coneville and the Clara township line, the county paying half the cost. Another portion of the road between Coneville and Millport was built by the State in 1926, D. L. Dennis, contractor, and this was continued to Millport in 1927. A concrete road from Shinglehouse to Myrtle, built in 1928, and the connecting link from Millport to Sharon Center, built in 1929, both at the expense of the State, completed the road down the Oswayo Valley from Coneville. The road from Coneville to Coudersport is not yet finished. Two portions built in 1929 and 1930 have brought it from Coneville to Hebron Center. At this writing, the road from Hebron Center to the mouth of Steer Brook is a sea of mud that is barely passable, on account of the heavy traffic connected with the deep gas wells now being drilled in this territory.

River Street in Roulet was paved in 1922 by Horn & Devling, the cost being met from sources outside the State Highway department, mostly by local subscription. Main Street in Ulysses was paved in 1924. This section of the county was one of the last to obtain road construction at the expense of the State. The road at Westfield was extended to Harrison Valley in 1924, and

to Mills in 1927. A small section of macadam was built at the expense of the State between Gold and Newfield by D. L. Dennis in the fall of 1926. The portion of the State highway in Lewisville boro was built the following year, and connected through to Newfield in 1929. The road from Steer Brook to Colesburg was built directly by the State employees in 1927, not being let by contract. The remaining piece of road from Colesburg to Gold was graded in 1929 and finished in 1930. The last link in this highway between Ulysses and Mills was opened late in the fall of 1930.

The first hard road connecting Austin with the world outside was built to Keating Summit in 1925. The road between Emporium and Port Allegany via Keating Summit was finished in the fall of 1926, some portions of it being rebuilt in 1928. The road from Austin to Coudersport was begun in 1928, the greater part of it being graded and finished in 1930. This road is often called the Baldwin Highway, because its construction by the State was obtained through the influence of Senator Frank E. Baldwin. Senator Baldwin also secured the construction of the remainder of the road from Costello to Sinnemahoning in 1931.

The route from Coudersport to Wellsville via Gold and Genesee is not yet finished, but the last remaining piece between Gold and Harmontown is now under construction by means of Federal aid, a portion of the road through Genesee having been built in 1929, and two more sections in 1930 and 1931. The road from Brookland to Walton was built directly by State employees in 1925, and the road from Brookland to Gold was built by contract in 1930. The completion of the section from Gold to Harmontown will open an important new through route from Buffalo to Harrisburg.

The Jersey Shore turnpike has also been considerably improved by the State. The southern end of this historic highway was relocated in 1919, the old ridge road being abandoned from Haneyville to Jersey Shore and the present route down the valley of Pine Creek put in shape. A bridge over the B. & S. at Hogback was ordered in 1922. Of the cost, \$1000 each was placed on the county and on the State, the balance of the cost, over \$16,000 in all, to be paid by the railroad company. This tax on the resources of the B. & S. was a just retribution for the conduct of Goodyear's agents when the railroad was built. It is said that questionable methods were then used to gain the consent of the supervisors of West Branch township to the removal of the road from its original location on the crest of the Hogback. In this way the managers of the railroad escaped building the bridge that should have been built, and the relocation of the highway left a blind crossing at the bottom of the dip between two short

but steep hills. Thus the B. & S. was finally brought to account for dodging a duty, though its founder and promoter had been laid in the grave years before. Several other improvements have since been made on the Jersey Shore pike, now well known as a scenic highway. The most recent of these in Potter County were a section of macadam in Summit township and another from Cartee Camp to Oleona, built in 1931. A piece of road was built at the same time from Cartee Camp to Germania, also a piece of road on the Eleven Mile from Millport to the State line.

The concrete bridge on Second Street in Coudersport, with the adjoining pavement, was built by the State in 1930, sidewalks and other incidental expenses costing the boro about \$7000. Several pieces of concrete pavement were built in Coudersport in the fall of 1930 and the spring of 1931, the cost being divided between the property owners, the boro, and the State. Fred S. Ross of Bradford was the contractor.

In the spring of 1931 a large additional mileage of roads was taken over by the State at the recommendation of Gov. Pinchot. A detailed description of these roads in Potter County is hardly called for here. Several pieces of low cost macadam have been built on roads belonging to this system. The work began in the fall of 1931 and is still going on. Some of the most important roads already built are: Coneville to Genesee via Oswayo and Rose Lake, Mills via North Bingham to the New York State line, North Bingham to Genesee via West Bingham, Coudersport to Inez via Dutch Hill, Roulet leading up Fishing Creek, Burtville to Card Creek, Austin to the Cowley neighborhood, Coudersport to Crandall Hill via Dingman Run. These roads have been especially important to the people of the northern townships, few hard surfaced roads having been previously built in this part of the county. An enthusiastic public meeting was held in Ulysses in June, 1931, in appreciation of this State road program, for which Potter County is largely indebted to our present assemblyman, Hon. John F. Stone, as well as to Gov. Pinchot. Many men have lately been employed on road work by means of relief funds allotted by the State to the unemployed during the present financial stringency. Several more streets in Coudersport have been hard-surfaced by this means, also some in Galeton.

Two Potter County men have become prominent as road-builders. William C. Horn, formerly of Horn & Devling, hardware dealers of Galeton, handled one of the heaviest jobs of grading ever undertaken in our State, that on the Bucktail Highway from Renovo to Lock Haven, which he began in October, 1926. Our present superintendent of State roads, George W. Mitchell, has also had experience on road contracts.

In 1928 the first of the big passenger bus lines began running over the Roosevelt Highway, giving the people of Potter County better and cheaper transportation to New York, Buffalo, and other distant points than the railroads had ever given.

The activities of the State Forestry department have been much increased during this period. Three million pine seedlings were set out in Potter County in 1918. Fire towers at several points have been erected for the use of watchmen who scan the county for forest fires when these are likely to occur. The towers most often visited by travelers are the one near Cherry Springs on the Jersey Shore turnpike, and another on Fox Mountain just off the road from Austin to Sizerville, erected in 1920. Several good dirt roads have also been built by the State Forestry department within the last three or four years, making the wild country accessible to travelers. Potter County now leads the State in acreage of State forests.

The reputation that Potter achieved in the early days as a home of hunters and fishermen is still sustained. Many sportsmen from distant points visit our county regularly each year. Potter is now one of the leading counties of the State for hunting and fishing. Since brown trout were introduced by the State about twenty years ago, fishing has become good in streams not suited to the speckled trout, which still thrive in some of the woodland brooks. Here are the best fish stories I have been able to find for the present century in Potter County. In the spring of 1916 Orson and Howard Clinton, aged 10 and 12, caught a brown trout at the mouth of Moore's Run in Sylvania township that measured 25 inches and weighed 5 pounds. A brown trout weighing 7 pounds was caught out of season in the East Fork by Reuben Ward some time from 1920 to 1925.

The Harrison Valley high school was raised to the status of a first class high school in 1916, taking rank with the schools in the larger towns of the county. County Supt. R. O. Welfling died suddenly in 1918, and Prof. A. P. Akeley has since held this position. The annual teachers' institute was cancelled in 1918 on account of the severe epidemic of flu that season. With this exception, the Institute was held annually at Coudersport till 1932, when it was abandoned throughout the State on account of the lack of means for its support. It is generally believed that the Institute will not be resumed. Its passing is regretted by many of our best teachers.

Mitchell Park, in Coudersport, was donated for a public park by Seth Mitchell in 1918. The athletic field adjoining was given for the purpose by Owen G. Metzger in June, 1929, on condition that a subscription be raised to improve and equip the field, which stipulation has been faithfully carried out by other Coudersport citizens.

A public library was donated to Ulysses in 1916 by Robert R. Lewis. A public library was organized at Harrison Valley in 1925. The library at Shinglehouse received a donation of 250 books from the E. M. Bedford estate in 1926. The beginning of the Coit-Alber Chautauqua in Coudersport was mentioned in the preceding chapter. It continued as a yearly feature till 1926. A sufficient number of guarantors could no longer be obtained, those who signed the preceding year having been obliged to pay much more than the regular price of their tickets. Chautauquas were also held in Austin, Galeton and Shinglehouse for several years in succession. These Chautauquas brought many worth-while attractions to Potter County, some of them known all over the world, and our people have suffered a distinct loss in their discontinuance. Phonographs, radios, and picture shows are but a poor substitute.

In May, 1916, the Children's Home was opened at Harrison Valley. The Hurlburt house, where it was organized, was purchased by the management in September, 1917. A state appropriation of \$4000 a year was obtained, reduced to \$3500 in 1923. The building burned in January, 1927, due to a gas explosion in the furnace. Temporary quarters were obtained in Westfield. The Hezekiah Schofield property was purchased for the Children's Home in June, 1927, and here it has since been located.

The Dean Sanitarium, in which the Coudersport Hospital was organized, was purchased from the original owner, Mrs. Alice Dean Neefe, in September, 1917, by Miss Margaret Tighe, who then conducted the hospital. It was taken over by the Coudersport Hospital Association in April, 1919, and purchased from Miss Tighe later in the year. It was enlarged in the summer of 1920, and in September, 1921, the adjoining house of Mrs. Mary Fee was acquired for an annex. The State appropriation for this hospital was reduced from \$3500 to \$1500 in 1923, and the hospital has since been quite largely supported by subscription among the citizens of Coudersport and by various donations of supplies and provisions. Its service has thus far been maintained. A hospital was organized at Galeton in December, 1920. The Austin hospital, as related in the last chapter, found itself unable to continue, and the building was torn down in 1930.

Some of the notable buildings erected since 1915, besides those already mentioned, are the Austin Community Club, opened September 6, 1920, built chiefly through the efforts of Senator Frank E. Baldwin; a brick bank building in Shinglehouse, built in 1926; the Masonic Temple in Coudersport, begun in 1928 and finished the following year. Coudersport is the scene of a regular reunion of the Freemasons of Northwestern Pennsylvania, which takes place three times a year, and our county seat is the strongest Masonic town of its size in the Eastern States. In addition

to the above buildings may be noted the palatial residence of H. H. Steele in Coudersport, built in 1930; the Grange Hall at Sweden Valley, built in 1924, and the Odin Grange Hall, 1930, both replacing buildings that had burned.

A long distance electric power line was brought into Galeton from the east and began service in April, 1923. This line belongs to the system of the North Penn Power Company, with a power plant at Blossburg, Tioga County. The West Penn Power Company ran a line into Coudersport in 1927, and these companies now control the supply of electricity in this and most of the adjoining counties, having bought out most of the local electric plants in their territory. They hold a monopoly in their line, as do the North Penn Gas Company in theirs.

A State bank was established at Roulet by Coudersport and Roulet capitalists in 1916, completing the list of banks in all the principal towns of the county. It opened for business, December 18, 1916, with Mark Lawler, cashier. The Bank of Austin became a national bank in August, 1924, with F. E. Baldwin, Stanley C. Bayless, John C. Gault, Daniel Collins and H. B. King, directors.

The history of the principal newspapers of the county has already been given. The Austin Messenger was issued by C. W. Hotalen in May, 1916, but lasted only a few weeks. The Hammer appeared at Coudersport in March, 1919, by Arch Bernard, of the Potter Democrat. It was a vile sheet, totally unfit to be printed or read. It was branded as yellow by the McKean Democrat and other newspapers of the time and was finally barred from the mails. It was not itself a newspaper, but a small-sized magazine, usually printed on colored paper. It lasted only a short time. The four newspapers now published in Potter County are the Potter County Journal, M. J. Colcord, Coudersport; the Potter Enterprise, W. D. Fish and George W. Daniels, Coudersport; the Oswayo Valley Mail, C. A. Herrick & Sons, Shinglehouse; the Leader Dispatch, Marcus J. Handwerk and C. F. Rukgaber, Galeton. All are clean newspapers and ably edited.

The Potter County Historical Society was organized November 7, 1919, with 66 charter members. Its most notable meeting in its early days was the gathering at Ole Bull's Castle, July 30, 1920. Governor William C. Sproul, Gifford Pinchot (now Governor, then State Forester), William Stevenson, of the State Historical Commission, and A. E. Sisson, of Erie, were the speakers present from outside the county. Other features of the program were a violin solo by Dr. Will George Butler, and an original ode to Ole Bull by J. H. Chatham of McElhattan. Hon. Frank E. Baldwin gave the introductory address, and a paper on Ole Bull was presented by Rev. Dr. George P. Donehoo. 7000 people attended. Few, if any larger crowds have ever been

assembled in Potter County. The Potter County Historical Society has remained a live organization ever since. Without the aid of its invaluable files of Potter County newspapers, and the papers on local history presented at its sessions, most of which have appeared in print, the present work could not have been written. In the early days of the Society, its meetings were held monthly, but they have been held quarterly for several years past. A centennial celebration was held at Harrison Valley on August 25, 1923, in honor of the hundredth birthday of the township. This meeting contained valuable historical features regarding the early days in the northeast of the county.

A considerable number of murders have stained the record of our county since 1915. This should not be regarded as a sign of degeneracy among our people or waning respect for law in our county, but rather as belonging to the world-wide wave of unrest and instability that followed the World War. In May, 1918, an Austrian, Rudolph Kalister, was clubbed to death with ax handles by three of his fellow countrymen on South Main Street in Coudersport. The testimony in the trial seemed to show that the dead man had been a dangerous fellow, and that the three men who killed him were afraid of him. Each of the slayers received a prison sentence of two and one-half years, with recommendation for pardon. It was proved that they had applied for protection to Sheriff Veley and had been refused.

A murdered man was found by the roadside near the site now occupied by Walter Hemphill's filling station in Hebron township in October, 1920, his body pierced by 32 bullets. \$40.50 was found on his person. He was identified as Bellino or Belanco, of Olean, an Italian, and it was believed that he had been killed and thrown from a car by some of the other members of a gang of bootleggers to which he belonged. A reward was offered by the county commissioners for the apprehension of the murderers, but they were not found.

William Meyers shot and killed Arch Carling and Arch Brown in Hector township, August 10, 1921. The murderer was not apprehended. A whiskey still was found back of his house, and it was believed that the three men had been in partnership in the booze business and had disagreed over a settlement of accounts.

In March, 1926, Harry Cornelius shot a man on Dwight Creek in Allegany township, claiming that he took him for a chicken-thief. The man's identity was not generally known, but it seems certain that he was one Burdick, a neighbor of Cornelius, and that the motive of the killing had nothing to do with chicken-stealing. Cornelius was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and received a prison sentence. About a year before this time,



he had killed Ellery Dunn. Both men were drunk and on a joy ride. Suspicion pointed strongly at Cornelius on this occasion, but the evidence was not enough to convict him.

A man was murdered in a bootlegging joint in Austin in August, 1926. The criminal, Barney Gramasky, was convicted of second degree murder, and received a prison sentence of ten to twenty years.

On September 13, 1930, occurred the most revolting crime ever committed in Potter County, the murder of six-year-old Mildred Cass by Harry Coons in Allegany township. Coons received a death sentence and was electrocuted at Bellefonte, November 17, 1930. He is the only man yet electrocuted from Potter County. The details of this horrid crime are yet fresh in our memories and need not be recounted here.

The murder of Dorothy Vosburg Lederer, the young wife of Walter Lederer, by her husband occurred June 18, 1932. There can be little doubt that this tragic affair was the result of mental derangement.

The last of these murders occurred at the Irish Settlement in Genesee township, March 8, 1933. John McGinnis set fire to the home of his father, Alfred McGinnis, shooting his father, younger brother, and his father's hired man, Miles McHale, as they came out. The criminal was only 16 years old. He shot himself soon afterwards. It is beyond doubt that the perpetrator of this deed was also partially insane.

The conviction of Frank Moore of Costello for incest in March, 1924, adds another to the list of major crimes committed in Potter County since the World War.

Two car thefts are on record during this period, the stolen car being recovered in both instances. In May, 1921, Glenn Corey's Ford car was stolen from the roadside at Sweden Valley while he was calling on his fiancée. The county detective, Coleman Smith, was notified, and began driving around in search of the thief. In about two weeks the car was recovered and the thief arrested. The guilty party was Rance Moe, Jr. It was discovered that the stolen car had been more than once under the eyes of the county detective, but he had not recognized it, and it is even reported on what seems to be good authority that he himself rode around in it during the search, hiring the thief for a chauffeur. For this last, however, I cannot vouch. The stolen car was identified by Haven Clark, who has a remarkable memory for figures, especially manufacturers' numbers on motors. But for him, the car would probably not have been recovered.

In August, 1927, two criminals, Frank Austin of Austin and Grant Miller of Coudersport, broke jail and stole a car from

James M. Harris, just below Coudersport. The thieves were caught and the car recovered at Michigan City, Indiana, by the authorities at that place, who had been notified by wire that the men wanted were probably in the neighborhood.

On May 2, 1930, Judge Albert S. Heck died suddenly in the University Hospital, Philadelphia, where he had gone for treatment. He ranks as one of the high lights of the legal profession, the third Potter County man to hold the office of President Judge. He was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., August 31, 1867, son of Rev. L. G. Heck, an itinerant minister who resided many years at Lock Haven. Young Heck taught school and worked in the lumberwoods of Southern Potter three years. He graduated from the Dickinson Law School, Carlisle, Pa., and was admitted to the bar in 1892. It is worth noting that he was the first man to attain the office of President Judge in Potter County who ever attended a law school. He practiced one year in Austin, came to Coudersport, and was elected District Attorney in 1895. He married Matilda Raymond, youngest daughter of Asa Raymond, of the pioneer Raymond family of Allegany township, in 1901. He was elected President Judge in 1913 and reelected in 1923. He was often called on to preside over court in other counties than our own, and his decisions were rarely appealed and still more rarely reversed. Judge Heck's faults were not such as to affect his conduct in the high office he held, and he will be rightly regarded by posterity as one of Potter's most illustrious citizens. An incident that is characteristic of his conduct on the bench occurred at the September term of court, 1929, at which Pat Tauscher of Roulet was on trial for selling liquor. The evidence seemed plain for conviction. Nevertheless, the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty, but the defendant to pay half the costs. Judge Heck's comment was, "This verdict is a disgrace to the court. It is just such verdicts as this that bring contempt and ridicule on the people of Potter County."

Robert R. Lewis was appointed by the Governor of the State to serve as judge till an election should be held, and at the next election was chosen to fill Judge Heck's unexpired term. He has already proved himself worthy of the office he holds.

The census of 1930 showed so much decrease in the population of Potter County that under State law we should no longer have been entitled to a president judge of our own. But through the influence of our representatives at Harrisburg, a special act was passed by the Legislature in May, 1931, continuing Potter County as an independent judicial district. The reapportionment of Congressional districts by the census of 1930 has added the counties of McKean and Cameron to our district, which formerly consisted of the counties of Lycoming, Clinton, Tioga and Potter.

Among the events in Potter County since 1915, the building of our hard-surfaced roads takes first place. All of them except a few short pieces in or near some of our principal towns, have been built since the World War. The work is still in progress, and is doubtless destined to go on till all the roads of any importance are improved. This period has witnessed the extinction of the last of those ill-advised industrial undertakings that brought only temporary prosperity, and we are now down to rock-bottom, so to speak. It is not likely that our population will ever fall far below the level it has now reached.

So large an area of State Forest means that a considerable section of the county will be populated only during vacation time, but by the same means our county has attained a front rank in the State as a resort for summer campers, hunters, and fishermen. Two public camps are maintained in our woods by the State Forestry department. Our agricultural area is to the fore in the production of potatoes and dairy products, exceeded by a few other counties only because of our large acreage of wild lands. The credit of Potter County, unlike that of some of our neighbors, is still sound. The riches of our gas fields have only just been tapped. We are directly on one of the chief transcontinental highways, whose bus lines provide the service that our railroads failed to give. One of our assets in the future is likely to be found in the fact that we are directly on the New York and Chicago air route. A private airport already exists on the estate of the Texas Oil Company in Sharon township, and the day is probably not far distant when we shall have airports for the principal points in the county. It is not likely that our population will ever again rise to the point that it reached in the busy days of the lumber industry, but most of our citizens are now of the substantial sort, such as constitute a permanent asset to their communities, and this condition is likely so to remain.

\* \* \* \*

The writing of the preceding pages was mostly completed in March, 1933. Since that time some notable events have transpired in Potter County. Perhaps the most important is the discontinuance of the New York Central railroad from Lawrenceville to Ulysses. The last regular train was run over this division November 3, 1933. The company had agreed to deliver 70 carloads of stone for the State Highway Department, after which no more trains will be run. At this writing, the rails are still in place.

During the past year, the construction of CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camps has provided much employment and has been one of the outstanding events of the year. These camps are located at Lyman Run, Ole Bull's Castle, Windfall Run, Cherry

Springs, Hulls, Moores Run, and East Cowley Run, the last named being situated in Potter County, though reached by road only from Sizerville, Cameron County. Opinions differ as to the wisdom of this plan of the Administration at Washington to provide for jobless young men, but it may safely be said that as far as our county is concerned, the CCC has been an asset. The camps are in charge of competent officers of the U. S. Army. A few of the men enrolled are residents of ours and adjoining counties, but the majority come from the thickly settled and overpopulated sections of our State. The work done by these men consists mostly of forestry and road-building.

Among the projects undertaken by the State Highway Department since March 1933, the most important in our county is probably the road from Galeton to Germania, now under construction and nearly completed. Construction has also been begun on a modern bridge over the Allegheny on Chestnut Street in Coudersport. Two miles more of hard surfaced road are being built on the Jersey Shore pike. The completion of the road now being built from Dingman Run to Coneville, which is now well under way, will provide an all-weather route from Coudersport to Shinglehouse, though the Department has not yet seen fit to start work on the main route lying between North Eulalia and Coneville. Another important road begun during the year is that from Ulysses to West Bingham. Several more streets in Coudersport, Galeton, Austin, and elsewhere have been or are being hard-surfaced, partly by means of funds supplied by the CWA (Civil Works Administration), and one more street in Coudersport and several in Galeton have been taken over by the State.

At the expiration of the banking holiday declared by President Roosevelt last spring, all the Potter County banks were allowed to reopen promptly except two. The State Bank of Roulet was taken over by the Coudersport Trust Company in September, 1933, all depositors to be paid in full. The Galeton Banking Co. was not so fortunate. It will be recalled that most of the stockholders in this bank were men who resided outside of Potter County, and one important stockholder, William O'Conner of Wellsboro, passed away a few years ago, his estate continuing to hold stock in the bank. In October, a shortage of over \$30,000 was found on the books of the bank, and the cashier, Theodore R. Quick, was put under arrest. He shot himself to death October 26. The affairs of the bank are not yet settled, but it is generally believed that the depositors will eventually receive at least a percentage of their money. S. Lynn Lush was appointed receiver for the bank in March, 1933.

Several more good gas wells have been drilled within a year, all on the Hebron anticline. A well belonging to G. H. Schrack

in the Hebron field, with a production of over 60,000,000 feet, establishes a new record for gas production in this field. Geologists believe that the Hebron field will cease to produce about 1948. This of course can not be known to a certainty. As yet, no production has been obtained in territory east and south of the Hebron anticline, but drilling is still going on in other fields. The Hebron field now shows a production of 235,000,000 in all.

The agricultural fair at Millport was enlarged in the season of 1933, and stock sheds made possible a fine display of cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs. This fair promises to be one of the outstanding annual events in the county in the future. An airport was opened at the Colussy place between Coudersport and Roulet in September, 1933.

Three Potter County authors have achieved success as writers of fiction. Nelia Gardner White, writer of novels and short stories, is a daughter of Adrian Gardner and a granddaughter of Warren Gardner of Allegany township, known as a prominent member of the Farmers' Alliance forty years ago. Mrs. White was born at Andrews Settlement.

Robert J. Horton was a Coudersport boy, son of the well known mason and contractor, L. D. Horton, lately deceased. Robert Horton is known chiefly as a writer of Western stories and tales of adventure. He died in January, 1934.

Margaret Sutton is the pen name of Rachel B. Sutton, who was born in our county and passed her girlhood in Coudersport. She has achieved success as a writer of mystery stories for girls.

Industry in Potter County, aside from the activities brought about by the CCC camps and the CWA, is on about the same footing that it was a year ago. The death of J. Vernon Dieffenbacher marks the close of the long period of operation of the heading mill founded by his father, J. F. Dieffenbacher. Silk mills are still operating in Galeton and Shinglehouse, but the Coudersport mill is not expected to reopen.

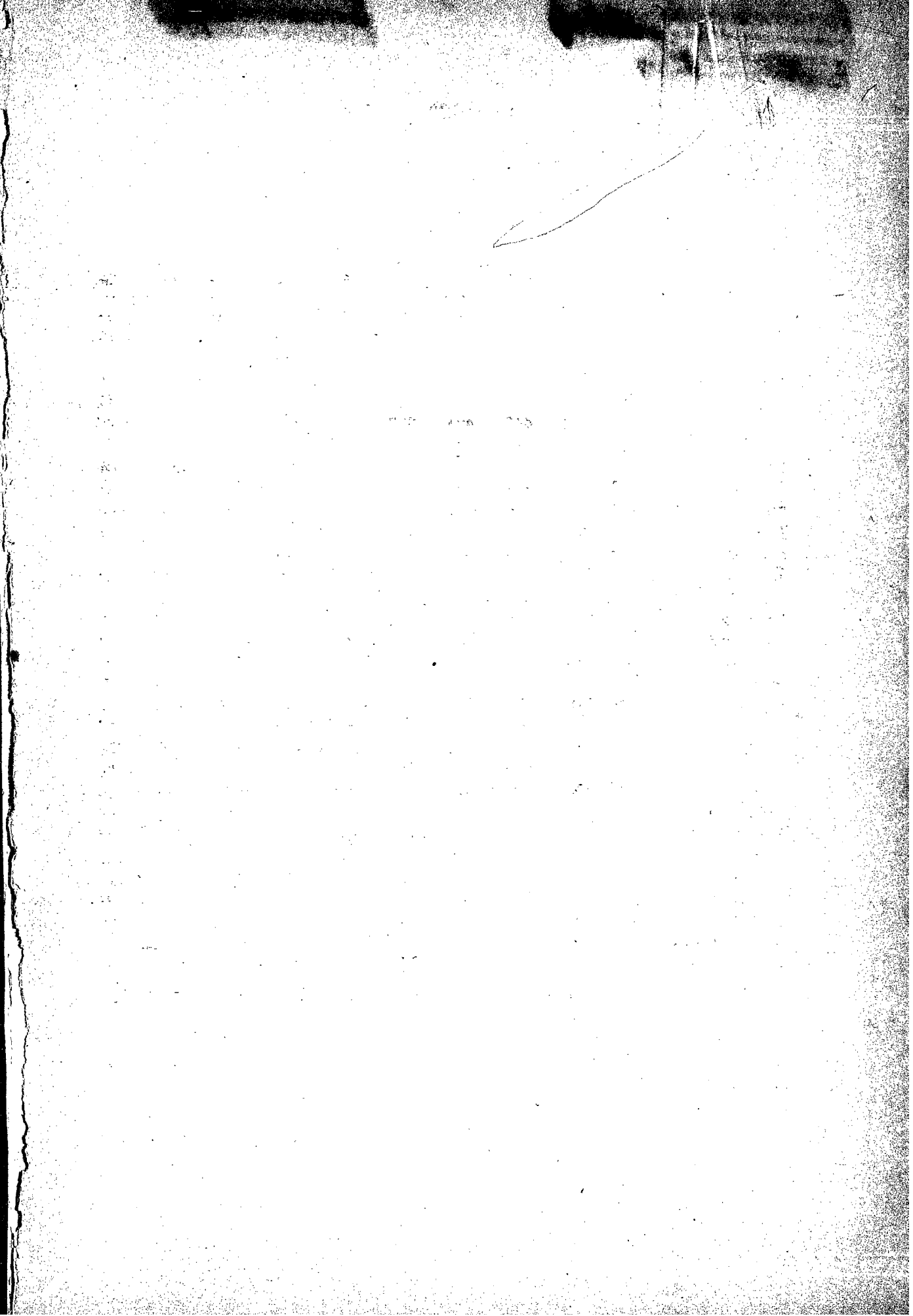
## POPULATION OF POTTER COUNTY

In the tables following will be found the census figures for Potter County for each decade from 1840 to 1930. It will be seen that the most rapid increase in our population took place from 1820 to 1840, and that the figures increased with each new census down to 1900, except for a slight decrease from 1860 to 1870, due to the Civil War. Cameron County was erected March 29, 1860, taking a slice off Potter that deprived Portage township of its entire population. The township was reerected in 1871 with some additional territory taken from Sylvania township. Since 1900 there has been a decrease in our population, the peak being reached about 1904, the estimated figure for the county then being about 33,000, for Galeton 4213, Coudersport about 3500. The increase shown in the census figures for Keating township from 1920 to 1930 I know positively to be an error, due to some carelessness in taking the census, as there was no increase in this decade in Keating, but the true figure I can not give. The population of Potter for the first three decades of its existence can only be given for the whole county and is as follows:—

In 1810, 29; in 1820, 186; in 1830, 1265.

The table on the following page gives the figures for each township and boro from 1840 to 1930, inclusive.

	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930
Abbott			377	534	623	825	727	706	502	424
Alleghany	238	331	706	625	672	635	928	675	527	407
Austin						1670	2300	2941	1566	1116
Bingham	453	584	698	773	832	870	911	748	657	576
Clara	61	89	172	195	238	247	414	259	158	122
Coudersport		234	447	471	677	1525	3217	3100	2836	2740
Eulalia	348	283	431	353	554	1180	1215	1218	441	379
Galeton							2415	4027	2969	2200
Genesee	127	301	692	767	883	908	1179	980	935	773
Harrison	497	720	1100	1052	1162	1780	1826	1462	1201	1033
Hebron	142	337	617	754	835	870	915	658	537	453
Hector	119	214	706	651	958	1160	1134	817	544	411
Homer		140	166	160	189	866	209	176	187	125
Jackson		51	88	49						
Keating			43	78	204	382	784	714	258	299
Lewisville				226	365	461	619	579	526	514
Oswayo Twp.	101	244	621	629	883	1090	1584	504	306	225
Oswayo Boro								382	209	127
Pike	139	202	211	184	281	1114	537	463	326	282
Pleasant Valley		73	168	140	211	340	276	255	125	99
Portage		34			114	340	1088	447	298	199
Roulet	152	222	482	525	648	1130	1128	1383	1405	1065
Sharon	259	502	1069	968	1055	1195	1443	1046	812	645
Shinglehouse								1598	1169	1380
Stewardson		54	191	210	220	485	1229	717	102	84
Summit			138	145	202	180	528	278	204	146
Sweden	154	254	389	357	416	750	612	655	420	411
Sylvania			208	267	214	650	577	487	385	132
Ulysses	371	699	993	789	638	767	891	1074	732	487
West Branch		93	207	302	374	670	1022	872	530	462
Wharton	174	230	376	287	346	380	844	508	232	185
Potter Co.	3371	6048	11470	11265	13797	22464	30621	29729	21089	17501







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