CHAPTER XLI.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF PERRYSBURG.

PERRYSBURG, located in the extreme northwest part of the county, was originally called Perry, after Commodore Oliver II. Perry, the hero of Lake Erie. It was organized April 13, 1814, at which time it included the western half of the county, now formed into three tiers of townships-sixteen towns in all. By an act of the Legislature passed April 10, 1818, the town was divided and the northern part was called Perrysburg, which then included, with its present territory, the towns of Dayton, Persia, Otto and East Otto. The remaining part of the former territory of Perry, which now constitutes twelve towns, was called Little Valley. Another division of the town was made January 29, 1823, when the territory of Otto and East Otto Was taken off and formed the town of Otto. A third reduction was made February 7, 1835, when Persia and Dayton were taken off; leaving
the town of Perrysburg with its present area of 18,328 acres, which has been divided into forty-nine lots. A small portion of the north and east parts of the town are included within the Cattaraugus Indian reservation.

Through the southern-central part of the town, running northwest and southeast, lies the "dividing ridge" or "height of land", which forms a watershed for the Allegheny river and Lakes Erie and Ontario. The drainage is mainly afforded by streams flowing north and northeast into Cattaraugus creek, which flows northwesterly and westerly between Perrysburg and Erie county and affords both mill sites and picturesque scenery. The largest of these brooks is Big Indian creek. A few streams flowing south and west also have their source in the southwestern corner of the town. The surface is elevated nearly 1,000 feet above Lake Erie and from some points a magnificent panorama is unfolded to the beholder. The soil is composed of clay and gravelly loam and is very fertile. It is especially adapted to the production of grass and corn. Within the past decade a number of large vineyards have been started northwest of Perrysburg village, and these have proven unusually profitable. It has been asserted by competent authority that some of the finest grapes produced in the famous Chautauqua grape belt have been grown in this town, which lies on the extreme northeast corner of that justly Celebrated district. Both the soil and climate substantiate the belief that this industry in Perrysburg is in its infancy and susceptible of vast development.

The town was originally covered with heavy growths of deciduous trees and considerable pine, nearly all of which have been converted into lumber, principally for local consumption. An excellent quality of building stone is also found in some localities. Aside from the grape industry the inhabitants are largely engaged in farming and dairying.

In 1818 the present town of Perrysburg had forty-nine landowners, some of whom articulated tracts as early as 1815, though all of them never became actual settler. The most authentic data obtainable gives the honor usually accorded the first settler to John Clark, who came with his family in 1815. His wife for several months was the only white woman in the town, and she did the baking for all her neighbors. About 1816 Clark opened a tavern, but a few years later went west. Also in 1815 came Phineas Spencer, one of tile first school commissioners, who died September 30, 1839. Of those who became settlers in 1816 were Hugh Campbell on lot 9; William Cooper who brought his bride hither a few years afterward; Truman Edwards, brother-in-law of Cooper; Daniel Johnson; Simeon Waterman, at whose house was frequently held the early town meetings, and who was chosen the first town clerk; Ralph Griswold; and Stephen Crocker, the first to introduce improved farming implements in the town. Among those who came in 1817 were Alanson Dewey, Ephraim Walker, Abel Jolles, George Flower, and Samuel K. Strickland. Following these came Abram and Jonathan G. Rugg, John and Daniel Prosser, Benjamin Waterman, John Dawley, Daniel Brand, Joseph Putney, John Ha-
Like other pioneers the early settlers of Perrysburg were poor in worldly goods, but they were constituted by nature to successfully convert the wilder-ness into productive farms and pleasant homes. They transmitted to their posterity the sterling traits of New England thrift and character. Many of those named as well as other prominent settlers will be noticed in subsequent pages of this chapter. The population of Perrysburg in 1820 was 835; in 1830, 2,440; in 1840, five years after the last territorial reduction of the town 1,660; in 1870, 1,313; in 1890, 1,112.

The first frame building was erected on lot 5 by Stephen Whitcomb. The first death was that of a Mrs. Brand about 1820. John Clark and Benjamin Waterman each opened taverns in 1816, the former on lot 28 and the latter near Gowanda. The first school was taught in 1819 by Olive Barton. An early if not the earliest saw-mill was placed in operation on lot 44 in 1820 by Isaac Balcom. Two years later E. A. Foote had another on Mill brook which at one time was equipped with a run of stone for grinding.

October 27, 1816, at a special town meeting held at the house of Simeon Waterman, Silas Nash, Timothy M. Shaw, and Dan Allen were designated as suitable justices of the peace. At this meeting Benjamin Waterman was town clerk; Simeon Waterman was chosen moderator. At the annual town meeting the next year, which convened at the same place, Silas Nash was moderator and these officers were chosen: Silas Nash, supervisor; Benjamin Waterman, town clerk; Ahaz Allen, James P. Pitcher, John V. King, and Dan Allen, assessors; Simeon Bunce, Truman Edwards, and Ira Witterman, high way commissioners; Simeon Bunce and Ahaz Allen, overseers of the poor; Dan Allen, John Clark, and John Waterford, fence viewers; Phineas Spencer, Dan Allen, and Truman Edwards, commissioners of common schools; Benjamin Waterman, El Nathan Finch, and Timothy M. Shaw, school inspectors. The supervisors, town clerks, and justices of the peace of the town of Perrysburg have been as follows:

Supervisors - Silas Nash, 1818-21; Phineas Spencer, 1822-23; Don S. Downer, 1824-26; Joseph Keyes, 1827-29; Timothy M. Shaw, 1830; Truman Edwards, 1831-32, 1856-57; Mark W. Fletcher, 1833-34; Isaac Hull, 1835-36; William Cooper, 1837-40; Daniel Prosser 1841-47; James Kirkland, 1848-52; William Knowlton, 1853-55; Elisha Brown, 1855-62; Samuel L. Titus, 1863; Ransom L. Blackmer, 1864; Frederick E. De Wolf, 1865, 1872-74; David F. Moody, 1866-71, 1876; James M. Pettit, 1875; Reuben White, 1877-79; A. M. De Long, 1880-81; Henry B. Gray, 1882; Alfred Clark, 1883; D. N. Parker, 1884; Albert L. Lake, 1885-87; R. P. Johnson, 1888; Henry C. Gaylord, 1889-90; L. H. Wood, 1891-93.

Town Clerks - Phineas Spencer, 1818-21; Joseph Keyes, 1822-26; John G. McKee, 1827-28; Samuel Starr, 1829-32, 1835-38; Franklin Day, 1833-34; Abial Tittus, 1839-44, 1846; Truman Hinman, 1845; Alexander H. Parker, 1847-48; Harvey C. Hurd, 1849; R. R. Davis, 1850; Nathaniel W. Hurd, 1851-55; Waldron Cooper, 1856-57; D. W. Cooper, 1858; Samuel L. Titus, 1859-60, 1867; Frank Campbell, 1861; Frank H. Chadwick, 1862-63; Le Roy Atwood, 1864; William L. Haven, 1865; A. M. De Long, 1866, 1868; Alfred Clark, 1869; L. J. Southworth, 1870-72; Courtland H. Shaw, 1873-77, 1880; D. A. Slawson, 1878-79, 1881; R. P. Johnson, 1882-84; C. C. Ranney, 1885-88; B. H. Graves, 1889-93.

Justices of the Peace - 1819, Silas Nash, Dan Allen, Elisha Wood; 1820-21, no record; 1822, Phineas Spencer, Benjamin Waterman; 1823-24, no record; 1825, Hugh Campbell; 1826-29, no record; 1830, Truman Edwards; 1831, Luther Allen; 1832, Amasa L. Chaffee; 1833, Daniel C. McMillan; 1834, Reuben Ward; 1835, Truman Edwards, A. Sprague, James Kirkland, Chester Goss; 1836, Riley S. Shepard; 1837, A. Sprague; 1838, Abial.
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East and west through the village of Perrysburg runs one of the oldest roads in this part of the county. It was laid out by the Holland Land Company and along its line the first settlers located. In some portions of the town the roads were formerly corduroyed. The highways of the present day are kept in comparatively good condition. The Erie railroad, completed in 1851, traverses the ”dividing ridge” and has a station at Perrysburg village. There are cemeteries on lot 3, lot 17, lot 15, and lot 43. The last mentioned contains many of the first interments in town.

The town has long been noted for the manufacture of large quantities of excellent butter and cheese. The butter industry is carried on chiefly by private dairymen. The cheese factories are doing a good business. The Dewey factory, on lot 1, in the southeast part of the town, is run by Mrs. Lucinda A. Johnson, of Collins, Erie county, and produces about 50,000 pounds a year. The Scotch factory in the village was built in 1865 by A. Brainard and is now run by Robert McCuffin, Sr., and produces about 150,000 pounds of cheese per annum. The Tichnor factory, one mile south of Versailles, is also operated by Robert McCuffin, Sr., and makes 50,000 pounds of cheese annually.

In 1820 Perrysburg was divided into seven school districts, in only two of which schools were maintained. In 1836, one year after the town's territory was reduced for the last time, there were nine: whole and four fractional districts and the cost of maintaining the schools aggregated $573.26. In 1892 the town had nine school districts, in each of which a school was maintained, which were attended by 261 scholars and taught by ten teachers. The value of buildings and sites is $7,750. The assessed valuation of the districts is $412,755; the amount of school money received from the State was $1,343.58 and the amount raised by local tax $1,466.80.

Perrysburg is the oldest and largest village in the town and is located on the Erie railway, in the southern part, at the corners of lots 11, 12, 19, and 20. Its present population is 350. It has a commodious church edifice, a fine school building erected in 1880 at an expense of $4,500, a postoffice, telegraph, telephone, and express offices, two stores, a blacksmith and wagon shop, tin shop, grist-mill, saw-mill and grape-basket manufactory, cheese factory, hotel, public hall, cooper shop, and a millinery store. The soil about the village is fertile and well adapted to grazing, farming, and fruit growing. At the west
end is a fifty-acre vineyard owned by Orrin Knowlton & Son. The site of the village was originally owned by William Cooper and Elisha Ward. The first public house was a log building opened about 1821 by Elisha Ward. On the same site he erected the upright part of the present hotel in 1828. The following landlords have succeeded him: Ira A. Torry, John G. McGee, Chancellor Campbell, Russell Briggs, Chancellor Campbell again from 1852 to 1883, Frank Campbell, George Vosburg, and Warren Hall. An opposition tavern was erected at an early clay by Isaac Shaw a little above on the same street. This house was kept for many years by William Cooper, Sr., and became one of the best known stands in tile county -- so much so that the village was long well known as "Cooper's Corners." In later years this has become a tenement house. A third tavern, known as the Palmer House and near to tile depot, was kept for a time, but long since closed, leaving tile Campbell House the only one in the place. The first store was opened in 1827 by Cook & Pelton in tile house since known as the Dr. Gray residence, across the street from the Cooper House. Among the later merchants have been Hooker & Gardner, A. Clark, Nathan Blackney, R. L. Blackmer, F. S. Royce, A. M. De Long, Ranney & Campbell, L. J. Nutting, and O. A. Mulkin. Orrin Clark and his sons Alfred and Julius opened a store one door above the Campbell House about 1858, where they continued for twenty-five years. Then for the next two years the store was conducted by Johnson & Bullock. Since 1885 it has been the firm of Johnson & Graves. In 1893 C. M. Garnett & Sons opened a store in the Crouse building. The postoffice was established about 1830 with William Cooper as postmaster, which office he held till after 1840. Later postmasters have been members of the Blackney and Clark families, and W. E. Bullock, J. M. Campbell, R. P. Johnson, and B. H. Graves. Dr. H. B.T. Gray was the first physician located in the place.

The Perrysburg Agricultural Work, and Woodenware Manufactory were destroyed by fire in 1882 and the Sprague & Tichnor grist and lumber mills in 1883. The former was established about 1860 by Russell Briggs and after 1866 were operated many year, by W. R. Briggs. After being burned they were soon rebuilt by Pelton Brothers and operated as a saw and shingle-mill, to which has since been added a planer and matcher and also a grape-basket manufactory. The establishment is now owned and operated by Warren Hall. The grist and feed-mill at Perrysburg was built in 1887 by Knapp & Campbell at a cost of $3,000. Since 1890 it has been run by Knapp & Pelton. It is operated by steam-power and is the only grist-mill in the South part of the town. East of the village, at an early clay, was located a small tannery. Phineas Spencer also had a distillery and other settlers operated asheries while the forests were being cleared away.

Versailles is a pleasantly located village on the South bank of Cattaraugus creek, about five miles north of Perrysburg and six miles northwest of Gowanda. The stream here makes a rapid descent, affording good water-power
for ordinary milling purposes. The village contains a postoffice, four stores, two church edifices, hotel, saw-mill, gist-mill and a population of about 200. About 1835 a grist-mill was erected by Lee & Barker and was much patronized when water failed at other points. A second grist-mill was erected soon after by the Nortons, below the first mill and on the same race, but trouble sprang up between the two parties and the mill was never finished. It stood till 1872, when it was destroyed by fire. The first mill was destroyed by fire about 1858 while under the ownership of Norton & Green. Upon its site another grist-mill of large capacity was erected about 1859 by Slew & Popple. This also, was burned about 1875. Soon afterward another was built on the same site by Saxe & Austin and sold to William Merrill. In 1887 the mill was again destroyed by fire. The site was then bought by Warren Hall, who rebuilt the mill and still continues to operate it. Several saw-mills and lumber manufactories were built and operated when lumber was plenty and in great demand, but all have ceased operations, save one known as the Hanford & Cook sawmill, which yet does a small business.

The first store in Versailles was opened by Benjamin Rathbone, who began business about the time the first mills were built, and he carried oil leis trade in connection with the lumber business. Hamilton & Barker were among the early storekeepers and among the later ones have been Julius Horton, Norton & Slew, F. E. De Wolf, D. N. Parker, and H. Chapman. Those now in business are William & H. J. Merrill, E. Brown & Son, and Charles N. Ubel. The first public house in Versailles was kept by J. Sherman and since him have been the following landlords: Mr. Walker, George Tichtnor, H. Swift, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Willey, Allen Parker, S. Hinds, and Charles Hinds, Jr. The postoffice was established about 1840, A.H. Barker being the first postmaster. Subsequent officials have been C. F. K Norton, F. E. De Wolf, Henry Hugaboom, D. N. Parker, E. Brown, L. N. Bunce, and W. W. Merrill. About 1830 General Barker, of Fredonia, put up a tannery and began business. This tannery was afterward torn down and enlarged, by R. Green, who ran it by steam and did a large business until burned out in 1860. In 1861 L. Palmer & Son erected a tannery in the southern part of the village and for a time did an extensive business, but ceased operations about 1887. Levi Palmer & Son are extensively engaged in gardening. They also operate large greenhouses.

West Perrysburg is a postoffice in the western part of the town, three-quarters of a mile from the Chautauqua county line, and was established October 8, 1981, with Ellen R. Hall as postmaster, who still holds the position.

In 1819, five years after the organization of the town, the Methodist Episcopal church set up her standard upon its soil. For years the church was without a meeting-house or parsonage for many miles around and religious services were held at private houses, in school houses and barns, and in groves. From 1819 to 1829 the circuit which includes Perrysburg was very large and
seems to have had no headquarters only as the ministers could arrange yearly conferences for themselves. From 1829 to 1849 Perrysburg belonged to the Forestville circuit, but from 1849 to the present time the town has constituted a circuit in and of itself. At times it has had as many as six preaching places; now it has but three: Perrysburg, West Perrysburg, and Versailles. At each of these places, is a neat and comfortable house of worship and at Perrysburg is also a good parsonage. In 1849, according to the records of a quarterly meeting held in Perrysburg village, there were five classes in town, and the leaders of these were Charles Blackney, Benjamin Parkman, Isaac Dawley, George Kirkland, and John Waters. November 9, 1853, the Methodist Episcopal church of Perrysburg was legally incorporated. A frame church edifice was erected about this time at a cost of $1,200 and was dedicated by Presiding Elder W. F. Wilson on February 8, 1854. This has been subsequently repaired, will now seat 300 persons, and with the grounds, parsonage, etc., is valued at about $3,500. This society has thirty-three members and a Sunday school of sixty scholars. Rev. Miller Fording is pastor.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Versailles was organized January 26, 1842, with Philander Porter, Lester Wood, and Martin Lindsley its trustees. Uniting with the Baptists the two denominations erected a frame house of worship the same year, in which meetings were held until 1878, when their own present edifice was built at a cost of $2,500. It will seat 200 people and is valued, with the grounds, etc., at about $3,000. The society has twenty-one members under Rev. Miller Fording, of Perrysburg, as pastor. The Sunday school connected has thirty scholars.

The Methodist Episcopal church of West Perrysburg is the oldest body of this denomination in town. A class of eight or ten members was formed in 1822 and continued to hold services until December 19, 1851, when the "Rugg Society of the Methodist Episcopal church" was incorporated with Stephen R. Hall, C. A. Rugg, and John R. Dawley as trustees. In 1852 a frame edifice was erected on lot 38 which will seat 300 persons and is now valued, including grounds, etc., at about $1,800. Rev. Miller Fording is pastor. The Sunday school has forty scholars.

The following preachers have served the Perrysburg charge: In 1819, Robert C. Hatton and Benjamin P. Hill; 1820, John Summerville; 1821, Nathaniel Reeder and Ira Bronson; 1822, Richard Wright and Sylvester Cary; 1823, Parker Buell and Richard Wright, 1824, Josiah Keyes; 1825, Henry Knapp and John Scott; 1826, Job Wilson and John P. Kent; 1827, J. S. Barris and Zachariall Ragan; 1828, J. S. Barris and Samuel Ayers; 1829, James Gilmore and A. Plimpton; 1830, Daniel Preston and S. T. Babcock; 1831, John Robin son and Nelson Henry; 1832, J. K. Hallock and I. H. Tackitt; 1834, H. Luce and S. Gregg; 1835, L. Rodgers, I. H. Tackitt, and Darius Smith; 1836, J. Deming and Darius Smith; 1837, T. Goodwill and M. Hill; 1838, Samuel Gregg and H. J. Moore; 1839, T. Stowe and E. J. L. Baker;
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The Baptist Church was legally organized at Versailles, November 19, 1821, by the election of Rufus Watson, Phineas Spencer, Benjamin Waterman, John Clark, and Dan Allen as trustees. By this act the society became the first church in Perrysburg and secured to themselves the forty acres of land known as lot 25, which the Holland Land Company had proposed to give to the first religious society legally organized in the town. The Methodists had preceded them two or more years, but had not become a body politic. Several years passed before a parsonage was built and the society received a regular pastor. The first was Rev. Sheldon N. Smith in 1838. Subsequent pastors have been Revs. D. Platt, Salmon Horton, M. T. Wadsward, T. T. Horton, Nathan Wood, J. C. Allison, and J. A. Pickard, the latter leaving about 1878. The society, having no church edifice, held their services in the Methodist churches and school houses. About 1878 their parsonage was destroyed by fire and as the membership of the church numbered but fifteen the land was soon after sold, the society disbanded, and the membership removed to Gowanda, joining the Baptist church of that place.

The First Congregational church of Versailles was incorporated February 3, 1846, and for a few years meetings were held in school houses. Its membership was small and the organization was maintained for only a brief period.

Andrew Bennett, a native of Dutchess county, came to Hanover, N. Y., soon after his marriage to Catharine Hiller, who died in Versailles aged eighty. His only son, John L., born June 13, 1837, married Caroline Toucey, Sept. 6, 1860. She was a daughter of John Toucey and was born in 1840. Children: Cozella, Luella, Ludelia, and Nettie. Mr. Bennett enlisted in 1862 in the 9th N. Y. Cav. and was discharged Feb. 4, 1863. He has resided in Versailles twenty-eight years. Ludelia Bennett married, Feb. 28, 1889, Adam Schmill. Nettie married Bartlett. A. Press in Jan., 1889, and also resides in Versailles. John Toucey, a native of Connecticut, came to Perrysburg in 1823 and died in 1868. Children: Eunice, Hannah, Helen, Martin, Jane, Caroline, Franklin, Sylvia, Susan, Sarah, and Milton J.

Eldad Blackney came to Perrysburg and cleared a farm near the village. He married Sally Cross; children: Charles, William, Nathan, Lewis P., Asa. Eldad, Jr., Belinda, Caroline, Julia, Sally, Sarah, Esther, Clarissa, and Delia.

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Lewis P. Blackney was born in New Lebanon, N. Y., May 30, 1811, and came to the age of eleven. July 14, 1835, he married Catharine, daughter of Isaac and Abigail Rugg. She was born Jan. 28, 1814, and died Jan. 18, 1822. Children: William W., Oscar C., Maryette G., Julia M., Orlina A., Orlando L., Aurelia R., Charles O., and Lillian C. Charles O. Blackney married Carrie, daughter of William and Alice (Knapp) Sanders, and is a farmer on the Isaac Rugg farm. Maryette G. married Warren R. Hall, son of John E. and Jane (Rose) Hall. He was born Feb. 18, 1845, and is a farmer near "Ruggtown."

Ebenezer Blake, son of John, came to Concord, N. Y., in 1830 and subsequently removed to Orleans county, where he died. He was present as a musician at the hanging in Buffalo of the three Thayers, who murdered a man in 1825 because of a debt he owed them. His wife was Sophronia Griswold. Their son Harry, born Jan. 26, 1835, married, July 24, 1860, Jennie L. Crumb, who died Oct. 17, 1875. Julius Crumb, her father, married Cornelia Strickland on April 22, 1832. Mr. Blake's second wife is Martha J. Allen. His children are Addison, Ella L., Frank D., and Le Verrne C. Addison died July 5, 1889.

Nathaniel Blasdell, born in Vermont, came to Dayton in 1818 and cleared a farm at what is now Markham, where he died. He married Sarah Josly; children: John, William, Nathaniel, David J., Sarah, Abigail, Mercy, Lydia, and Caroline. David J. Blasdell was born in Milton, Vt., Dec. 16, 1804, and came to Dayton with his parents. He subsequently removed to Perrysburg, where he died March 4, 1875. He married Lucinda Allen, of Gowanda, Jan. 15, 1826; children: Dan A.; Lewis N., Homer J., Morris C., Milton N., Heman N., and Esther M. His widow lives on the homestead in this town.

Hugh Campbell, soil of William, was born in Albany, N. Y., and cline to Perrysburg about 1816, where he cleared what is now the Hurd farm. At the time of his arrival he had eight children: Chancellor, Rice, Walter, Colin, Susan, Emma, Charlotte, and Janette. He was prominent in the early settlement, served as justice of the peace several years, and died in 1874. He cleared two other farms in Cattaraugus county and another one still in Michigan. Chancellor Campbell, born Aug. 28, 1810, married Ann. daughter of Russell Briggs, who died Feb. 18, 1884. Children: Ellen, Frank, Eliza, James, and James M. The latter was born Sept. 2, 1845, and May 4, 1869, married Minerva, daughter of Simon and Martha Francis; children: Clara A., Fanny E., and Helen M. He is a farmer near the village.

Frank Campbell was born Feb. 14, 1838. June 20, 1860, he married Caroline M., daughter of John and Jessie Vosburg. She was born Aug. 10, 1840. Children: Jennie, Charles W., Arthur J.,; and Clarence H. Aug. 8, 1861, he enlisted in Co. H, 44th N. Y. Vols., was discharged Oct. 11, 1864, and is now a pensioner. His paternal ancestor, Hugh Campbell, participated in the battle of Sacket's Harbor in the War of 1812.

William Cooper was born in Stillwater, N. Y., Dec. 8, 1793, and came to Perrysburg in 1817, settling on what is now known as the Campbell farm near the village. He was a prominent man in the new town and represented it five years on the Board of Supervisors. Children: William. James, Robert, Benjamin, Peter, Hannah, Sarah, and Nancy. He died Dec. 31, 1872. He founded the first district school in town and was influential in early religious affairs.

Isaac Edwards was of Welsh origin and was born in Connecticut. His father was a Revolutionary captain and a participant in the War of 1812; in the latter conflict the son was present with his father at Plattsburgh. Truman Edwards, son of Isaac, was born in Greenfield, N. Y., and came to Per-
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Lester Graves came to this town in 1826 and cleared the farm now owned by Alvin R. Graves. He was a native of Massachusetts and died here in 1868. His wife died Feb. 28, 1863: Children: Alvin, Charles F., Cornelia, Mary Ann, and George. Charles F. Graves was born March 19, 1825, and died March 15, 1890. Sept. 11, 1854, he married Melissa Atwell, who was born Aug. 17, 1833. Children: Burt H., born Nov. 9 1855 ; Cora Estella, born July 10, 1857; Nora E. (Mrs. Frank E. Haight), born Nov. 26, 1859, (died June 17, 1884; Lottie W. (Mrs. George E. Waller), born Aug. 26, 1860; Edith, born June 8, 1867 ; and George R., born Oct. 24, 1869. Burt H. Graves married Jennie B. Stillson and his children are Byron L., Bessie S., and Charles L. He is a member of the firm of Johnson & Graves, is postmaster, and since 1889 has been town clerk. Alvin R. Graves was born Oct. 14; 1818, and married, Sept. 10, 1843, Sarah E., daughter of Lathrop and Olive Mills. They have one daughter, Mary A., born Dec. 19, 1847, who married, Feb. 7, 1876, Oscar Hubbard, who was born in Leon in 1845; children: Mabel G. and Nellie L. Mr. Graves has resided on his present farm sixty-eight years.

John Haven, son of Elkanah, was born in Framingham, Mass., Nov. 9, 1774, came to Perrysburg in March, 1820, cleared a farm, and died March 21, 1829. He married Mary Lowe, who died Jan. 2, 1853. Children: John, Philander L., Mary F., Philena, Julia, Ebenezer, George, and W. L. W. L. Haven was born Nov. 14, 1819, at Concord, N. Y., and Feb. 24, 1850, married Emily F. Clark, who was born at Perry, N. Y., Nov. 23, 1825, and who died April 13, 1889. Mr. Haven is a retired farmer and is engaged in the insurance business.


John Hooker, a native of Brandon, Vt., came to Perrysburg while young; and was the first permanent settler on the Hooker farm, where he died about 1860. Children : John, Daniel, Abigail, Mary Ann, Lois, Fanny, and Harriet. John Hooker, Jr., was born in Brandon, Sept. 5, 1806, and died here June 24, 1888. He married Philena, daughter of James Waterman, who was born Dec, 27, 1813, and who died here Aug. 26, 1883 ; children : Helen M., Benjamin F.,Huldah A., James L., Hull M., John R., Harriet l., Lois, Newel P., Dora.
Elva A., and Warren B. All were born in Perrysburg. Hull M. Hooker was killed at Malvern Hill in 1862 while serving as a member of Co. H, 44th N. Y. Vols. Warren B. Hooker is a prominent lawyer in Fredonia and since 1890 a Republican representative in Congress. John R. and Elva A. Hooker occupy the homestead of their grandfather.

Jacob Hooker, a native of Massachusetts, came to this town in 1834 and cleared the farm on which he died in 1860. His wife was Doris Fife, who died in 1880. Children: Mindwell, Jane, Emma, Spicer, and Susan. Spicer Hooker was born in Goshen, Vt., in May, 1832. He married Elizabeth Cadwell; children: Byron J., Carrie, Hull, Coral Ellen, Clyde, and Lizzie. Byron J. born Aug. 10, 1857, married, Feb. 14, 1883, Jennie, daughter of Harvey and Cornelia (Graves) Hurd.

Gilbert Hoyt, the son of a Revolutionary soldier, came to Gowanda about 1830 as a wagon maker, and died at the Indian mission aged ninety years. He married Prudence Sheldon, who also died at the mission at the age of seventy. Children: Sheldon, Seth, John G., Ann, and Martha. John G. Hoyt, born in Vermont, Oct. 26, 1827, came to Cattaraugus county with his parents and married Sarah McCollister. He now resides in Buffalo and follows the profession of architect and bridge builder. Children: Richard, John G., Jr., Charles, Emma P., Harriet, Jesse, Maud, Grace, Ann, and Theodore. John G. Hoyt, Jr., was born in Buffalo in 1852 and is now a farmer near Versailles.

Peter Ingraham, a native of Rensselaer county, died in Otto at the age of eighty. His wife was Sybil Woolman, who died in Leon. Children: Humphrey, Hartman S., Peter, Annie, Lucina, and Hannah M. Hartman S. Ingraham was born in Rensselaer county and died in Wisconsin. His wife was Catharine Purdy and their children were Peter W., Electa, Jane, John R., Sybil, Lucina, Charles, Adelbert, Gilbert, and Loretta. John R. Ingraham was born in Otto, Nov. 9, 1833. Feb. 19, 1860, he married Charlotte Burke, who was born April 29, 1843. He has been a farmer in Perrysburg nearly fifteen years. George Burke, the father of Mrs. Charlotte Ingraham, was born in Otsego county, where he died in 1844. His wife was Mariah Crumb, who was born Sept. 19, 1815, and died July 30, 1882.


Schuyler Marvin, son of Jeffrey, was born in Orange county in 1806 and married Elizabeth Bertholf. Coming to Perrysburg in 1855 he died here in 1878, having had born to him these children: Sarah, Dewitt, Martha, James B., Seth, Mary, and Lawrence. James B. Marvin was born in Erie county, Feb. 27, 1837, and Jan. 26, 1867, married Hester A. Watkins, of Pembroke, N. Y., by whom he had one daughter, Florence A. His second wife was Lydia E. Robbins, who was born in Persia, a daughter of Elhanan W. Allen. They have one daughter, Mary L. He is a farmer in Perrysburg, where he has resided since 1855. Mary Marvin, daughter of Jeffrey, married Cyrus E. Christian and has one daughter, Ruth E. Florence Marvin married Daniel Wagner and has one daughter, Alice.
Abel Mattoon, a New Englander by birth, served in the Revolutionary war and early settled in Hanover, N. Y., whence he removed to Perrysburg, and finally to Wayne county, Ind., where he died. In all these places he was a typical pioneer. Children: Philip, Sylvanus, Lydia. Hannah, Aurilla, and Abel. Abel Mattoon was born in Warren county, N. Y., moved to Perrysburg, and was killed in 1827 at the raising of a log house. He married Mary Livingston; children: Clara. Jeremiah, Samuel, Schuyler, Polly, Lydia, Sylvester, John, Rebecca, Margaret, Ellen, and Sylvanus. The latter was born March 18, 1816, and married, May 15, 1842, Jane T. Gardner, who died in Nov., 1887. Children: Jane A., James K., Henry J., Ella F., and William T. William T. Mattoon, born April 9, 1853, married Mary Ward, and his children are Bernice G. and Ida B. He is a farmer, mason, and cheese maker in Perrysburg. Sylvanus Mattoon participated in the Dutch Hill war in 1845.

Francis Maynard, son of Francis and Margaret Maynard, was born in New Haven, Vt., July 4, 1834. Feb. 20, 1854, he married Jane Forbes, of Canada, and his children are Ellen and Richard. Richard Maynard was born Sept. 15, 1861, and Feb. 11, 1887, he married Emma Lilly, by whom he has one son, Francis; born March 20, 1890. Father and son are farmers on the same farm.

Alexander McAdams was born, lived, and died in Scotland. James McAdams, his son, was born in that country in 1810 and died there July 14, 1880. His son George M. was born Dec. 11, 1857, in Kirkcudbright, Scotland, and came to Perrysburg on March 1, 1883. Feb. 13, 1889, he married Cora A. Borden, daughter of Warren and Ellen M. (Campbell) Borden, and has one daughter, Fanny C. Warren Borden was a son of Hiram and was one of the early settlers of Perrysburg. He died in 1885.

George A. Mitchell was born in England, Sept. 1, 1836, and died in Cherry Creek, N. Y., Jan. 28, 1892. His only son, Frank G. Mitchell, was born in Millport, N. Y., May 18, 1856, and March 16, 1880, married Ellen B. Johnson, of Perrysburg. Children: Casey T., Ethel J., and Edith L. Mr. Mitchell resides in Perrysburg and is a dealer in real estate in Buffalo.

Norton Mulkin, son of John and Sarah (Lovejoy) Mulkin, was born in Hanover N. Y., and now resides in Perrysburg. He married Lovina Stillwell, who was born Nov. 23, 1833, in Ellisburgh, N. Y.; children: Norton, Jr., Archie, Sarah, Milton, Alfred M., Morris, H., Maud E., and Ona A. Ona A. Mulkin was born March 16, 1862, and Jan. 14, 1886, married Ida, daughter of Jasper W. and Jennie (Mitchell) Seeley. Children: Ona A., Jr., and Jesse M. He is a general merchant in Perrysburg village. Alfred M. Mulkin was born April 27, 1864. Norton Mulkin is now a resident of Versailles. Maude married Seth Williston and resides in Perrysburg. William M. Mulkin served in the Civil war from Michigan. Erastus Mulkin served in the 49th N. Y. Vols. and was promoted first lieutenant. John Stillwell and Ona A. Stillwell enlisted in the 64th N. Y. Vols., the latter attaining the rank of first lieutenant and being killed at Gettysburg.

Daniel Newcomb, son of Dea. Daniel and Electa (Day) Newcomb, was born April 27, 1815, in Vermont. By trade a tanner and currier he eventually became a farmer and came to Perrysburg, where he died Feb. 7, 1881. He married Terressa J., daughter of Allen and Jane Sweet; children: Daniel, Martha J., William D., Martin L., Caroline E., and Daniel L.. Mrs. Newcomb, survives and resides with her son on the homestead. Allen Sweet died in this town aged eighty, as did also his wife Nov. 10, 1876. Her maiden name was Jane Saunders.
John Parker, a native of Rhode Island, served at Valley Forge in the Revolutionary war and
died at the age of about ninety. He married twice and his children were John, David D., Joseph,
Hannah. Freelo, Annis. Lucy, and Olive. David D. Parker was born in Rupert, Vt., Jan. 17,
1791. Coming to Perrysburg in 1822, after serving in the War of 1812, he cleared two farms and
died Dec. 9, 1875, his children being Mariah H., Olive R., Convis D., Thomas F., Salem T.,
Salem P., De Forest N., Eugene L., and Josephine L. (twins), Mary C., and Myron M. The last
named was born May 24, 1824, and married Lyda Knapp. Children: Allen C., Spencer B.,
Capitaola, and Salem E. He has been assessor twelve years and is a farmer near Versailles. Allen
C. Parker married Mrs. Euretta Chapman, daughter of Elisha Tichnor, and is a hotel keeper in the
same village.

De Forest N. Parker was born in this town Dec. 5, 1832. Nov. 17, 1863, he married Mary E.,
daughter of William and Hannah Tichnor; children: Gertrude M., Remington H., and Edith. Mr.
Parker was deputy provostmarshal at Dunkirk during the Rebellion and since 1887 has resided in
Buffalo, being by occupation a commercial traveler. He was supervisor of Perrysburg two years
and justice of the peace four years.

John Parker, son of John, who was a son of John, came to Hanover, N. Y., in 1812, and died
in Perrysburg in 1859. He came to this town in 1830. His wife was Eunice, daughter of Peter
Parker; children: David C., Mary P., John, Seth, George F., James, Ezra A., Ann and Edwin.
George F. Parker, born in 1821, married Catharine Taylor, and has one son, Cassius M., born in
1852, who married Adelle Day and had one daughter. George F. served in the Rebellion in Co.
B, 72d N. Y. Inf. and was wounded at Williamsburg. He was transferred to Co. E, 10th N. Y.
Vet. Reserve Corps. and was discharged June 20, 1864. He re-enlisted Oct. 7, 1864, in Co. I,
87th N. Y. Vol. Inf., and served until the war closed. He was elected coroner in 1872 and served
fifteen consecutive years. He has been justice of the peace since 1879 and is now notary public.

Ezra A. Parker was born Feb. 23, 1829. Feb. 3, 1853, he married Amy Wheeler, who died
July 1, 1890. Children: Mary, Hiram W., Myra, S. Arvilla, Cora L., and Ezra N. Mr. Parker
His daughter Myra occupies the Hiram Wheeler homestead at Versailles.

Taber Pelton, a native of Massachusetts, came to Perrysburg at an early day and died on the
Pelton homestead aged fifty-seven. He married Rosina Moore. Children: Taber, Lura, Ishmer,
Sarah A., Asenath, Ethimer, William, Elder, Orpha, Mary, Betsy, and Osmyn. The latter was
born in Massachusetts in 1803 and came to this town with his parents, where he died in 1883. He
married Samantha Nichols and his children were Orrett L., Simon, Marvin, Irinda, Normanda N.,
Philletus, Ebert, Lemon and Tyler (twins), Orpha, Jerome, and Nathan P. Lemon N. Pelton, son
of Osmyn, married Phebe A. Flower, and is a member of the firm of Knapp & Pelton, proprietors
of the grist-mill at Perrysburg. Taber Pelton, Jr., married Mary, daughter of Lemuel Minor, and
had one child, Caleb M., born May 30, 1835. Caleb M. married Mercy A. Kilborn; children:
Lemmel Minor was a native of Norwich, Conn., and served seven years and seven months as
drum-major in the Revolution, being pressed into the service and discharged personally by
Washington. He came to Perrysburg in 1820 and cleared a
farm he purchased with his pension money. At the time of his death, in Dec., 1848, he was the oldest man in town, his age being ninety-eight. He married Susan Button and his children were Lemuel, Clara, Charlotte, Mary.

Dr. James Pettit was born in Albany, N. Y., in 1776, lived in Onondaga county, and finally settled in Fredonia, N. Y., where he died in 1847. His son Eber M. was born in Fabius, N. Y., May 3, 1801, and married Euretta Sweet; children: Helen E., Harriet, Fred, and James M. James M. Pettit was born Jan. 13, 1833, and married Sarah E. Hall; children: Eber M., Fred, Helen, and Sarah. He enlisted in Aug., 1861, in Co. A, 64th N. Y. Vols., and was promoted captain July 2, 1863. He was wounded at Gettysburg by a minie-ball in the back of the neck and discharged in Dec., 1863. Mr. Pettit was supervisor of Perrysburg one term and for several years succeeding 1870 a general merchant, being also a dealer in botanic drugs. He studied in Kenosha, Wis., was admitted to the bar in 1859, and resides in Fredonia, N. Y.

Elihu Russell, son of Jonathan and Zerviah (Howland) Russell, was born in Bristol, Mass., in 1804 and came to Collins, Erie county, with his parents. He eventually settled in Perrysburg and died in Gowanda, Nov. 12, 1874. He married Dinah Sisson, who died in Collins, July 3, 1867. Children: Ruth, Elizabeth, Lucy, Sylvia, and Sophia. The latter married Ezekiel Press and resides in Gowanda, as does also Ruth, who was born July 21, 1836.

Elijah Shepard, a native of Massachusetts, came to Perrysburg among the early settlers and located on what is now the Chester Moore farm. He subsequently removed to Fon du Lac, Wis., where he died aged ninety-five. Children: Riley, Jane, Manson, Joseph, Selinda, Norman, Sylvester A., David, and Olive. Sylvester A. Shepard was born in 1829 and died in 1874. He married Eliza Moore; children: Willis and Eugene. Eugene Shepard married Mary Doud; children: Willis and Ida. Olive Shepard married a Mr. Killips, who was killed in a saw-mill in Wisconsin. Chester Moore, the father of Mrs. Eliza Shepard, was born in Massachusetts and came to Perrysburg after his marriage, settling on a farm when there were but two houses between Gowanda and Nashville. He died in 1851.

Ebenezer Slawson was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1795, and died in Hanover, N. Y., in 1877. His father, Ebenezer, was a tailor by trade and a farmer and served seven years in the Revolutionary war, dying in Yates county in Jan., 1820. His wife was Lydia Nash. Ebenezer, Jr., married Betsey Carr, who died in this town in 1859. Children: Samuel, Melissa, Eliza Daniel, Caroline, John, and Silas N. Silas N. Slawson was born in Yates county, July 7, 1814. March 10, 1836, he married Temperance L. Hopper. Children: Newton, Temperance A., and Samuel E. The latter was born in Hanover, N. Y., May 12, 1850, and married Inez Parsell, Sept. 17, 1873. Silas N. Slawson married, second, Alice I. Frink, June 4, 1885. Newton Slawson died in April, 1883. He married Rose C. Brown. He was several years a teacher, twelve years a justice of the peace, and was deputy sheriff at the time of his death. Silas N. was superintendent of schools in Hanover, Chautauqua county, and town superintendent and commissioner of schools in Perrysburg. He was one of three delegates from this locality to Philadelphia to organize the U. S. Teachers' Association, and has taught school over twenty years.

Lilly Stafford, sun of Lilly and Tirzah (Wood Stafford, was an early settler of Collins, Eric county, where he died. His son Timothy R. was born April 14, 1826, and Jan. 4, 1865, married Elnora Dimon; children: Nora and Dana L. He has in his possession the coat of arms of the Stafford family
handed down from his great-grandfather, of England. Lilly Stafford, Sr., was a silver and
gunsmith by trade and passed his life in Massachusetts. Leander Stafford, son of Lilly, Jr., was
born May 9, 1824. Dec. 25, 1852, he married Laura Ansley; children: Asher C. and Lilly J.,
both of whom are married. Leander Stafford is now a retired farmer residing in Gowanda.
Samuel Starr, a native of Danbury, Conn., was one of the earliest settlers near the village of
Perrysburg, where he died and was buried, and the week following his demise he received from
the government a land warrant for services in the Revolutionary war, in which he served at the
battle of Bunker Hill. His wife was Catharine Keeler, who was born on the Hudson, and his
children were Orville, Noah, William, Ezra, John, Edwin, Zeborah, Sally, Catharine, and Anna
M. Orville was born in Connecticut, came to this town with his father, and died in 1865. He
married Minerva Cobourn, who died in 1871; children: John S., Helen, and Phoebe C. Phoebe C.
Starr was born in Dayton, Jan. 15, 1834, and May 30, 1856, married Anson J. Bailey, who died
the same year. She married, second, Porter Millhollen, who died six years afterward, leaving one
son, Orville, who now resides with his mother in Perrysburg. She married for her third husband
Marion Chaffee, who served in Co. E, 4th Vt. Vols., and died in the Soldiers' Home, Dayton O.,
May 16, 1891.

Samuel K. Strickland was born in Otsego county March 15, 1800, and came to Perrysburg in
1816, whence he subsequently removed to Dayton, where he died aged seventy-six. He served in
the War of 1812 and was at the battle of Plattsburgh. He married Permelia Waltz, who died in
Dayton in 1863. Children: Robert O., Chester D., Mary Ann, Fayette, Jane, John N., Matilda,
George F., Mercy, Samuel II., and Mirenus W. Chester D. Strickland was born Oct. 18, 1818.
April 3, 1845, he married Emeline A. Nash, who was born May I, 1826, and died July 8, 1884, a
daughter of Silas and Sally (Bunce) Nash, early settlers of Dayton. Children: Silas I., Alice,
Clorine M., Elva P., Flora J., Dillon D., L. May, and C. Douglass. Mr. Strickland served in Co.
K, 154th N. Y. Vols., and was discharged Oct. 31, 1863. At the battle of Chancellorsville he was
taken prisoner and confined in Libby prison four days. George F. Strickland was born Sept. 30,
1829. In 1851 he married Matilda Wells, who was born in Dayton in 1839. They have one
daughter, Mary J. (Mrs. Egbert D. Hall). Peter Waltz, the father of Mrs. Permelia Strickland,
sered seven years and nine months in the Revolutionary war and drew a pension which was
subsequently paid to his widow until her death.

Thomas Townsend was born in Dutchess county, lived for a time in Penn Yan, N. Y., and
finally came to Perrysburg, where he died Nov. 17, 1858. His wife was Polly Cross; children:
Luther A, Sally, Abbie, Harriet C., and John R. The last named was born in Penn Yan, March 3,
1823, and married, June 17, 1852, S. Arvilla, daughter of Ralph and Maria (Cole) Johnson, of
Dayton, who survives him, residing on the homestead. Ralph Johnson was born in Stafford,
Conn., April 3, 1797. Came to Dayton in 1815, and died Jan. 11, 1871. He was the first
postmaster in Dayton, for several years its town clerk and supervisor, and one of its earliest inn
keepers.

James Van Schoonhoven, son of Henry, an early settler in Hanover, N. Y., was born in
Schoharie county Aug. 24, 1794, and died Sept. 2, 1805. His son Richard B. was born in Aug.,
1837, and married, Dec. 11, 1858, Mary E. Snow, who died July 8, 1877; children: Ruby D.,
James F., Charles R., and Ethelyn J. He married, second, Mrs. Elene C. Newton, Jan. 11, 1880.
Catharine P., sister of Richard B., married Lewis Snow and resides in this town. James Van
Schoonhoven was one of the first settlers in Chautauqua county to manufacture scythe snathes which he made by hand.


Elijah Wells, son of Elijah who served in the war of the Revolution, was born in Conway, Mass., and came to Perrysburg in 1819, settling on a farm near the center of the town, where he died March 8, 1825. He married Mercy Hopkins, daughter of Seth, a Revolutionary soldier; she died here aged sixty-nine. Children: John, Dexter, Elijah, Luther, Clarissa, Thomas H. Thomas H. Wells was born in Conway, Mass., Feb. 16, 1809. Coming to Perrysburg with his parents in 1819 he married, March 16, 1828, Betsey Shannon, who was born Oct. 2, 1809. Children: Warren, Adaline, Marian D., Mercy J., and Florinda. He is now a farmer on the homestead and enjoys the distinction of being one of the oldest men in town. Warren Wells, born Oct. 22, 1832, married Julia Crowell and has children Ellie A., Flora A., Grant E., Thomas F., and Harley E. Marian D. married Leonard Darling, Jan. 1, 1856, and has children Willie H., Addie D., and Elmer L. Mr. Darling was killed at the Second Bull Run, Aug. 27, 1862, while serving in Co. 11, 44th N. Y. Vols., in which he enlisted Sept. 15, 1861.

Lemuel H. Wood was born July 6, 1844, a son of Joseph and Sally (Hicks) Wood, and is now a farmer. He has been supervisor of Perrysburg since 1891 and has also served as assessor and highway commissioner. He married Alice F., daughter of Egbert and Cynthia (Davis) Ostrander, who was born April 29, 1846. Joseph Wood was a native of Vermont, served in the War of 1812, and removed from Saratoga, N. Y.; to Silver Creek, whence he finally came to this town, where he cleared a farm at " Ruggtown " and died in 1866. Children: Joseph D., William, Ami, Dudley, Vashta, Betsey, Molly, Sarah F., Russell, and Lemuel H. Russell Wood served in the Ellsworth Zouaves and died at his home in 1864.

Homer Woodin was born in Bristol, Conn., July 6, 1806. March 10, 1829, he married Vashti Beckwith, who was born in Burlington, Conn., May 14, 1805. In Nov. following they joined Luzon Botsford in Otto, whose wife Polly was Mrs. Woodin's sister. He purchased the improvements of Harvey Butler, for which he paid $300 cash. He then went to the land office in Ellicottville and paid $25, and received a new contract. His land cost him, besides the $300 paid for the improvements, $1.25 per acre. About 1850 he traded this farm for another of 400 acres known as the Stephen Soule place. About 1857 he left this farm to his sons William and Martin H., and bought the farm of Warren Allen, containing 330 acres, where he resided until 1869, when he purchased a home containing thirty acres adjoining, where he resided
the remainder of his life. After Mr. Woodin located in Perrysburg he engaged in dealing in butter and cheese, and it is said of him that he bought more cheese and handled more money at that time than any other man in the county. He was first a Whig and later a staunch Republican. He served as assessor and justice of the peace many years, but when his party nominated him assemblyman he refused to accept. Mr. Woodin died Dec. 12, 1875. Mrs. Woodin survives him and resides in the village of Dayton.

Homer E. Woodin, son of William and Abi (Derby) Woodin and grandson of Homer, was born in Otto, July 8, 1860. Feb. 23, 1877, he married a daughter of Elijah Hawkins, of Persia; children: Inez M., born Nov. 23, 1879, died Oct. 16, 1890, and Homer E., born Dec. 27, 1889. He is a farmer on the Vosburg farm, where he has lived fifteen years. Elijah Hawkins was born in Vermont, Nov. 10, 1815, and died Jan. 9, 1878. His wife, Roxana Ackley, was born in Persia, Sept. 27, 1828.

Charles Zimmerman, son of Michael, married, in Denmark, Europe, Mary, daughter of John Mathias Hink, a distiller and brewer. They came to America in 1854 and to Perrysburg in 1881, where he died Sept 20, 1872. Children: Fred, Charles, Amelia, and Henrietta. Fred Zimmerman married Amelia Durand and has children Mamie, Laura, and Bessie. Henrietta is a talented musician and Fred is musical director in the Girard avenue. theater, Philadelphia. Charles also holds a similar position in a traveling troupe.