

HISTORY



OF

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

NEW YORK

FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME

WITH NUMEROUS

BIOGRAPHICAL AND FAMILY SKETCHES

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EMBELISHED WITH UPWARDS OF ONE HUNDRED PORTRAITS OF CITIZENS

BUFFALO, N. Y.

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PORTLAND

PORTLAND was formed from Chautauqua, April 9, 1813. The bounds, as described in the act, are precisely those which include the present towns of Portland, Westfield and Ripley. So rapid was the increase of the population in this part of the county, that, for the more convenient transaction of business, a division of the town became necessary; and, by an act of the legislature passed March 1, 1816 the town of Ripley was erected, comprising all territory lying west of Chautauqua creek. In 1829, the town of Westfield was formed with its present boundaries, restricting Portland within the east and west lines of range 13, and reducing its area a little below that of an average township. Like other lake towns, the surface is level along the lake shore. In the center and the western part it is hilly. Its streams are small, most of them rising in the highlands within the town, and flowing into the lake. The largest is Slippery Rock creek, which rises in the south-east part of the town and the town of Pomfret, and, passing east of and near the village of Brocton in a north-westerly direction, falls into the lake about 2 miles below that village. The Little Chautauqua creek, which rises in the town of Chautauqua, enters Portland about 2 miles from its south-west corner, and, near the said corner, reenters Chautauqua, and unites with the principal branch of the Chautauqua a short distance south of the village of Westfield. The soil is described as a clay and gravelly loam. Although the upland is uneven, and in the south-west part somewhat broken, it is well adapted for grazing and general agricultural purposes. Dr. Taylor in his History of Portland, says: "On this ridge the soil is mostly a heavy clay loam, but well adapted for the purposes of agriculture, the south part more especially for grazing and dairying, and the north for grain and fruit growing. Some ilea may be formed of its value for the purposes of general agriculture from the fact, that the state assessors have placed it in the first of the four classes into which the towns of the county have been divided by them ; there being but three others in the same class, viz., Hanover, Pomfret, and Sheridan ; and no one stands in advance of it in the average valuation of real estate, considered with reference to the purposes named."

Original Land Purchases in Portland, Township 5.

1804. May, James Dunn, 25, 30, 31, 34, 35.
 1806. June, Benj. Hutchins, 37, 41. July, David Eaton, 37. Nathan Fay, 25. Elisha Fay, '5. October, Peter Kane, 38.
 1806. February, Thomas Klumph, 37, 41.
 1809. June, Rufus Perry, 33. July, John Price, 39. Peter Ingersoll, 41. October, Philo Hopson, 27, 33. November, Jeremiah Klumph, 19. Dec., Martin Potter, 12. Robert Sweet, 21.
 1810. February, Absalom Harris, 33; [sold to Jeremiah Potter.] Rachel Perry, 33. March, Daniel Barnes, 3, 4. June, Nathan Fay, 12.
 1911. May, Elijah Fav, 20. Julv, William Hutchins, 41.
 1813. December, Hollis Fay, 13.

1814. September, John R. Gibson, 13. November, Roe Goldsmith, 5, 6.
 1815. April, Moses Sage, 2, 6, 4, 14, 21. Jethro Gerry, 32.
 1816. January, Augustus Soper, 12. February, Wm. Corell, 36. May, Samuel Geer, 8. July, Wm. Dunham, 27. Calvin Barnes, 32. Isaac Baldwin, 36. October, Solomon Coney, 42. **Lewis Hills, 3.** Elijah Fay, 42.
 1817. March, Oliver Spafford, 22. Simon Burton, 22. Elijah Fay, 40. Jacob Houghton, 7. April, Seth Ensign, 32. Gillett Bacon, 40. May, Isaac Baldwin, 40. June, Martin Smith, 45. July, Asa Brooks, 2. Jewett Prime, 16. September, Zadoc Martin, 2, 3.
 1818. April, George A. Hitchcock, 16. May, James Bennett, 32. Moses Titcomb, 16.
 1820. January, Jewett Prime, 21.
 1821. October, Wm. Harris, 18. Joseph Harris, 18. Wm. Harris, Jr., 18. David Hurlbut, 18. Sylvester Andrews, 18.
 1822. February, Sophia Williams, 24. Wolcott Colt, 17. September, Seth Shattuck, 10. December, John Corning, 14, 15. Wm. Corning, 14. Joshua Crosby, 14.
 1823. September, Isaac Howe, 10.
 1824. January, Rufus Moore, 11. February, Samuel Anderson, Jr., 28. October, Joseph Gibbs, 42. Hollis Fay, 42. Nov., Amos C. Andrews, 1.
 1825. November, Joshua S. West, 17.
 1826. April, Isaac Denton, 1.
 1827. July, Samuel Thayer, Jr., 23.
 1828. September, David Dean, 2. December, James Bennett and others, 11. Isaac Sage and others, 11. Frederic Comstock and others, 11.
 1829. February, Oliver Elliot, 28. March, Henry Mumford, 15.
 1830. September, William Case, 13. Lewis Chamberlain, 13.
 1831. May, Lemuel Thayer, Jr., 23.

Original Land Purchases in Township 4.

1810. March, Jerry Bartholomew, 63. April, Leonard Vibbard, 62. Perry Hall, 62.
 1811. March, Benjamin Hutchins, 62. September, Wilder Emerson, 55
 1812. November, Josiah Gibbs, 14.
 1815. March, Perry Hillard, 61. May, William Stetson, 55. John McIntyre, 55. Ethan A. Owen, 54.
 1816. March, Jonathan Burtch, 62. May, Calvin Hutchins, 46. June, Jeremiah Klumph, 47. Archibald Ludington, 46. Thomas Klumph, 47. July, Jacob W. Klumph, 47. Oct., Joseph Babcock, 48. Nov., Benjamin Hutchins, 54. James Barnes, 54. Asa Fuller, 48. Timothy Carpenter, 48.
 1817. Feb, Reuben B. Patch, 61. Jedediah Thayer, 61. Stephen Smalley, 48. April, Elisha Rogers, 60. Wm. Cotton, 47. Gideon Jones 45. May, James Lee, 47. Aug., Lewis Macomber, Stephen B. Macomber, 38. Oct., Erastus Andrews, 40. Nov., Brewer Hubbell, 40.
 1818. July, Zuriel Simmons, 31. August, Reuben B. Patch, 60.
 1819. January, Perry Hall, 39. August, Aaron Hall, 60.

The first settler in Portland was James Dunn from near Meadville. The date of his purchase, as appears from Holland Company's books, is May 31, 1804, although it is said he did not *settle* on his land till 1805. Dr. Taylor says, "he located about eleven hundred acres near the center of the town, in 1804, before the town was surveyed into lots." From the list of original



purchases, given on a preceding page, it appears that the lots he selected were 25, 30, 31, 34 and 35. As five whole lots would greatly exceed 1,100 acres, it is evident that only parts of some of these were taken. The northern bounds of lots 25 and 31, barely include the village of Centerville ; and the west line of lots 34 and 35 is about 2 miles west from the village ; the whole purchase lying on both sides of the Buffalo & Erie road for 2 miles, more or less. Mr. Dunn also took up lots or parts of lots 19 and 38 ; but these he probably never articulated, as they are marked on the book "reverted." He built his "shanty," in 1805, on the west part of lot 31, near the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad ; his family consisting of himself, his wife, and six children. A few months later, he built another hut or shanty on the east side of the road leading from school-house No. 8, near the junction with the main road, on land now owned by John Dudley. In 1806, he built a larger log house on the rise of ground near the present residence of Mr. Dudley, on lot 30, and in 1808 opened a tavern, on the road surveyed by James McMahan in 1805—the first road laid in the county—running immediately south of it.

It is believed no other person settled in the town before 1806. The preceding list of original purchases will show the dates at which they were respectively made. The writer would here repeat what has been elsewhere stated, that the disagreement between the statements of men respecting the dates of settlement, is such as to render it inexpedient to attempt to give them in the order in which the settlements were made. It was therefore deemed proper to give only, the dates at which the purchases were perfected, as recorded on the Company's books ; stating, however, that, although in most instances the lands were occupied at, or very soon after, the dates of purchase, there were not a few who did not settle upon them for a year, or perhaps two years after the purchase ; and occasionally a purchaser never occupied his land, but suffered it to revert to the Company. In numerous instances, too, men settled on lands a year or more before their contracts were perfected. And there were still others who took articles who never came upon their lands, but sold their claims to those who became actual settlers ; but whose names, consequently, do not appear on the land-office books. Dr. Taylor having been himself for many years a resident of Portland, he has had the means of attaining greater accuracy in the dates of settlement of persons in the town, than could be done by any non-resident.

The first town-meeting in Portland, then comprising the present towns of Portland, Westfield and Ripley, was held at the house of Jonathan Cass, in the village of Westfield, April. 1814. The following are the names of the officers elected :

Supervisor—Thomas Prendergast. Town Clerk—Asa Ball. Assessors—Jonathan Cass, Oliver Stetson, David Eaton. *Com'rs of Highways*—John Post, Wm. Bell, James Parker. Collector—Samuel Dickson. *Com'rs of Schools*—Robert Dickson, Jabez Hurlbut, David Eaton. *Inspectors of Schools*—Elijah Hayden, Amos Atwater, James Parker. Constables—Sam-

uel Dickson, Asa Hall. *Overseers of the Poor*—James Montgomery, John Brewer.

Supervisors from 1814 to 1874.

Thomas Prendergast, 1814. David Eaton, 1815, '16. [The next year Ripley was taken off, and Portland extended only to Chautauqua creek.] David Eaton, 1817, and 1833 to '35—in all, 5 years. Thomas B. Campbell, 1819 to '26. Elisha Arnold. 1827, '28. [Alter 1828 the town of Westfield having been formed, Portland was reduced to her present size.] Elisha Arnold, 1829, '31, '32—in all, 5 years. Nathaniel Fay, 1830. Asa Andrews, 1836, '40. Timothy Judson, 1837 to '39, '42, '43, '46, 47, '49, '52 to 54—11 years. John R. Coney, 1844, '45, '51. Ebenezer Harris, 1848. Asa Blood, 1850. Charles A. Marsh, 1855. Darwin G. Goodrich, 1856 '58. R. D. Fuller, 1857. Horace C. Taylor, 1859, '61, '62. Gurdon Taylor, 1860. Albert Haywood, 1863, '64. Joseph B. Fay, 1865, '66. Alfred Eaton, 1867, '68. Joseph E. Harris, 1869. Theodore S. Moss, 1870 to '74.

The first *blacksmith* in the town is believed to have been Luther Crosby, in 1816. His trade was that of gunsmith, but "worked at blacksmithing for the accommodation of the settlers." Simon Burton, Jr., also in 1816, is believed to have been the second, near the mouth of Slippery Rock creek.

The first *wagon-maker* who settled in the town, was Cotton Nash, the first settler at Centerville.

The first *shoemaker* was David Eaton, who, as will be seen elsewhere, followed the business as a trade for many years. It was here a secondary business, doing probably only his own work, and a little for some of his neighbors, as was done in those days by many others.

A *book-bindery*, we are informed, was established at Centerville by Vashni Millet, in 1844, in a building occupied for some years by D. Tallman, as a tavern and dwelling, and now by G. W. Munger as a blacksmith shop. It was removed in 1848 to Fredonia. When it is known that few villages of ten times the population of Centerville at that time can not sustain a book-bindery, deserving the name, it is not easy to account for keeping one "running" there for four years.

The first *store* in Portland is said to have been opened in 1817, by Klumph, son of Augustus [probably *Augustine*] Klumph, in the west part of the town, on the farm now owned by Chester Munson. It was kept in a small room in one corner of his father's log house. Very few goods were kept, yet small as the store was, it was a convenience to the settlers. It was continued about two years. A second store was opened in 1830 by Abiel and Frank Silver, about a mile east of the former. In 1832, they sold to Curtis and E. Tinker, by whom the store was continued until 1834.

The first store in Brocton was opened in 1830, by Daniel Ingalls and Joseph Lockwood, in the building now owned by J. E. White, and occupied by C.O. Furman. That no store was established there until twenty-five years after the first settlement of the town, may appear to many somewhat strange. As late as 1835, when the post-office was first established there, "the terri-

tory," says Dr. Taylor, "where now stands the village of Brocton, was little else than a swamp;" and he mentions all the buildings then there, the number being very small. He says, further, "There was little about the Corners to invite settlers or to make it a center of population; yet, through the unyielding energy and perseverance of those particularly interested, it was soon made a point of interest and the business center of the town."

White and Lockwood were succeeded by B. F. Post, who bought Dr. Ingall's portion of the goods; and Lockwood removed his to Centerville. The building now owned and occupied by J. B. Haywood as a store, on the north-west corner, was built by E. R. Southwick, in 1836, and in 1837 was bought and occupied by A. S. Moss and G. B. Fay as a store. In 1839, it was purchased by Ransom S. Morrison, and occupied as a store by him singly and in partnership, until 1860 ; his brother Orrin being a partner from 1840 to 1845, and A. S. Moss from 1846 to 1858. Dr. Taylor gives the names of numerous other firms, bringing down the list to the time of his writing ; but the want of room forbids their insertion here.

At Centerville, we find Thomas Klumph, in 1832, with a store of goods, the first in that place—a larger stock, doubtless, than that with which he started in 1817 in the west part of the town. He continued trade here until 1837, when he removed West. Joseph Lockwood as has been stated, went with goods to Centerville from Brocton, in 1833. Among the later merchants have been S. C. Riley, Amos Barton, Fuller S. Barnhart, P. Mericle, A. J. Mericle, Isaac Shattuck, and others, who alone, or as members of firms, have been in trade there.

There have been three *asheries* in Portland. The first was put in operation by John R. Coney, in 1818, between Brocton and Portland Center. A pearling oven was attached ; and Coneys ashery was, for ten years, the great center of trade in ashes. Another was established in 1830, by Abiel Silver, for the manufacture of potash only. It was on land now owned by Henry S. Munson. It was run by Silver two years, and continued two years longer by Wm. Curtis. Neither of these asheries, it would seem, was connected with a store. R. S. & O. Morrison, merchants, established an ashery at Brocton, in 1843, to which a pearling oven was attached. It was run about ten years.

Portland, like almost all other towns, has had its *cider-mills* and *distilleries*. Of the former, two are mentioned; the first, built by Calvin Barnes, in 1824 the second, by Dea. Elijah Fay, at Brocton, in 1830, which is still standing. The great change in the drinking custom has rendered mills of this class nearly useless. A single one in each town, confined to its proper use, would hardly be deemed a nuisance. Three distilleries have been built in the town. The first, by Ethan A. Owen, in 1817 ; the second, by Simeon Whitcomb and Orris Perkins, in 1819 ; the third, by Silas Houghton, in 1824 or 1825, near the falls in Slippery Rock creek. It is creditable to the town to state, that all of them were short lived; and that the first two are represented as "small affairs."

A more valuable industrial "institution," now becoming quite common, has been introduced into this town. A *cheese factory* was established by Dea. L. Blowers, in the west part of the town, in 1866, at a cost of \$2,000. What have been the products of this factory the last few years, is not stated ; but it is presumed they have been increased since 1870, when it turned out 22,000 pounds, from 27,500 gallons of milk ; the value of the cheese amounting to \$3,300.

The first *tavern* in the town was opened by James Dunn, as elsewhere stated, in 1808. Peter Ingersoll opened a tavern in 1809, on the "McKenzie farm." It was kept by different persons for many years. The first tavern kept in a frame house was the Williams tavern, built where a log tavern had been burned, near where Lincoln Fay resides. It was sold to Henry Abell, in 1814, and by him, in 1815, to Richard Williams, an early settler at Fredonia, who kept it as a tavern until his death, in 1822. The taverns in Portland have been numerous. In the History of Portland, sixteen are noticed, including the Jones Temperance House at Brocton, by E. L. Jackson and Milton Jones, in 1839, which was continued but a few years. The "E change Hotel" at Brocton was built in 1835, by Samuel Hall and E. Southwick, for a store and dwelling. It was subsequently enlarged and opened as a tavern. It has passed through the hands of many proprietors, A. M. Hunt having kept it for a longer period than any other—from January, 1850, to April, 1865. D. Morey is its present owner. This is the only public house kept in the town.

A great change in tavern-keeping, as in many other kinds of business, has been wrought within the last thirty or forty years. During the tide of emigration to the "great West," and when the mode of conveyance was by teams with wagons and ox-sleds, a tavern every few miles along this great thoroughfare was necessary. But since the means and mode of locomotion of yore were superseded by the "iron horse, whose sinews are steel and ; whose provender is fire," most of the taverns have disappeared from the roads most traveled.

Although Portland is favored with no large streams of water, there are probably few towns in the county in which the mills have been more numerous. When the country was new and covered with forest timber, the smaller streams furnished water sufficient to propel saw-mills a considerable portion of the year; and nearly every water-fall was improved. But as the timber was removed, the streams diminished, until there are few which carry water enough to operate machinery of any kind. The earliest saw-mills in Brocton are said to have been built about the same time; one by Wm. Dunham, on what is called Dunham's creek, commenced in the fall of 1816 ; the other, by Moses Sage, on Slippery Rock creek, at Brocton. It is believed that the former was commenced first, and that the latter was earliest in operation. Dr. Taylor in his History of Portland, gives a list of 21 saw-mills carried by water. On but two or three of the sites of these mills, are there now mills running a part of the year. Several steam mills have been built in later years; but

these, the mill built by Samuel Crandall at Brocton in 1871 is the only one now running.

Several water grist-mills were built at a comparatively early period, but they have generally shared the same fate as the saw-mills. A good grist-mill, owned by Will Whaland, is now in successful operation at Brocton. The "Brotherhood" steam-mill was built two years ago near Brocton station, for grinding feed, which is furnished in large quantities.

The first *tannery* in this town was built as early, it is said, as in 1807, by James Parker, on the farm of David Eaton. As may be supposed, the business at so early a day, was small ; and the establishment was a cheap and rude one. The vats were dug from the trunks of trees, and the beam house was a log shanty. It was continued but about two years. Another was started about 1820 by John Town on lot 34, tp. 5. This also was a cheap concern, and was continued but a few years. Kinne's tannery was built in Brocton about the year 1826. It was sold in 1830, or '31, to Joshua Jackson. Only a few remains of it are to be seen. The Brocton tannery, built in 1836 by J. C. Haight and Harvey Williams, in connection with a grist-mill, is the only tannery in town. It is owned at present by J. N. Porter and J. H. Haight.

A *carding-machine*, the only one ever built in this town, was put in operation at Portland Center, by Orrin Ford, in 1825. The first roll was carded by Jared Risley. Machines of this kind, once deemed indispensable to the welfare of nearly every family, have disappeared with the decline of household manufacturing. Only here and there is to be found one, as an appendage to some other establishment, and designed to accommodate the few octogenarian ladies who wish to keep their "hand in," so far at least as to do the "knitting" for the family. Those who know the superiority of the articles made from yarn spun and knit by hand, would rejoice to have the lives of these old grandmothers prolonged for time indefinite.

The first school in Portland was taught in a small log building near the dwelling of Jacob Dunn, in the spring of 1810. The building had been erected a year or two before, but for what purpose is not known—probably for that for which it was subsequently occupied. The first school is said to have consisted only of six or seven children of its founder at its commencement ; but "soon a few others were allowed to send their children by paying a proportion of the teacher's wages." It would seem more probable that the few others would have been solicited to join in the support of the school. As settlers had been coming into the neighborhood for five years, there must have been a considerable number of children of school age; as is presumed from the fact that "a school-house was built the same summer or fall by voluntary effort on the part of the settlers." Anna Eaton taught the first school, in the summer of 1810 ; and Augustine Klumph taught the first and only school in the new school-house, in the following winter. Being near the site of the "old stone school-house," and its location inconvenient for the settlers, it was abandoned, and another built in 1811, near the present residence "of

J. S. West. This house, though built of logs, was used until after a new frame house was built in the summer of 1817.

A *town library* was established in 1824, under the act of 1796, authorizing the incorporation of library associations. A society was formed, entitled "Portland Library." The act was signed by 27 persons, and \$100 were subscribed for the purchase of books. Seven trustees were elected ; Cephas Brainard, Nathaniel Fay, Jesse Baldwin, Parsons Taylor, John R. Coney, Ebenezer Harris, David Eaton. The formation of this association, and the liberal subscription for the library, evince a high appreciation of useful knowledge. Few of these early settlers had enjoyed the advantages for acquiring a good school education ; and they wisely provided for supplying the deficiency by a course of useful reading. Among the men who have shed the brightest luster upon our country, are many who have thus qualified themselves for the high and honorable positions to which they attained. With the increased facilities for learning enjoyed by the present generation, there has not, it is believed, been a corresponding increase of available; practical knowledge. Every school district is furnished with a free library ; but that a large proportion of the families avail themselves of this means of information, is questionable. A division of time between school studies and the reading of judiciously selected books, would greatly promote the general diffusion of useful knowledge.

Portland has attained a high rank among the towns of the county in fruit-growing and grape culture. Capt. Dunn, David Eaton, the Fays, and other early settlers, set out orchards as soon as sufficient "clearings" had been made. In this, however, they did not differ from the settlers in other towns. Hence it is deemed unnecessary to speak at length of their orchards, though they were scarcely excelled by any in the county. It is the cultivation of the grape and the manufacture of wine for which this town has become distinguished.

The *grape* was introduced in this section by Dea. Elijah Fay as early as 1818. After a trial, for several years, of different varieties without success, he introduced, in 1824, the Isabella and the Catawba, which proved to be well adapted to the soil and climate. From his crop of 1830, he made from five to eight gallons of wine, the first made from the cultivated grape in western or even central New York. The old stocks of these pioneer vines were healthy and productive, until the winter of 1872-3. One of them had been trained a distance of 110 feet, and in 1871 yielded 160 pounds of fruit. The severity of the winter of 1872-3 materially injured them, and they are, in part removed. The family, it is said, have still a few gallons of wine of the vintage of 1847. For the last four years of his life, Mr. Fay is supposed to have made nearly 300 gallons a year. His cellars contained 1,500 gallons at the time of his death, in 1860.

In 1859, Joseph B. Fay, Garrett E. Ryckman, and Rufus Haywood, built a wine house on ground obtained of Dea. Fay; and 2,000 gallons were made the same fall. It was soon found that not only the gravelly soil was adapted

to the culture of the grape ; but vineyards were planted in other parts of the town. The increase of fruit enabled the company to increase their manufacture, until, in 1865, it reached 16,000 gallons. Fay retired from the firm in 1862. Ryckman & Haywood continued the business until 1865.

In 1865, Lake Shore Wine Company was formed with a capital of \$100,000, which went into operation in April. Timothy Judson was president of the company: J. B. Fay, secretary, and Albert Haywood, superintendent. They bought of Ryckman & Haywood their stock of 17,000 gallons of wine, and their other wine interest for \$38,000. The present wine house of Ryckman, Day & Co. was built the same season. The enterprise was unsuccessful. The company became involved ; the property was sold to pay their indebtedness; and was bought by G. E. Ryckman and R. B. Day, who became the owners of the property in 1868.

Ryckman, Day & Co. commenced business the first of June, 1868. They purchased at the sale of the Lake Shore Company's property, 24,000 gallons. The storage capacity, which was 40,000, has been increased to 120,000 gallons. In 1870, about 200 tons of grapes were manufactured, and a like number in 1871, a large portion of which came from northern Ohio and central New York. The product in 1870 was 45,000 gallons ; in 1871, 42,000. They had at one time in their cellars, in 1872, 85,000 gallons. The enterprise is said to be a successful one.

The Empire Vineyards of Ralph D. Fuller, of Portland Center, were commenced in 1862, and have been increased to 12 acres. He manufactured 200 gallons of wine in 1867 ; in 1871, 10,000 gallons. In 1873, he had at one time in his cellars 14,000 gallons.

Thomas Quigley commenced the raising of grapes for market in 1858. In 1863, he made 20 to 30 gallons of wine ; in 1871, 3,000. A few others have made smaller quantities, but only as a necessity from the low price of fruit. In 1873, the number of acres set to grapes in Portland was about 600.

There is in Portland a "peculiar institution," probably the only one of its kind in the United States. It is called the " Harris Community." Its members disclaim affinity with societies generally so called. They style themselves the "Brotherhood of the New Life," a society better known in Europe than in America. Mr. Thomas L. Harris, their head and center, admits that "in one sense the Brotherhood are Spiritualists," but they reject the general mediumship and constant intercourse with the spirit world, as profitless, dangerous, and even profane. "In another sense," he says, " the Brotherhood are Socialists;" by which he seems to mean, "the association of noble and cultivated souls in every industrial and human service." They do not renounce the domestic relations. He says: "Marriage, the family, and property, that triad of institutions, most menaced by the revolutionary and distinctive spirit of the age, are held by them of infinite authority and universal value."

Mr. Harris, of Amenia, Dutchess Co., N. Y., with a few chosen friends, purchased, in 1867, nearly 2,000 acres of farm lands, in Portland, chiefly on

the lake border, where they are engaged in the usual operations in agriculture, as, the wholesale pressing and shipping of hay; the general nursery business; and the manufacture and sale of pure native wines, more especially for medicinal use. They are laying out a village which they have named Salem on-Erie, designed to be a business center. Dr. Tavior says : "They cut and secured, in 1872, about 1,000 tons of hay from their own premises, and purchased from outside parties about 250 tons, of which 850 tons were pressed and sent to market; the remainder used by them and sold near home." And according to Mr. Harris' own statement, their product of wines has been from 15,000 to 23,000 gallons annually. The grapes from which the wine is manufactured, are in part raised by them, and in part obtained by purchase. This part of their business is done under the name of the "Lake Erie and Missouri River Wine Company."

BIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL.

DAVID EATON was born in Framingham, Mass., Feb. 2, 1872. He was the oldest son of Benjamin and Mary Eaton, and the fifth of ten children. His father was a shoemaker ; and David was put upon the bench at the age of nine years. When eighteen years of age his father died ; but he continued the business and supported the family until he was twenty-two ; yet he found time to store his mind with useful knowledge. In 1805, with Nathan Fay, he visited the "Purchase," and explored the lake region, and returned. April 20, 1806, he married Elizabeth Horne ; and in May, accompanied by his wife, mother, and youngest sister, Nathan Fay and family, Elisha and Nathaniel Fay, started for the West, with a span of horses and a covered wagon. His wife being in feeble health, they were obliged to stop for rest at New Hartford, where she died. Leaving his mother and sister there, he came to Portland, and located the land on which he afterwards settled, and where he lived until his death, nearly 67 years. Having built a log house and cleared two acres of land, in October he removed his family from New Hartford. The following winter was a very severe one. The mills at Westfield being frozen fast, he had to prepare his corn for food with a mortar and pestle. His mother kept house for him until 1811, when he married Mrs. Mercy Fay, widow of Nathan Fay. His sister, who taught the first school in town, as elsewhere stated, continued teaching until 1815, when she married and moved to Whitestown. His mother died in Oct., 1848, aged 95 years and 6 months. His wife died May 12, 1862. Mr. Eaton died Oct. 7, 1872, aged 90 years and 8 months.

Mr. Eaton was not only an estimable and highly respected citizen, but rendered his town and county valuable service. He served his country in the war of 1812, and was wounded in the battle of Queenston. [See War History.] He was assessor of the town of Chautauqua in 1809 ; and clerk of the board of supervisors from 1820 to '27, and for the years 1831 and '32. He was supervisor of the town for 6 years, and chairman of the board in 1815 ; and was for several years a justice of the peace. He was appointed

superintendent of the poor in 1844, and held the office 6 years. He had 5 children : 1. *Edwin*, who married Caroline P. Baldrige, of Fredonia, and resides at Frewsburg. 2. *Emily*, wife of Josiah Wheeler, of Frewsburg ; both deceased. 3. *Alfred*, who married Hannah C. Clark ; settled in Wisconsin, and now resides on the old homestead, in this town. 4. *Oscar*, who married Louisa A. Kennedy, of Steuben county ; removed to Michigan, and thence to Forest Grove, Oregon. 5. *Darwin G.*, who was a graduate of the state normal school at Albany ; subsequently one of its teachers : and thence transferred, nearly thirty- years ago, to the Packer Institute in Brooklyn, where he is still professor of mathematics and natural sciences. He was married to Ann J. Collins, of Steuben county, Oct. 2, 1850.

FAY FAMILIES.—There were among the early settlers in Portland five families of this name, whose respective heads were Elijah, Elisha, Nathaniel, Hollis, and Nathan. All but the last named were brothers, the sons of Nathaniel Fay, who never came to Chautauqua.

ELIJAH FAY was born in Southborough, Mass., Sept. 9, 1781, and was married to Lucy Belknap, of Westborough. They came to Portland in 1811, in a wagon drawn by a yoke of oxen and a horse, and were forty-one days on the road. He settled on lot 20, township 5, the whole of which he had previously located, containing 179 acres, about one-half the area of an ordinary lot. He occupied his first cabin Jan. 1, 1812. His house needs no other description than to say, that it was one of the rudest of the rude. Three-legged stools made of split slabs served for chairs for about three years. A better house was built about a year after the first, and the first was used for a barn, and the space between the two closed up for a threshing floor. Three years later, another house was built, which the family occupied until 1831, when the house now on the farm was built. Pages might be filled with the relation of a most interesting pioneer experience of this family, but which we are compelled to omit. Mr. Fay was regarded as one of the best of the good men who peopled this town. He was prominent among the founders of the Baptist church, and one of its early deacons. Deacon Fay died Aug. 23, 1860 ; Mrs. Fay, Jan. 18, 1872. They had 3 children : 1. *Clinton S.*, who married Almira A. Clark, and who resides on a portion of the homestead. He is a deaf mute from disease in early life. 2. *Lydia E.*, wife of Lawrence F. Ryckman, who died July 22, 1873. 3. *Joseph B.*, who married Maria M., daughter of Isaac Sage, and after her death, Martha Haywood ; now lives in Topeka, Kansas.

ELISHA FAY, a brother of Elijah, was born in Framingham, Mass., June 1783. He came to Portland in June, 1806. He came with his brother, Nathaniel, both unmarried, and Nathan (not a brother) and his family. He settled on lot 25, on which he has lived 67 years, though for some time since the death of his wife as a boarder with his sons. He went to Massachusetts in 1807, and returned to Portland with his wife, Sophia Nichols. A new log house was built, which they occupied until 1828, when the stone house was built. Mr. Fay served in the war of 1812, and was in the battle

at Black Rock and Buffalo. He is the oldest actual settler in the town now living. He was an early member of the Methodist Episcopal church ; afterwards of the division called Wesleyan. Mrs. Fay died in October, 1850. His children were: 1. *Lincoln*, who married Sophrona Peck, and lives on the farm located by Nathan Far in 1806. 2. *Eddie* who died at 23. 3. *Charles*, who married Laura A. Hall, and lives on a part of the old homestead. 4. *Otis N.*, who married Emeline Van Tassel, and lives about two miles southeast from Centerville.

NATHANIEL FAY came to Portland in 1806, with his brother Elisha. and in 1810 located a part of lot 12, tp. 5; the land now owned by his son Franklin. He married Lydia, daughter of Calvin Barnes. He was elected supervisor in 1830, and held several other town offices. He served in the war of 1812, and was at the battle of Black Rock. He died May 15, 1853 ; Mrs. Fay, Sept. 4, 1872. Their children were : 1. *Mary Ann*, wife of Orrin Brainard, who settled first in Arkwright. and afterward in Pomfret, where she died in 1854. 2. *Franklin*, who married Catharine Bowdish, and lives on the homestead. 3. *Nathaniel*, who married Nancy Bowdish, and settled in Stockton, and is now a Methodist minister in Penn. 4. *Lucy*, who died at 17.

HOLLIS FAY came to Portland with his brother Elijah in 1811. He first bought land on which the east part of Brocton stands. This he sold in 1815 to Moses Sage, and bought part of lot 42, in the north-west corner of the town. For three years he lived alone in a log cabin. In 1818, he went to Massachusetts and married Phebe Mixer, and removed west with an ox team and covered wagon. Their wagon was their sleeping room, and the road side their kitchen and dining room. They were six weeks on the way. In 1851, they removed from their farm in Portland to Concord, Erie Co., where Mr. Fay died in July, 1868, and Mrs. Fay in October following. They were buried in the Westfield and Portland Union Cemetery. They were members of the Baptist church. They had 3 children, one only, surviving infancy Roxana E., wife of Edmund Ellis, who died in 1857. Mrs. Ellis resides in Concord.

NATHAN FAY, son of Nathan Fay, was born in Southborough, Mass. In 1805, he and David Eaton made a prospecting tour through Portland, on foot, with knapsacks, returning through the south part of the county. In May, 1806, he came with his family, David Eaton and others, to this town and settled near where Lincoln Fay resides. He was married in Massachusetts to Betsey Clemens, who died in 1807 ; hers being the first death in Portland. In 1809, he married Mercy Groves in Oneida Co., and in June, 1810. he died. He had 7 children, of whom the last only was born in Portland. 1. *Hattie*, wife of Simeon Guile, who settled in Wisconsin, and died there. 2. *John*, who married Nancy McClintock ; settled in Westfield, and died in Illinois. 3. *Nathan*, who married and died in Michigan. 4. *Cutting*, who went south. and is supposed to be dead. 5. *Willard*, who left home, and has not been heard from. 6. *Esther*, who died in Ripley about 1865. 7. *Betsey*, wife of Samuel Morehouse, and lives in Missouri.

JOSHUA LA DUE was born August 2, 1794, at Auburn, N. Y., where he was married, in 1816, to Julia Ann Cowles. In March, 1826, he removed to Sherman, then a part of the town of Mina, having, the year before, built a log house on land he had taken up in January, 1825. He resided there many years. He was elected supervisor of Mina, before the erection of Sherman; and he held for many, years the office of justice of the peace. He afterwards removed to Westfeld where, in 1846, he was appointed keeper of the light-house at Barcelona, which position he held for three years. He resided in the towns of Sherman, Westfield, and Portland, where he died, September 1, 1865, aged 71 years. His widow still resides there. They had 13 children: Bethana, was married to More Titus, is a widow, and resides in Portland; Fidelia to Ichabod Thayer, Westfield; Uriah S., to Mary J. Morgan, Brocton; her husband deceased; Clarissa, to James Caldwell, Chautauqua; Albert D., to Ann E. Slayton, Kansas City, Mo.; Jay, to Jeanette Buell, Rochester, Minn.; Mabel, to Leroy Wilcox, both deceased; Joshua, to Harriet Goodrich, Clinton, Missouri; Mercy A., to H. C. Kingsbury, Westfield; Ambrose, to Sarah Garrison, Mantorville, Minn.; Henry, who died at 16; Jerome, to Ada Wells, Westfield; Lillie, to Geo. W. Marsh, Portland.

HORACE CLEFTON TAYLOR, son of Bernice and Caroline Taylor, was born in Montague, Franklin county, Mass., Nov. 26, 1813, and was the eldest of six children. In May, 1827, he came with his father's family to Fredonia. In 1833, he began a preparation for the ministry, but was diverted from that course by poverty. He received his education in the common school and Fredonia academy. He studied medicine at Salem Cross Roads, now Brocton, and with Prof. B. L. Hill, of Berlin Heights, Ohio; and attended medical lectures at Cincinnati, O., at the L. M. Institute, in the classes of 1848, '49, and graduated in June of the latter year. He commenced practice at Brocton, the same month, and has remained there, in the practice of his profession, to the present time. In religious sentiment he is a Presbyterian, and has been a member of that order since 1831. In politics he is a republican. In 1859, '61, and '62, he was supervisor of Portland; and, in 1873, he was elected county superintendent of the poor, which office he now holds. He has been U. S. examining surgeon for pension claims since October, 1865. He is author of a history of the town of Portland, published in 1873. His father died in Pomfret, April 10, 1853, aged 70 years; his mother, at Brocton, July 18, 1854, aged 67 years. Dr. Taylor was twice married: first, to Eliza Jane Roff, Oct. 1, 1835, who died May 13, 1846; second, to Frances Chambers, June 14, 1847. He had two children by each marriage; one of each now living.

CHURCHES.

The *First Congregational Church of Portland* was formed January 31, 1818, at the house of John Churchill, Rev. John Spencer officiating. The original members were John House, Wm. Couch, Augustine Klumph, Jabez Hurlbut, David Eaton, John Churchill, Sylvester Churchill, Zachariah H. Price, Joanna House, Abigail Couch, Wilson Andrews, Andrew Kelsey, Frederick

Couch, Mary Eaton, Louisa Hurlbut, Mercy Eaton, Keziah Andrews, Nancy McClintock,—eighteen. For about two years, only occasional preaching and the administration of the sacraments by Mr. Spencer were enjoyed. From 1820, Rev. Phineas Camp, a preacher at Westfield, and his successor, Rev. Isaac Oaks, divided their time with the Portland church, preaching once in three or four weeks at the latter place. The number of members had increased to 38 in 1823, and at a later period to 52. At about this time, a declension commenced, which continued until the church had become virtually extinct; some of the members having united with the Westfield church; others having entirely lost their church connection. The society in connection with this church was formed pursuant to the statute of June 24, 1822, and was styled "The First Congregational Society of the Town of Portland." The first trustees were Frederick Couch, Wilson Andrews, and Wilder Emerson, On the 3^d of March, 1833, the church was reorganized by Rev. David D. Gregory and Rev. Timothy Stillman. The members of the new organization were Timothy Judson, Samuel Hall, and Abigail Thompson, from the Presbyterian church of Fredonia; Clark Gould, Elisha Cook, Clarinda Cook, Alvin Cook, Catharine Cook, Eliza Cook, and Anson Driggs, from the Presbyterian Church, Westfield; Nathan G. Jones and Mary Eaton, members of the old church; and Samuel Walker, Dana Churchill, and Minerva Churchill, formerly members of distant churches. Dana Churchill and Alvin Cook were chosen deacons; and Charles Gould, clerk. The new "Congregational Society" required by the statute of 1813, was formed April 30, 1833.

The *Methodist Episcopal Church* is said to have been the second church in Portland. The precise date of its organization is not ascertained. By the efforts of Wm. Dunham and a few others, a class was formed in June, 1817 by Rev. Godard, of the Chautauqua circuit, which extended from Cattaraugus creek to Erie, Pa. The members of the class were William and Lucy Dunham, Isaac and Parthena Baldwin, William and Barbara Correll, Abiel and Mary Flint, and Simon Burton. Soon were added, Elisha and Sophia Fay, Parsons Taylor and Mrs. Taylor, and Mrs. Thompson. Another class was soon after formed on the south road. The classes met for a time in dwellings and school-houses. Early class leaders were William Dunham, Isaac Baldwin, and Elisha Fay. For the better accommodation of preachers, the two or three classes were united. Meetings, for many years, were held at no stated place, until a few years before the building of their first church edifice. The society in connection with this church was formed in 1822. This society having lost its identity, and its acts become illegal from some informality, it was reorganized Feb. 3, 1834, under the name of the "First M. E. Society in Portland." The first house of worship was built at the Center in 1835. A new house was built in 1868, at a cost of \$7,000. A parsonage was built by subscription in 1843.

In 1853, a portion of this church united with a class on "Harmon Hill," and a church formed at Salem Cross Roads, now Brocton; Rev. T. D.

Blinn then being in charge. Their house of worship, standing in the east part of the village, was built in 1853.

The *First Baptist Church* of Portland was organized Sept. 20, 1819, and composed of 11 members : William and Rachel Harris, John and Deborah Light, Sylvester and Erastus Andrews, Charles Morse, Phebe Fay, Sally Sage, Sarah Mumford, and Anna Taylor. The meeting at which they were set apart as a church, was held at the school-house in Brocton, and the council called for that purpose was composed of Revs. Joy Handy, Pearson Crosby, and Jonathan Wilson. Fifty-two were added to the church within the first year, among whom were Elijah and Lucy Fay. Sylvester Andrews was the first church clerk ; Elijah Fay and Sylvester Andrews the first deacons. Elder Jonathan Wilson was the first pastor. For many years the society had no permanent place of worship ; meetings having been held at deacon Fay's and at school-houses, until about 1830 to '32, when they came to be held pretty regularly, at the Salem Cross Roads, in the school-house. In 1825, the members residing at and in the vicinity of Westfield, organized a "Branch of the Church of Portland," with limited powers and privileges Rev. Charles La Hatt, minister at Portland, presiding. [See Baptist Church, Westfield.] Pursuant to a request of the members of this "Branch" church, they were in 1831, by a council, constituted an independent church. The First Baptist *Society* connected with the church, was organized April 6, 1822. under the act of 1813, by which they became entitled to one-third of the 100 acres of what was called the "gospel land." Their first house of worship was commenced in 1834, but not finished and dedicated until 1837. The present commodious brick edifice was erected in 1867. Elders Jonathan Wilson and Pearson Crosby ministered to this church until October, 1822, when it was "voted to employ elder Charles La Hatt to preach one year upon the following terms : " to "find him a house and garden and firewood ; move his family, and pay him \$150 ; seven-eighths in produce at the country price, proportioned to wheat at 75 cents per bushel ; the remaining one-eighth in cash." Did elder La Hatt accept this offer? It is presumed he did, as he became their minister, and served them as pastor until 1838, when he was dismissed ; but he preached more or less until about the time of his death, in 1850. He was a German, and emigrated to America before the Revolution.

The *West Baptist Church of Portland* was organized in 1842. At a meeting of the mother church in March, for the accommodation of the members residing in the west part of the town, some of them 5 miles from their place of worship, a *branch* church, with limited privileges, was authorized. But at a meeting in June, in answer to a request of the "branch," the first church voted, that the said branch be allowed to become a distinct and separate church. It was recognized as such by a council, June 22, 1842. The meetings were generally held in the stone school-house until the completion of the church edifice. The society connected with the church was formed in September, 1842.

A *Universalist Society* was formed, September 21, 1821, at the house of Simon Burton. The "compact, or agreement," was signed by 14 persons : Simon Burton, Oliver Spafford, Harry Mumford, David Joy, Ahira Hall, Samuel Beach, 2d, Lyman Doolittle, Willard Burton, Hiram Burton, Moses Joy, Walter Mumford, Zimri Hill, Slapp Hovey, James Charter. At a meeting held on the 24th, a board of trustees and a clerk were chosen. About a year afterward, a church was formed with 35 members ; and the rites and ceremonies and order of worship, usual in churches of the order, were practiced for several years. A society was formed under the statute, March 4, 1824, styled "The Universalist Society- of Portland." From a non-compliance with some of the provisions of the statute, the society is said to have lost its legal existence. Meetings, however, have been held with greater or less frequency, as preachers have come upon the field.

A *Protestant Methodist Church* was organized in 1858, in the south-east part of the town, by Rev. U. C. Payne, of Fredonia. The original members were Wolcott Colt, Chandler Colt, Mrs. Merab Colt, Sarah Colt, Joel S. and Lydia Farnham, Platt A. and Lucy Lathrop, Collins Haight, Nancy Porter, Cynthia Kelly, and Cornelia Howe. No society was incorporated ; and the church organization, after two or three years, was discontinued.

A *Free-will Baptist Church* was formed, many years ago, in the south border of the town, and a house of worship built on "Chautauqua Hill," in the town of Chautauqua. It has had no existence for many years.

RIPLEY.

THE town of Ripley was formed from Portland, March, 1817. It is the north-western town in the county, being bounded on the north by Lake Erie, and on the west by the state of Pennsylvania. It contains an area of about 31,110 acres. Besides the usual dimensions of an ordinary township, six miles square, containing an average of about 22,000 acres, there is a tract, nearly triangular in shape, being 9 miles long, east and west, and from less than 1 mile to nearly 4 miles in width, containing 9,000 acres, more or less. The survey of the town into lots was irregular. A tract of 4,074 acres was contracted for by James McMahan, in 1801, before the survey of the township into lots. This tract extended from the east line of the present town of Ripley, west to within about half a mile of Quincy, including the old Brockway farm. The south line of the tract, instead of running east and west, runs nearly parallel with the lake shore and with the two roads which pass through the tract, from its east to its west line. The tract is about 3 miles long and 2 miles wide, having acute angles at the north-east and south-west corners. To give a square form to the lots and farms, the lines forming boundaries on the east and west sides of the lots, were run at right from the lake to the southern boundary of the tract. The lots were thus