

**EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF SPRINGWATER  
LIVINGSTIN COUNTY  
BY  
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1887  
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## CHAPTER I

### EARLY HISTORY-INDIANS, THEIR CUSTOMS, MANNER OF LIVING, ETC. -WILD ANIMAL - REMINISCENCES

The history of the Town of Springwater, so far as is known to the present inhabitants, dates back scarcely one hundred years, and it was not until about the beginning of the present century that any permanent settlements were made here. That Western New York, of which Springwater forms a part, was inhabited by the Seneca Indians for a considerable period, and that they were in possession when the first white man came, is quite certain, but as to how and when the Indians came here, and what was their past history, but little is actually known, although many theories have been advanced to explain the mystery. But it matters not now, as this work is only intended to record what has transpired since the advent of the white man to this part of the country.

The principal Indian settlements in what is now Livingston County were found in the Genesee Valley. Although there is no evidence that they ever had permanent settlements in this town, it is known that they often visited this locality while on their fishing and hunting excursions. William Scott, Esq., who was one of the early settlers of Sparta, informed me that in the summer of 1806, he and some of his brothers came over to the Valley and went down as far as the head of Hemlock lake. There were at that time a number of Indian camps in the Valley. After the white people came and began to settle, the Indians continued to hunt and fish here. When they sold their right to the land they reserved the privilege of killing deer and other game during the hunting season, which for deer was from the first of September to the last day of December of each year; and this reservation continued down to about 1828. So in the fall there would a goodly number of the hunters come over from Squaka Hill, as it was called, to Springwater, build or repair their cabins, and be ready for the first tracking snow to fall, so they could follow the deer; and deer being quite plenty, there were large numbers of them killed each year. The Indians usually came, quite a number of them, and camped together. Frequently some very old ones came over, even those who were too old to do much hunting. They could take care of the camp, and the deer after they were brought in, so that the hunters had nothing to do but hunt and bring in their game. If they were successful in killing they would either hang their game up in the woods, to be gotten some other time, and continue the hunt until night; or if it was near night, they would start for the camp with their game, and when they arrived throw down their loads at the door of the cabin, and go in and hang up their rifles and prepare for rest.

Their cabins or huts were generally made large enough to have a fire in the middle, with an opening in the center of the roof to let out the smoke, with a blanket hung in the place of a door, and a bunk or place to rest on each side of the fire, composed of hemlock boughs and covered with blankets or skins of animals. But to return to the hunter; after he had entered the cabin, replenished the fire with plenty of wood, laid off such leggings or moccasins might be wet from tramping through the snow, hung a large piece of venison, (generally a fore quarter,) in such a position that it would roast by the fire, he would wrap his blanket about him and lay down upon the couch with his feet to the fire and go to sleep. After sleeping for an hour or two he would rouse up, take his hunting knife and his venison, and slice off such as was sufficiently roasted and eat it, and then hang up the remainder by the fire again to roast, while he took another nap; and continued to cat through the night and generally until the quarter of venison was disposed of. As soon as daylight appeared he was ready to start in pursuit of game, and this would be followed as long as the snow was right for tracking.

After I came to Springwater, in 1819, there were as many as thirty or forty Indians who came here in the fall to hunt. I recollect that one fall there were twenty hunters camping here in the Valley, near the south-west corner of Mr. Alonzo Snyder's farm, in two large huts close together, and they killed a large number of deer. Their custom was to save the hind quarters of the deer to take home for winter use, and eat the fore quarters, or exchange with the white settlers for bread and other things they needed. There was an old man by the name of Tommy Infant and two of his sons that I saw here a number of times. One fall they camped on the west hill near where Jonathan Coulbern then lived. They were good hunters, and they killed a large number of deer, and on the first of January, when the

hunting season closed, they had a full sleigh load of venison and skins. One of them went home and got a yoke of steers and sleigh, and when they got the load upon the sleigh it was too much for the steers to draw; so they hired my father with a heavy pair of oxen to take their load over the top of the hill this side of Scottsburgh. One Indian I remember, Major O'Bail. He was a son of an old Seneca Chief O'Ball or Corn Planter. The Major was a Chief and a leader among the Squaka Hill Tribe. He used to dress better than the others, and his rifle was highly ornamented with silver, and he wore a broad silver band upon his hat. After their reserved time to hunt had expired, sometimes families of Indians with the women or squaws and children would come here in the summer and camp, and the squaws would make baskets and the children would peddle them; and sometimes they would pick berries in their season. They frequently brought their baskets to the Valley to exchange for whiskey, and if they succeeded in getting the whiskey, they were quite sure to get drunk, the squaws as well as the Indians; and it was not an unusual thing to see a squaw lying by the side of the road drunk, with her papoose laying by her side.

But to go back a few years and tell an Indian and wolf story. The Indians had found a place in Dunham Swamp on the west hill where an old wolf was in the habit of rearing her young, and as there was a State bounty on wolf scalps, the Indians would not kill the old wolf but keep watch and capture the little ones, and get the bounty on them, thereby making it a profitable business. But after a few years they came out one summer, and finding no young ones they concluded to kill the old one, and having found her trail where she left the swamp they followed her by the track, or trail, left among the leaves, some two or three miles south on the side of the hill, where they overtook and shot her; and as it was necessary to have proof of the killing by a white man they came to the Valley and got Martin D. Hopkins to go with them and see the wolf, where it was killed, so as to be a witness for them as to the killing in this County.

#### PANTHERS AND BEARS

The last panther that I have any account of having been killed in this town was about 1818. The sons of Thomas Mitchell, who were then living here, and a man by the name of Simonds got after a panther and killed it somewhere near the south part of this town. I have seen Bob Mitchell have the tail of the animal attached to his equipage, and wear it on training days. There were panthers supposed to be here after that but none were killed. Bears were not very plenty here after I came, but occasionally one was seen. My father had a hog killed by a bear in the fall of 1821. On west hill I, once, in company with Laughton Straight and Isaac Culver, tracked a bear over the hill in the southwest part of the town all day, and at night left him in the swamp west of Perkinsville, and then had the pleasure of tramping home, about seven miles, which was rather tiresome work; but we had this to comfort us, we had been bear hunting. This was about 1827. In the summer of 1829 I was going from the valley up the east hill, and was passing up the old road that then ran through the south part of Scott W. Snyder's farm. Near the road was a patch of blackberries then ripe and ready to pick, and as I got opposite the berry patch, a bear, which had probably been feasting on berries, walked out and across the road a few rods ahead of me. As it was a light night I had a fair view of him. He did not seem to have any desire to form an acquaintance with me and I was perfectly willing to let him go on his way rejoicing. This was the last bear that I have met in town.

## CHAPTER II

### FIRST MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT OF WESTERN NEW YORK - TITLES TO THE LAND - PHELPS AND GORHAM PURCHASE - SURVEYS - FIRST SETTLERS

The first movements towards the settlement of Western New York date back to about the close of the Revolutionary war. Up to this time the whole of this part of the state was included in the indefinite Indian domain. After peace was established the thoughts of the people turned towards the development and improvement of the vast territory of which they were in possession. As Western New York lay next in the line of advance to the westward, which has been going on up to the present time, and as stories of its fertility and beauty had been carried home by the soldiers of Sullivan's army, who had been through this part of the state, it was but natural that settlers should have been attracted in this direction.

After attention had been drawn to the value of this large extent of country, it became necessary before permanent settlements could be made that the titles to the land should be established. The following in regard to the matter we condense from the History of Livingston County:

At the close of the war, claims were established by Massachusetts under the Colonial patents to the right of the soil of a large portion of Western New York, and were confirmed by a commission appointed by the two governments, which met at Hartford, Conn. , Dec. 16, 1786, and which, while it reserved the right of sovereignty conceded to Massachusetts the right to pre-empt the soil from &be native Indians, all that tract lying west of a line, known as PREEMPTION LINE, which extending north from the south-east corner of Steuben county, through Geneva to Sodus Bay except a tract a mile wide along Niagara. River, ) and an adjoining tract east of that line, known as the Boston Ten Towns. This agreement was sanctioned by Congress in 1787.

April 1, 1788, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham purchased of Massachusetts, in the interest of an association of capitalists, its pre-emption right to the lands in this state, estimated to comprise 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 acres; the consideration being 800,000 to be paid in three annual installments in the depreciated securities of that state. Failing to meet their obligations Messrs. Phelps and Gorham surrendered all that part of the tract lying to the west of the Genesee River, which reverted to the state of Massachusetts.

The Indian title to the tract retained was extinguished at a treaty held at Buffalo Creek, July 8, 1788, the Senecas receiving in consideration the inconsiderable sum of \$5,000, one-half of which was paid in cash and the other half in goods, and a perpetual annuity of \$500.

In 1787 Phelps and Gorham sold to Robert Morris of Philadelphia 1,200,000 acres of the purchase. The next year Morris sold the whole tract to a company of London capitalists, of which Sir William Pultney was a member. This tract which embraced the present counties of Ontario, Yates and Steuben, and large portions of Wayne, Monroe, Schuyler, Allegany, Chenango and Livingston counties, has since been known as the Pultney estate.

In 1789, the year after the extinguishment of the Indian title to their purchase, Phelps and Gorham commenced a settlement and opened a land office at Canandaigua and in 1789 had completed the survey of their land into lots, generally six miles square. The tract was divided into seven ranges, numbered from east to west, and extending from the Pennsylvania line to Lake Ontario. These ranges were six miles apart, and the squares they formed were designated townships and were numbered in ranges from south to north. The survey was made by Col. Hugh Maxwell in the years 1788 and '89.

The Town of Springwater comprises township number seven in the fifth range (except a half-mile strip on the east side) and the east half of township number seven in the sixth range. The following are field notes from the survey of Springwater, furnished us by D. B. Waite, of Canadice:

#### FIELD NOTES ON SPRINGWATER

As Springwater has a strip 160 rods wide taken from its east edge and added to Naples, the notes on the east line cannot be given, and as a strip three miles wide was taken from Sparta and added to Springwater on the west, the west line cannot be given, but the south and the north lines, and also the township line between the old towns of Naples and Sparta are here carefully copied from the manuscript notes of Col. Maxwell.

**NORTH LINE.** "August 25, 1789. Began the line between No. 7 and No. 8 in the 5th Range at a small mountain oak which is the east line, running west, the 1st mile, is 160 rods down a steep hill,\*(This is the N. E. corner of the present town of Springwater) the growth is mountain and black oak, and chestnut, the soil hard and dry. 126 rods on a better soil-the growth black and white oak, mountain oak, chestnut, maple, basswood &c., to a handsome brook running northward, the rest of the mile is good. 2nd mile, began to rise the hill and in 40 rods it grew very steep-the growth is oak, chestnut, whitewood &c. , the mile brought me to the top of the hill. 3d mile, a gradual descent to the west-the growth is oak, chestnut &c. The land is good. 4th mile, 48 rods to a brook running southerly and 206 rods to another. The growth of timber in this mile and the land, is such as the last mile and chiefly descends to the west but not very steep. 5th mile, 240 rods to a small brook running southward, the mile is chiefly descending to the westward, and is pretty good land. The timber is heavy chestnut and oak mixed with some white pine, maple, beech &c. 6th mile, 60 rods to a small brook running northerly, then over a hemlock ridge to a handsome stream running northward. The corner is a large hemlock\*(This is the N. E. corner of the old town of Sparta) Proceeding on west between No. 7 and No. 8 in the 6th Range. 1st mile, 34 rods to a swamp, and 20 rods to the stream running northward, 26 rods to the upland, up a steep hill, hemlock about 20 rods, then a mixture of oak, chestnut, beech and maple, basswood, walnut &c., about 180 rods - still rising, timber principally white pine, 20 rods brought me to the top of the hill, then a gradual descent to the west, timber still pine. 2nd mile, descending to the west 240 rods - timber oak, pine &c., brought me to a sunken swamp brook running northerly, then flat land 60 rods to a handsome brook running northerly. Flat land good. 3d mile, rising land 100 rods and descending south - timber oak, &c., underwood very thick. Descending to the westward, timber as before 160 rods brought me to a brook running south - Beech, maple, basswood, ash &c. Crossed a brook a number of times.\*(This is the NW corner of the present town of Springwater.)

**SOUTH LINE.** September 2, 1789. Set off from a large maple tree which is the corner of No. 6 and 7 in the 4th and 5th ranges and run on west between No. 6 and 7 in the 5th range. 1st mile, 80 rods to a small brook, and 20 rods to a path leading East and West which appears to be much trod-40 rods to the foot of the hill-the land is good. \*(20 rods up this hill will be to the SE corner of the present town of Springwater. ) 100 rods tip the hill, which is steep and the rest of the mile is thin white pine land and the undergrowth thick. 2nd mile, 66 rods on lands descending to the west through thin white pine and thick undergrowth brought to a brook running southward, then rising along steep bill, then descending to the west In white pine, oak and chestnut. but the undergrowth very thick the last part. 3d mile, 270 rods to a good brook running southerly-the growth and undergrowth like the last mile. The land uneven and dry and mixed with hemlock. 4th mile, 250. rods to a good brook running southerly-this mile is uneven and broken and steep-considerable hemlock mixed with white pine, oak and chestnut. 5th mile, 80 rods to a small brook-the land descending to the west- then up a steep hill and 208 rods to another, both running south. The land in this mile is middling good with considerable white pine, chestnut &c. 6th mile, 80 rods descending to the west over pretty good land brought me to a most excellent piece of land with a gentle tilt to the west through which runs a small brook, and 60 rods in the good land is an Indian path which appears to be considerably trodden of late. The corner is a large hemlock tree marked NVI on the south, and NVII on the north side. \*(This is the S. E. Corner of the old town of Sparta.) Proceeding west between No. 7 and No. 8 in the 6th Range. 1st mile, 84 rods to a swamp, and

20 rods to the stream running northward, 26 rods to the upland, up a steep hill. hemlock about 20 rods, then a mixture of oak, chestnut, beech and maple, basswood, walnut &c. , about 180 rods-still rising, timber principally white pine, 20 rods brought me to the top of the hill. then a gradual descent to the west, timber still pine. 2nd mile, descending to the west 240 rods-timber oak, pine &c. , brought me to a sunken swamp brook running northerly, then flat land 60 rods to a handsome brook running northerly. Flat land good. 3d mile, rising land 100 rods and descending south-timber oak, &c., underwood very thick. Descending to the westward, timber as before 160 rods brought me to a brook running south-Beech, maple, basswood, ash &c. Crossed a brook a number of times. \*(This is the NW corner of the present town of Springwater.)

#### TOWNSHIP LINE OF OLD TOWNS OF NAPLES AND SPARTA

October 19, 1789. Set off from the hemlock which is the corner of No. 7 and 8 in the 5th and 6th ranges, running south between Nos. 7 in the 5th and 6th ranges. 1st mile, through very wet land or rather swampy-the growth is pine, ash, elm &c. with much alder brush. 2nd mile, through rather dryer land but of an exceedingly good quality-the growth elm, basswood, maple &c. The line crosses the large brook that leads to the Hemlock Lake, a great many times. 3d mile, a gradual ascent, the land is exceedingly good-the growth is heavy elm, ash, maple, beech, basswood &c. 4th mile, 84 rods to a brook running westward, 88 rods to another. The mile is good land rising as we went on south. The growth is pretty heavy of elm, ash, beech, oak &c. The mile came out at a brook. 5th mile, 140 rods to a brook running westward, and 60 rods to a path leading east and west, 80 rods to a swamp which continued to the end of the mile, with some small hemlock patches.

The mile is heavy timbered with the common sorts mixed with some hemlock. 6th mile, 144 rods to a clean brook. The greatest part of the mile is through thick hemlock and cedar swampy land. The corner is a large hemlock marked NYI on the south side, end NVII on the north."

After the survey was completed settlements were speedily begun at various points in the tract, principally at Geneva, Sodus, Bath and the Friends settlement at the outlet of Crooked Lake, and in 1790 the population of the state west of the old Pre-emption Line had increased to 1,047, only 51 of whom were west of the west line of the Phelps and Gorham purchase.

The attempts at settlement were attended with great difficulty, as there was no access to the country but by the Indian paths, and the nearest settlement was about 100 miles distant. The Allegheny mountains, then never passed, lay on the south, and Lake Ontario to the north; to the west was a boundless forest. The first settlements in Livingston county were made in the (Genesee country as early as 1759, by Mary Jemison. The first important settlement made in the county after the extinguishment of the Indian title in 1788, was that of John H. and George Jones, who like Mary Jemison had been held in captivity by the Indians. They located in the present town of Leicester.

Up to the time of 1792 the tide of emigration had been from the north-eastern states, but in the summer of that year Chas. Williamson, agent for the Pultney estate, visited the tract and put in execution a plan he had formed for its improvement by opening communications with Philadelphia and Baltimore by means of a road across the Alleghanies. The route came by the way of Williamsport. The opening of this route which came up the Cohocton valley put a new impetus to settlement for it tempted many in Pennsylvania to explore the Genesee lands who previous to that time had not given it a thought. Williamson became agent of the Pultney estate in 1792. His first effort to establish a settlement was at the mouth of the Canaseraga creek, which was not very successful.

The above mentioned route which came up the Cohocton River ran through this town, and was undoubtedly the first road made in Springwater. Its course after leaving the Cohocton River in the south-east part of the town, was down the east hill, thence across the upper end of the valley and up the west hill, passing near where the cemetery now is. It was known as the "Old Bath Road

## CHAPTER III

### HISTORY OF THE EARLY CIVIL DIVISIONS OF NEW YORK FURNISHED BY D.B. WAITE

It may be interesting to some of our readers to have in an abridged form the dates of the political governments or organizations under which the territory of the present town of Springwater has been from time to time.

The first division of the province of New York into counties was on November 1st, 1683, and Albany county, besides taking in considerable territory north and east of the Hudson, also included on the west side of the Hudson's River all lands front Sawyer's creek to the outermost end of Saratoga, and by subsequent acts took all the western part of the present state. Tryon county was taken from Albany March 12, 1772, and embraced all the province west of the Delaware River, and to the east lines of the present counties of Montgomery, Fulton and Hamilton. and in a straight line to Canada, and in April, 1775, it was divided into six districts; the "Old England District to include all lands west of the Susquehanna. " After the Revolutionary war the name of Tryon was not very palatable to the people living in the county, and on April 2nd, 1784 it was changed to Montgomery.

The town of Whitestown was formed March 7th, 1788, and included all the western part of Montgomery to Lake Erie. Ontario county was set off from Montgomery January 27th, 1789, and took in all the state west of the east line of the Phelps and Gorham purchase, and the county was divided into the towns of Augusta, Bloomfield, Bristol, Groveland, Canandaigua, Charleston, Easton, Farmington, Geneseo, Hartford, Jerusalem, Middletown, Palmyra, Phelps, Pittstown, Seneca, Sodus and Sparta; but for political purposes it was divided into two districts, Canandaigua and Big Tree or Geneseo, and remained thus until each town assumed a separate organization, and the township line between the 4th and 5th Ranges from Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania line was the division line, and hence the present territory of Springwater fell into the Geneseo district. The two districts elected their first officers in 1791. and as aristocracy was known in those days as well as now, Captain John Ganson was elected the first Supervisor. he being the only man in the Geneseo district who owned a pair of boats. Middletown was called " Watkinstown " after Captain William Watkins, one of the original purchasers of the township, until 1795, and it did not assume a town organization until April 5th, 1796, when it took the name given by the Legislature.

It was named Middletown because it lay midway between Bath and Canandaigua. April 6th 1808 the name was changed to Naples, but for what reason we are unable to say. Middletown at its organization included the original townships Nos. 7 in the 3rd, 4th and 5th Ranges; and No. 7 in the . 3rd Range was set off February 15th, 1818, and received the name of Italy, and on April 17th, 1816 five and one-half miles were taken from the west side of No. 7 in the 5th Range, and three miles from the east edge of No. 7 in the 6th Range (which was included in the town of Sparta) and formed into the present town of Springwater. When the county of Livingston was taken from Ontario and Genesee, February 23rd, 1821, no changes were made in the boundaries of Springwater.

To show the primitive condition of this town, we will transcribe a few notes from the records of Middletown and Naples while this town was a portion thereof. The first town meeting in Middle-town was held April 5th 1796, when it was " voted that all persona shall serve the town without any reward for their services. " "Voted to pay two pounds for each wolf or panther that shall be killed by any inhabitant of said town. " Voted to pay eight shillings for each wild cat that shall be killed by any inhabitant of ad town. Voted to raise ten pounds by a tax for the use of ad town.

April 4th, 1799, it was " Voted that hogs shall run by being yoked with yokes the side pieces 18 inches long and the other parts in fare proportion. " April 7th, 1806, "Voted to pay six cents pr head for each hawk, owl and raven that shall be killed the year ensuing. " To show the relative wealth of the town of Middletown when it took in the three townships, we will take from the records of Ontario county a tax

item. In October 1799 there were raised in that county \$3000 for building a Jail; \$1000 for the Highways; \$500 for Schools; \$2455.50 for other county expenses and Middletown's portion of that tax was just \$75. June 80th 1818, it was Voted to choose three persons for the purpose of mowing Canada thistle in Naples, and Joseph Kibbe, Simeon Lyon and Nathan Watkins jr. chosen. Thus it can tie plainly seen that one of the worst agricultural pests made a very early visit to these parts, and judging from appearances they came to stay.



## CHAPTER IV

### FIRST SETTLERS OF SPRINGWATER VALLEY AND VICINITY

It has generally been accepted as a fact that the first settlement in the Town of Springwater was made in the valley where the principal village is now located, but Mr. D. B. Waite of Canadice who has, perhaps, taken more pains than any one in this town to get an accurate history of the early settlers, has furnished us with statistics that show that the first settlements were made in the extreme eastern part of the town. The history of this early settlement will be found in another part of this book under the heading of "Hunt's Hollow." The following in regard to the first settlers of the valley is also furnished by Mr. Waite:

The first settlers in this part of the town were in what was then called "Hemlock Valley." Seth Knowles came from Massachusetts in the spring of 1805, and took and lived on what is now called the "Gibbs" farm in the town of Pittstown, now Livonia. The year 1806 was one of extreme drought in that town and the region north, but south around the lakes showers were of frequent occurrence, and after harvest, Seth Knowles, his son Jared and his brother-in-law, Peter Welch, with guns, axes and provisions followed the old Indian trail, over Ball Hill to the town of Middletown, now Springwater. Before they returned, they built the body of a log house on the farm owned by the Rev. T. J. O. Woodin at his decease, and on the last day of March, 1807, Seth Knowles and his family came up the hemlock lake on the ice and took possession of the cabin mentioned. His house was situated on the west side of the present road near the watering trough on the east, and his garden was north of the house. He cleared some eight acres on the flat, back of his house, set out some elecampane, and traded his interest there in 1821, with David Jolatt for the farm on which the St James Hotel now stands on the east side of Hemlock lake, where in after years he died. Jolatt lived on the place until he was undermined by David Phillips in 1826, when he moved to the Elisha Bailey farm and then to a house on the east side of the road on the present farm of S. W. Wheaton, where his wife died soon after. His children were Montreville, Sally, Patty, Miner, Henrietta, who with their father went to Campbelltown, Steuben county. Jolatt came from Centerville, Allegany county, where he settled in 1809, to the St. James farm. Phillips staid 2 years and sold to William Jenkins. Jenkins was here 2 or 3 years and sold to Ira Jackman, and in 1835 sold to Ira Gilbert. The children of David Phillips were Miranda, Truman, Thomas A., Nancy, and Electra. Minerva lives in Mahaska county, Iowa, and the others are with their mother in Holt county, Nebraska. Phillips married Charlotte Gilbert, Reuben Jr.'s oldest daughter. The children of Seth Knowles were Seth, Daniel, Jared, Clark, Sybil, Lydia, Jonathan, Ruth, Mercy, Polly, Willard and Roswell. Willard was born September 9, 1809, and was the first white child born in this hollow, and second in town. Willard is living in Palaska, Michigan. Seth Knowles built a house nearly on the site of the present house on the premises, lived there awhile and went to Ball Hill in Canadice. John Nixon built the present house and died there. Rev. A. B. Green, John Jennings and the late Rev. T. J. O. Woodin have been later owners. The account of the advent of Knowles into Middletown published in the last History of Livingston county, and credited to Rev. William Hunter, was copied almost "verbatim" from the Ontario county Times of April 5th, 1876, written by us, and supposed to be correct, but later investigations prove he was not the first settler in town. Simple justice to all parties requires this statement. The farm next in order in this immediate vicinity is the "Gilbert" farm. The Gilberts came from Brookfield, Massachusetts, where Reuben Sr. was born August 18th, 1756, in an early day to Bristol, Ontario county. In the spring of 1809 Rueben Gilbert Jr. came from Bristol with his brother-in-law David Badgero via Honeoye to Livonia, and in canoes or Indian "dugouts" up the Hemlock Lake. They built a log house on the west side of the road nearly on the spot where Thomas Reynolds now lives where Badgero lived until he could build another just across the line in the town of Pittstown now Canadice. In the fall of that year Gilbert returned to Bristol and brought his family to the house first erected. The next year his brother Phinehas came and took the south half of the same lot, and built a log house nearly on the same ground where stands the house in which William Norton now resides. Araunah, another brother, came in 1817, and Jones a brother to Reuben Sr. and family in March 1818. Reuben Sr. in the fall of 1817 put up the frame of the old house now standing, and when he arrived the next spring, Phinehas wishing to sell out, Reuben Sr. bought him out and moved there, and Reuben Jr. finished the house, the frame of which was already erected, and moved into that.

Jones when he arrived erected another house on the west side of the road where the brook now runs, and lived there till October 1839, and then went to Ohio. David Phillips lived in that house afterwards. Phillips went to Livonia, to Ohio and to Iowa where he died in 1871. He was a soldier of 1812. Reuben Sr. lived with Ida, son Araunah on the place he bought of Phinehas until his death July 20th, 1840. Araunah built the present house, and sold in 1855 to Dr. John B. Norton and went to Michigan where he now resides. Reuben Jr. lived on his place thirty-five years, sold out to H. S. Tyler and went to Ohio and to Iowa where he died. The children of Reuben Sr. were Polly, Sally, Betsey, Phinehas, Reuben, Abner W. and Araunah. Polly died on Ball Hill, Sally at Pataskala, Ohio, aged 95 years, Betsey at Rushville, Phinehas went to Kentucky as we have said, and after a residence there of fifteen years, went to Ohio and to Iowa where he died, and Abner died in Richmond. His widow is living in town. The children of Reuben Jr. were Charlotte, Lydia, Catharine, Philander, Lucinda, Olive, Ann, Reuben, Caroline and Sally. Catharine went to Ohio, and to Missouri, Philander, Ollye, Lucinda, and Reuben went to Ohio, and Lucinda afterward went to Iowa. Ann's last husband was the late Thomas Truxton Dyer of this town. The children of Phinehas were Minerva, Loreuzo, Riley and Franklin. Minerva went to Ohio, Lorenzo to Oregon, Ililey to Iowa, and Franklin died in Ohio. Araunah's children are Almira and Alonso, both of whom are living in Michigan. Reuben Badgero was born across the line March 2nd, 1810, and Catherine Gilbert September 16 of the same year, making the first "little strangers" in that group of settlers.

Another house was built by Philander on the east side of the road south of the butternut tree. It was taken down and made the frame of the house on the farm of late Endress Tucker in Canadice. In 1811 John Alger, Phinehas and Reuben Gilbert erected the sawmill there each owning an equal part therein. It did a good business for a long term of years. John Alger was a settler in West Bloomfield in 1790, was a soldier of 1812 from that town, and so badly wounded that he was incapacitated for farm labor. He built a saw mill on the farm of Lorenzo Ingraham near the head of Canadice lake in the winter of 1809 and '10 and owing to a badly constructed floom, it failed to do good work. He sold the premises, reserved the mill irons &c. and removed them to the mill aforesaid. He sold his interests in the mill to Reuben Gilbert in 1814. He died in Bloomfield in 1819.

In 1828 the large, red shop was built, which after a number of years was taken down and removed to West Hill by Christopher Osgood, a distillery was erected by Ira Gilbert, a son of Jones which ran five or six years, a cider mill put in an appearance, and Francis Badgero quarried stone and sawed them to any shape required, making in fact a very busy place. While Araunah owned the place he sold a piece of the land to his brother-in-law, the Rev. A. B. Green who built the house Josiah Norton now lives in. Spaulding Shepard owned the place for a number of years, and sold to Daniel Norton, father to the present occupant. While Green lived here he carried on the business of turning and rake making in the gully on the farm. The Gilberts cleared many acres of pine timber, erected scores of buildings for the country roundabouts, and for quality of work, promptness and honesty in deal, they left a good name. Some of the best frames in these parts were put up long years ago by Arsunah. From the records of Naples, we find that Reuben Gilbert was Inspector of schools in 1818, and pathmaster and fence viewer in 1815, and Phinehas was also Inspector of schools in 1814, and we also copy from the records of the said town that the first school district organized in the western part of the town was, Fifth School District in Naples is to take in all the Hemlock settlement, so called, May 30th, 1813.

## CHAPTER V

### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN OF SPRINGWATER - FIRST TOWN OFFICERS - DESCRIPTION OF EARLY SETTLERS AND REMINISCENCES BY ORSON WALBRIDGE

AN ACT to erect a new town from the towns of Sparta and Naples in the county of Ontario.

Passed April 17, 1816.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the people of the state of New York in Senate and Assembly. That from and after the first Monday in April next, all that part of the town of Sparta beginning at the north-east corner of said town, and running westerly on the north line of said town of Sparta three miles, thence southerly parallel with the east line of said town to the south line of said town, thence easterly on the south line of said town to the south-east corner of said town of Sparta, thence easterly on the south line of the town of Naples five and one-half miles; thence northerly parallel with the west side of said town of Naples to the north side of said town to the place of beginning, is hereby erected into a new town by the name of Springwater; and the first town meeting shall be held at the school house in school district No. 1 in the now town of Sparta.

At the first annual town meeting held in the town of Springwater, county of Ontario, at the school house near Dr. David Henrys on Tuesday, the 9th day of April, 1817. Solomon Doud was chosen moderator. The following Town officers were elected and bye laws passed, viz: Supervisor, Oliver Jennings; town clerk, Hugh Wilson; assessors, Jonathan Lawrence; Solomon Doud, Alexander McCuller; commissioners of highways, Samuel Story. Solomon Doud, Josiah Fuller; school commissioners, Samuel Story, Solomon Doud, John Culver; overseers of the poor; Henry Cole, Sam. Story; school inspectors, John W. Barnes, Ephriam Caulkin. Thomas Grover: constable and collector, Jonathan Lawrence; path-masters, John Johnson, Salmon Grover, David Marshall, Samuel Sparks, John Porter, John Wadama, Thomas Willis, Daniel Herrick, Joab Gillett, Simeon Shed, William Fuller; fence viewers. Voted that path masters shall serve as fence viewers. Pound masters, Joab Gillett and Lorin Coleburn. Voted that all hogs over 50 weight shall be free commoners. Voted that 250 dollars shall be raised to be appropriated to the use of highways.

Oliver Jennings resided on the farm now owned by Samuel W. Wheaton, and kept a tavern in a log house opposite Wheaton's barn. Hugh Wilson was a Pennsylvania Dutchman, and lived where Charles F. Smith now lives. He owned a small grist mill and saw mill where Wm. Brewer's mill and furnace now are. Jonathan Lawrence lived where A. O. Marvin now lives, and owned the east part of Marvin's farm. He had three sons, Ralph, Solomon K. , and Willam. Solomon Doud lived on the farm now owned by Philo Higgins, and ran a distillery for the manufacture of corn whiskey.

Alexander McCuller lived on the farm now owned by Hyde Marvin. Samuel Story lived on the S. C. Tyler farm and owned and run a saw mill where the Tyler mill now is. He was an active business man, and took part in many improvements for the town. He built a road from Springwater to Dansville, also on the west line of Springwater, which still bears the name of the "Story Road." Josiah Fuller lived where Mrs. Ira Jackman now lives, and owned the farm. He had a number of children. I recollect his sons, William, Jesse, Josiah, Matthew, Aaron, and one daughter, Hannah, (Mrs. Jackman) who is still living. John Culver lived on the farm now occupied by Harvey Wilcox. He was a prominent and active man of business. He was one of the first justices of the peace of Springwater, also supervisor for a few years. He finally removed to Ohio. Henry Cole was a farmer, and lived on the west part of the Ira Jackman farm. John W. Barnes, farmer, lived near the Joel Hudson farm. Ephraim Calkin lived on the hill near Tabor's corners. Thomas Grover lived in the valley: was one of the Grovers that removed from Cipeo, Cayuga county, to Springwater. John Johnson lived on the Elisha Bailey farm. . Salmon Grover, a brother of Thomas, lived where Win?, now lives. David Marshall lived in the valley; do not recollect the exact place. Samuel Sparks lived near the Christian church. John Wadains lived where Ezra Willis now lives; he was a farmer. Thos. Willis lived on east hill; cannot give the exact place. Daniel Herrick lived

on what is now known as Herrick street; he was a brother of Lyman and David Herrick. They came from Canada to Springwater in an early day. Daniel died here many years ago. The late Sophia Wilcox was a daughter of his. Jacob Gillet lived on a farm south of the Ashley burying ground; he was one of the first justices of the peace of Springwater. Simeon Shed lived on the farm known as the Totten farm on west hill. William Fuller was a son of Josiah Fuller; do not recollect his place of residence, though he resided here for many years and raised a large family of children, one of whom was the wife of the late George Johnson. Some of her children are still among us.

I will now give my recollection of inhabitants residing in the valley, commencing at the north line of the town: First, Reuben Gilbert and his sons, Reuben Jr., Abner and Araunah; David Badgero, a son-in-law of Reuben Gilbert and father of Francis and the blind girls, Sally and Hannah; David Gelath; Jesse Hyde, who lived in the Johnson house, had a large family of children, one of whom was the wife of George C. Marvin, late of Springwater, both deceased. Their children are still living here, Harvey H., Addison G. and Hyde D. Then came Oliver Jennings; then Jonathan Lawrence, mentioned before. John Wiley then lived where the John McCrossen house now is. He was a blacksmith and worked at his trade. About 1821 he experienced religion, joined the Methodist church and soon commenced to preach the gospel, and was a thorough preacher of the word of God for many years. He has gone to his rest, but some of his children are still among us, viz: Mrs. Hickok, John S. Wiley, R. H. Wiley, Esq. , Major H. A. Wiley, and Mrs. Wilber Capron. Then comes Thomas, Andrew and Amos Spafford. Thomas Spafford built the house where Maurice Brown Esq. lived, and kept a tavern there for many years. Andrew Spafford was supervisor of this town for many years; he finally moved to Mich. He and Thomas are both living in the town of Manchester, Washtenaw county, Mich. Thomas is 89 years old and Andrew about 84 years. David Luther was a tanner and courier, and lived next house west of John Wiley. He went to Dansville and died many years since. The next in order was Alvin Southworth. He was elected supervisor in 1818, and held the office for ten or twelve years. He also served the town as justice of the peace for many years. He was the first postmaster in town, and held it until his death, which took place about 1847. He lived in the house now owned by N. A. Kellogg, where Frank Goodno now lives. I will mention a circumstance in connection with the last mentioned house. At one time I saw all living, and all residents of the same house, five generations, viz., John Southwarth, better known as Grandpa Southwarth; second, Alvah Southwarth, his son; third, Mrs. Caroline Wheaton, daughter of Alvah Southwarth; fourth, Alvah S. Wheaton, her son; fifth, Harvey Wheaton, son of Alvah S., who is now living at Hemlock Lake. Harvey has gone west. The next in order which I will mention are the Grovers. Five brothers I recollect. Capt. Zadock Grover, I learn, came from Cayuga county. He came up Hemlock Lake on the ice, on the 20th day of March, 18?, and settled on what was then known as the John Roberts farm, in a log house where Humphrey & Marvin's store now stands. A brief description of his family may be in order. I learn that Zadock Grover had three wives and reared quite large family of children. By his first wife he had one daughter, Weltha, and six sons, Silas, Hoses H. Lemuel, Lyman, Zadock B. , and Thomas C. , after which his wife died, and in the course of time he married a widow Tyler who had four children, three daughters and one son. Polly married Doctor David Henry, Roxey married Salmon G. Grover, who many of you will remember. Sally married Benjamin Irish. The son was the late Harvey Tyler of Springwater. who is well remembered by all the old residents. By this marriage they had one daughter, Olive, after which his second wife died, and about 1809, he married Thurseay Allen by whom he had four children, two sons and two daughters, viz: David H. Grover, late of Springwater, John J. Grover who is still among us, Ann, or Mrs. John F. Brown, living here, and Mrs. Charles Pixley now living in Rochester; all of whom are remembered by the present inhabitants, and nothing special need be mentioned of them.

Solomon Grover, another of the brothers, was living near where Elder Hunter now lives. He, too, had a large family of children. I will mention them as far as I can recollect. First of their sons was Ethan, then William, Salmon, Daniel, Silas, Hiram and Morgan. I think there was a daughter married to David Hatch. There are none of them living here; I think some are still living west.

Thomas, another brother, had but one son, John S. Pennal, another brother, had two sons and two daughters. The sons were named Levi and Ezra. One daughter married James Clark, the other married Ruggles Rider. Some of Clark's family are still living among us- Mrs. Weed and Mrs. Philo Higgins.

Another brother of the old stock of Grovers, came here later. It was Judge John Grover from Auburn and father of S. G. Grover, who came here from Auburn. He was engaged in mercantile business there, also after he came here. He filled many offices of trust; was justice of the peace for many years, and once represented Livingston county in the legislature of this state. He had four children John Morgan, Rufus K. , Harvey T. , and Lydia M. , now Mrs. J. D. Hendershott; all three now living here. Hosea Grover was the first person to start a store in Springwater. After him, Dr. J. B. Norton and Harvey S. Tyler built a store about 1824. where Allen & Whitlock's store now is, and commenced selling goods, and the business has been continued at that place by different ones.

Eliplislet Chamberlin and wife, two very old people, lived with Jonathan Lawrence. Mrs. Lawrence was their daughter also Mrs. Alvah Southworth, and Soloman K. Chamberlin was their son. The old people died here and were buried in the old burying ground on the Tyler farm. S. K. Chamberlin, better known as General Chamberlin, came from Dalton, Mass. to Springwater. He got the title of General by serving in the war of 1812, in the Militia of Massachusetts. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade. He built many buildings here, one of which is the present Methodist parsonage, in which he lived for many years, the last of his life. He had four children, one son, Eliphalet, and three daughters, Harriet, Lucy, and Juliet. Harriet married Harvey S. Tyler and two of their children are still living here viz: Salmon C. and Harvey W. Lucy married Thomas C. Grover and raised a number of children, whom many of the old residents will remember. Juliet married Francis D. Brown. She died quite young. Eliphalet removed to Mt. Morris and died there years ago. Wells Chamberlin came here about 1820. He lived on the west part of A. G. Marvin's farm. A barn which he built is still standing there. He married Miranda, daughter of John Marvin. After living here a few years they removed to Ypsilanti, Mich., where he died a few years since. Nizer D. Chamberlin and Arnold Godfrey, two farmers from the town of Lima came about 1820, and bought of Samuel Story the farm sad mill now owned by S. C. Tyler. They worked at clearing the land and sawing lumber at the mill. After a couple of years Godfrey sold his half of the property to Ira Day. They worked it together for some two years, when Chamberlin sold his share to Day and went back to his old farm in Lima. Ira Day continued to live there until about 1828, when he sold the premises to Harvey S. Tyler and the property has remained in the Tyler family ever since. This brings me to Hugh Wilson's first miller, Adam Stabb. He was a little chunk of a Pennsylvania Dutchman, about five feet high. He was a peculiar old man and will be remembered by some of the old residents (especially N. R. Hopkins). The next miller was Aaron Hale. He had quite a large family of children. I remember three sons, Alvah, Amasa B., and Marvill, and a number of daughters, one of whom was the late Mrs. Amos Hoot. I will now mention the Roberts family. The old man, John Roberts, had a large family of boys and girls. I recollect William, John jr., Samuel, Benjamin, Rufus and Daniel; also two daughters, Anna and Rebecca. They were young ladies when I was a boy. Anna married a man by the name of Flora of Sparta, and Rebecca married John Traxler, of whom Adam Traxler of Springwater was a son. I will now return to John Roberts. He sold his farm in the valley with the intention of going west. So William went west to find a new home, he found a place in the state of Indiana on the Wabash river and came back and began to prepare to move to the far west, but for some reason they changed their minds and settled near the south-west corner of Springwater, in what has lately been known as Carney Hollow, which gave the place the name of Wabash, and it was well known by that name for many years by all the old residents of Springwater.

Dr. David Henry was the first physician in Springwater to my Knowledge. He lived near where Jacob Snyder now lives. He was considered a first class doctor, and was the only one in town for a number of years. He had quite a number of children. They are now all dead. Dr. Elisha C. Day was the next. He came about 1820. He, too was a first class doctor in his day; but he has long since passed away. He left two children, one daughter, Cordelia, now the wife of Daniel E. Dyer of this place, and one son, Horace H. Day, now living in Michigan. Dr. John B. Norton was the next. He came here about 1824. and commenced practice as a physician and surgeon, and selling goods in company with Harvey S. Tyler. He met with success, and was liked as a doctor generally but he is too well remembered to need anything in particular from me. He left a number of children. One son, Wm. H. Norton, is the only one residing in this town. Dr. Arnold Gray came here about 1827, and commenced practice with Dr. Norton. After one or two years he and Norton dissolved partnership, and he practiced on his own account. He had an extensive ride, and probably rode more miles over the hills of Springwater than any other man, for he

practiced for over fifty years, and until his death, which took place seven or eight years since. He had three children, one son and two daughters. The son and one daughter are dead. One daughter, Mrs. Dr. T. D. Connor, is still living in town. David Gaff came from Burlington, Otsego county, N. Y. , and located on the farm where the south grist mill is, about 1818. He built a saw mill and after a few years built a grist mill on the site of the present mills. He finally sold his property here and went west to Northern Illinois, about 1833. Daniel Day father of E. C. Day, before mentioned, and a number of other sons and daughters all came from Burlington, Otsego county, N. Y., and settled in the valley near where Jacob Snyder now lives. I will mention some of the children as far as I recollect. Of the sons there were Daniel jr. , Harry, Rassel, Elisha C. , David and Erastus; of the daughters there were Eunice the wife of David Holmes, and Nancy the wife of David Goff.

Martin Hopkins also came from Burlington to Springwater. He arrived here with his family in October, 1819. He located on Wm. Brewer's south farm, a little west of the mills. He had a large family of children. I will mention some of them. Of the sons there were Martin D. Hopkins, who died a few years since; Norman R. Hopkins who is still living among us, and as well known to you as to me. Luther R. Hopkins, Esq., is still living here and well known to you all. Albert G. Hopkins the youngest son went to Wisconsin many years ago and died there. Of the daughters that came here were Eunice, wife of Dr. E. C. Day, Emily, wife of Josiah Mack and mother of Albert, Herman D. , and Charles. Diantha, wife of Franklin Kellogg; Delia A., wife of the late Henry Wilcox. Martin Hopkins held many town offices in this town, and was one of the justices of the peace for a great number of years, and perhaps did as much business as justice as any man here.

Aldrich Wiley came to this town about 1820, and worked at wagon making in a shop in connection with his brother John's blacksmith shop on the corners, near John McCrossen's place. After one or two years he returned to the village of Lima and worked at his trade as a wagon maker until 1834. He then came back to Springwater, and he and John Wiley purchased the mills where Wm. Brewer now lives. Aldrich bought the farm where Chas. F. Smith resides, which he occupied until his death a few years since. " Uncle Aldrich " was too well known to require any comments from me. Varnum Barber came to the valley about 1824. He was a hatter by trade and made hats for all who saw fit to call upon him. He built a house and shop where Frank Doughty now lives. He worked there for a few years, then sold out and built where David Curtis' evaporator now is. He worked there a short time and sold to Harvey S. Tyler, and then built the house where David Curtis now lives. After a few years he sold and built the house where Horace Barber now lives, where he remained until his death a number of years since. He had a number of children. Some of them are now living here, viz: Henry, Horace, George and Rosannah; some of them are living in other places. There were three men by the name of Gaston living here who I remember, viz: Ebenezer, William and Ira. All had families. Ebin, as he was called, I recollect worked some at manufacturing the old style wooden "Bull Plow" which would be a curiosity to the young people of this day. The mold boards were made from a winding tree so as to give them the right shape and work with the grain of the wood, I remember a large oak tree that grew at the foot of the hill near the house built by James Fisher, which had the right wind and there were many pieces taken from it for mold boards. Elam Northrup was another old resident. He lived in the hollow a little north of the cemetery. He had a brother, James Northrup, here a little later and lived on the side hill a little west of Brewer's south mill. David Holmes was another old resident. He moved to Lima and died there many years ago. Simeon King settled on the south part of Jacob Snyder's farm. He had two sons, Martin and Mason A. , also two or three daughters. They will be remembered by the old inhabitants. Benjamin Carpenter came from Cayuga county in 1817 with all his family of sons and daughters, wife and mother. The old lady grandmother, or little granny as she was called by the children, was a little old woman who lived to a remarkable age, and was near one hundred years when she died. One of the sons of Willis Carpenter was married to Electa Barnes, before he came to Springwater and they had a large family of children. I will give their names: First, Almira, Roxey, John, William, Serril S. , Clark B. , Willis Jr. , Rowland, Chancey, Ira, Electa and Jane, some of whom are still living here. Another son, Benjamin Jr. , married a daughter of Simeon King after he came here and raised a family, one of whom is Mrs. Jesse Farley. One other son, Amos, married a daughter of Noah Crandle and removed west. One daughter, Polly, married Lyman Herrick, another daughter Elsie married Schuyler Moses and moved to Rochester. Eli Harrington, another old resident, lived here for a number of years. He had two sons,

Carver and Ira; also four daughters, Mary, Mrs. Daniel Grove, Mercia, Mrs. Hickok, Manila married Wm. B. Peabody, and Laura married Wm. Parshall; last the two long since died. There were four brothers by the name of Culver. John, or Esq. Culver, lived on the farm now owned by Harvey Wilcox in the old house at the forks of the road. Lyman lived on the farm now owned by Ezra Gray. Noble and Samuel both lived near the old tannery building. They, all of them, had an interest in a saw mill where the tannery now stands. Lyman died here, and the others removed west. George Farnsworth lived on the C. W. Willis farm. Plinney Graves lived on the next farm south, now owned by Jacob Snyder. David Wilher, Samuel Wilber, Jacob Ackley, and Elisha Bogue were all early settlers, living near the south end of the valley. Luther Farewell I had nearly forgotten. He lived where Danford Doughty now lives. He was a very small man but full of life and bluster; could make as much noise as a big man. He built a saw mill near the forks of the road and sawed lumber and made many shingles. I will now go back and mention some I have missed. Isaac Walker came to Springwater in 1820. He was a wool carder and cloth dresser by trade. He bought a piece of land of David Goff and built a building on the mill stream, a few rods north of Wm. Brewster's house, on his south farm where he did a heavy business carding wool and dressing cloth, which was brought from every direction for ten or fifteen miles around, as most of the inhabitants at the time manufactured their own cloth by spinning and weaving their own wool, and then sending to the mill to be dressed. After four or five years Walker sold out to Russell Kellogg who carried on the business for a number of years, and about 1830 he sold to his brother Frank Kellogg, who continued the business for a number of years and as long as the business was profitable, when it was abandoned. This was the first business of the kind in town except that H. H. Tyler had a small establishment in the gully on E. A. Robinson's lot east of the village where a little carding wool was done for a year or two. Now as the business of carding and cloth dressing proved profitable competition sprung up, and about 1824, Joseph Wood and John Wiley built a clothing works, so called, on the site of the rake and cradle factory now owned by George Tucker, where they carried on the business until about 1880, when Joseph Kellogg came from Amsterdam, this state, and purchased the property and carried on the business extensively for a number of years, when it came unprofitable and was abandoned. Mr. Kellogg died near twenty years since, but his wife now about eighty years of age is still with us, as also their son, Nathan A. Kellogg, and their daughter, Mrs. Harvey H. Marvin.

I will now give a short description of the north village. There were a few buildings clustered about the corners. 1st, Jonathan Lawrence's house and barn, John Wiley's house and shop, David Lather's house and tannery, T. L. Spaffard's tavern, and a house where Serril S. Carpenter lives. This comprises the whole village except that Alva Southworth had a whiskey still and hog yard on the lot where Fanny Gray now lives. Now this whiskey still was the all important point of attraction for those who had an appetite for the ardent, and upon a rainy or leisure day there were many who were in the habit of assembling there to spend a pleasant hour with their friends, and take a little to revive their drooping spirits; and it often happened that there was quite a company assembled and that some of them would imbibe a little too freely of the crater, and become quarrelsome, and a few free fights would be indulged in, and some would go home with a black eye, and after sleeping off the effect of the stimulus would awake the next morning ready for another good time, and in consequence of what has been stated, the village, or corner, received perhaps the appropriate, if not honorable name of "Hell's half acre," which name it bore for some time. But now we can say that the old still has gone long ago, and there has been some addition to the village, and it has lost the old name and we think will compare well with the rest of the town for we have almost forgotten that there ever was any whiskey here and still the people are happy.

Having given from recollection some of the names of the early residents of the valley. I will now mention some on the East Hill, commencing with the south line of the town. Ahijah Barnes was an early settler. He lived on the road to Wayland opposite to where Wm. Northrop now lives. He died about 1824, and left a wife and two daughters, one of whom died soon after. The other is still living. She is Mrs. David H. Grover, who is well known as being one of the old residents of the valley and is now hale and hearty at the age of 68 years. Zenos Ashley came from Freeport, now Conesus, and settled on the farm now owned by Wm. Walker, and on which is the cemetery known as the Ashley burying ground. He lived there for many years and raised a family. I will give them as far as I recollect. First, Edwin, Lurendus, now living in Rochester, Darwin, removed to the state of Indiana. Alfonso was a dwarf. He

died long ago. Also two daughters, Lucretia and Harriet. Lucretia married H. B. Rice and Harriet married Allen Parker. David Frazer came to Springwater about 1810, and settled on the farm now owned by John Frazer, on the south line of the town, on which he lived for a great number of years, and until his death which was many years since, though he lived to a good old age. He had quite a family of children, John, David and others, whose names I do not now recall. Solomon Doud lived next north on the west side of the highway; he has been mentioned before. He had a number of children; of the sons I remember Samuel L., Hiram and Orlando. One daughter married John Roberts and was the mother of a number of Roberts now living on west hill and in Sparta. One married Mason A. King and removed to Michigan with their family a long time ago. One other daughter, Olive, lived a maiden lady, and died on west hill a few years since. Deacon Ezra Walker lived on the east side of the highway opposite to Doud. He was quite a prominent man in his day and held many town offices. He had a large family of children. I will mention some of them as far as I recollect. First, William, the oldest son married a daughter of Jonathan Gates; they raised a family of children some of whom are now here. Leland, a younger son married Lyda Grover and they now reside at Canaseraga. Of the daughters there were Mrs. Geo. Stratton, Mrs. Hiram Parshall, Mrs. Nelson Willis, and Harriet and Lucinda. Don't recollect who they married. There was a man by the name of Ward; don't recollect his given name. He lived on the John Howell place, near the Bell school house. I can recall some of the children: One son by the name of Chancey went west: one son Daniel also left town and has since died. One daughter married Damel J. Wescott, and another daughter married Daniel Wilcox, and is still living near the old homestead. She is well known here. Joseph Carpenter lived on the farm where Edwin Carpenter now lives. He and his wife both died there a number of years since. They left one son Lucian B. Carpenter who soon after died leaving two sons. Edwin and Frank. Jesse Farley came to Springwater about 1816, and settled on the farm on which Patrick Doil now lives, with his family consisting of a wife and six children, two sons and four daughters. Horace and Harvey are both dead: Polly' married George Hewett. Minerva married Alva S. Wheaton, and Betsey married Harvey Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is the only surviving daughter. About 1825, Mrs. Jesse Fancy died, and in 1826 he married the widow Abijah Barnes, with whom he lived for a number of years, and until her death in 1852. About the time of his second marriage he moved to the farm where Henry Clapp now lives, and resided there for a number of years, after which he sold the farm to his son, Harvey, and came to the valley, where his second wife died, and in process of time he married Betsey Carpenter who is still living. The result of this marriage was one son, George Farley, who is now living at the south end of the valley with his mother. Jesse Fancy died, and was buried September 11, 1870. Nathan W. Adams lived on the north part of the Engel farm on the south side of the big gull. He married an Egleston; they had quite a family, but I do not distinctly recollect them. One was here a year or two since teaching writing. An old man named Egleston lived on the J. M. Root farm. I have forgotten his given name. He had a number of children. There were a number of families on the hill road east of Herrick street. I recollect the Brigs, Hicks and Smiths. The father of Captain Ebenezer Smith was a ship carpenter by trade, and I have heard say that he hewed the flooring for his log house with a ship carpenter's broad axe in as good style as if it had been sawed at the mill. These families are well remembered by the old residents here. I will now mention Israel Parshall who married his cousin, the oldest daughter of David Parshall. Her name was Deborah. She was better known afterwards as "Aunt Deb Parshall." They settled in the big gulley near J. M. Root's farm, where they built a small grist and saw mill. I well remember carrying grain to the mill to be ground. After a number of years they sold to Reuben W. Fowler and went over on the Cohocton stream, near where Archey G. Parshall now lives, and built other mills, and there spent the remainder of their lives. David Parshall senior came to Springwater in an early day, and purchased a large quantity of land, and finally settled on the south side of the road opposite to Samuel A. Howe. He had a number of children. I will give their names as far as I know. First, Deborah. before mentioned, Asa, David Jr., Amasa, Sally, William and Ruth. Asa married Aurilla Hull, and they had five children. Harriet, Mrs. A. S. Root; Emily who died in 1855; Edwin A. and John D. are both living here in the valley with their mother. David Parshall jr. was also married and had a family of children some of whom I will mention. Henry married Lucina Root, and they are now living in Michigan. Emma married Nathan Robinson. She died a number of years since but left several children, who are still living about here. Hiram and Stephen are both married and have families living here, and are well known. Lewis and Edward are both dead, I believe. William Parshall married Lura, daughter of Eli Harrington. They moved west. Ruth Parshall married George Chase, and they had several children.



I will now give a few names of those who came to this town a little later. There were Alvin Simonds, Jeremiah Simonds, John Davis, Isaiah Horton, Norris King, James King, Evander Gibbs, Joseph Guile, Samuel Woods, Rockwell Marvin, Levi Brockway, Levi Brockway jr., Amos Root, Anson Cole, Wm. Galley, James B. Hewett, and Ezra Brown. These with many others settled in the south-eastern part of the town.

I will now pass on to the north about half a mile, and a little north of Levi Brockway's, where we come to the place where Jacob Cannon kept a tavern. Cannon came to Springwater about 1810, and settled at the last mentioned place, where he resided for a long time; and it being a central place, or near the center of the town, it became a place for doing town business, such as holding elections, town meetings, and other public gatherings, for about a dozen years. New there was a little transaction that took place there that may be worth mentioning. About 1827 or 1828, there was a lodge of Free Masons in Springwater, and they held lodge meetings in an upper room of this old tavern. It was about the time that William Morgan wrote a book purporting to be an expose of the secrets of Masonry. He was arrested and confined in Canandaigua jail, and in a short time was privately taken from the jail and conveyed to parts unknown, which created a great excitement and caused the anti-Masonic party to spring up; and in Springwater there was an anxiety to know more about the secret society, and among the number who were desirous to ascertain the workings of the mysterious order, was Mrs. Jacob Cannon, or "Aunt Nabby," as she was called. As she knew of the time of meeting of the lodge, she provided a way of access to the garret over the lodge room. She made a small opening in the ceiling where she could both see and hear what was said and done in the lodge room. She was in the habit of repairing to her hiding place before the assembling of the meeting, and remain during the session. By this means she learned the time when there were to be some new members initiated. Thinking that she must have someone with her to enjoy the show, she got a young man to help her watch, and they witnessed the proceedings. Now as it is hard for one to keep a secret, it is much harder for two, and in some way it leaked out that they had been watching. It created a great commotion, but Aunt Nabby stood firm and did not scare worth a cent. There were no more meetings held in that house, and I think not many more in town for a long time, for soon after this the treasurer of the society stole the charter and the funds in the treasury, which were mostly notes given in lieu of money, that being a scarce article; and the lodge disbanded, and what has been done since I do not know. I think all who were members of the lodge are now dead.

I will now leave the old tavern and pass on north towards Marvin's corners. About half way between the two places we come to the spot where in those early times the Marvin's had a distillery for the purpose of using up the surplus corn and rye and extracting the spirits therefrom, and making what is now considered the spirit of evil by most people; but at that time it was considered not only a lucrative but honorable business, as most of the male part of the population, at least, were in the habit of imbibing more or less of the exhilarating fluid; but there has a great change come over the people, and now the manufacture and sale of whiskey has become unpopular, and in Springwater is looked upon as one of the evils that has passed away. While speaking of stills I will mention two others. Some time previous to 1830, Isaiah Horton and Anson Cole built a still on the east side of the gull near the north-west corner of Mark Boot's farm, where they did quite an extensive business; also Ira Gilbert built a still near, and a little south of where Thomas Reynolds now lives, and for a long time did an extensive business in making whiskey.

I now come to Marvin's Corners. About 1820, Aaron Marvin and others came to Springwater from Otsego county, N. Y. Marvin located on the south-east corner, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mrs. Marvin, the wife of Aaron, was a daughter of Axer Cole whom I recollect when a very old man. I think he lived until he was near ninety years old, and was active and smart to the last. He died about fifty years since. He had other daughters. One married Benjamin Snyder, one Alexander McCuller and one Johnson Wilcox. I will now go back to the family of Aaron Marvin. He had a number of children, whom I will mention as memory serves me. Luretta who married Salmon Waterbury, Jane who married John B. Norton, George C. who married Sally Hyde, daughter of Jesse Hyde. He died here in 1862. Harry married a daughter of Aurelius Hyde. Harry died in 1830. Curtis W. married a daughter of Solomon I. Teed. He died about 1830, leaving several children. The next was Lewis. He removed to Allegany

county. Abram went to Michigan. Alouzo married a Miss Thorn. They went to Michigan. Sarah, the youngest daughter, married James Ingalsbee. She is now living in Michigan. Aaron Marvin died in 1845.

I will now return to another son-in-law of Azer Cole. Benjamin Snyder, I learn, arrived in Springwater on the 20th day of March. 1817, and settled on the farm now owned by Scott W. Snyder, with his family. He considered it an early spring, because the people were through making maple sugar when he arrived. It was usual for the sugar season to last until the middle of April or later.

Notwithstanding in the early spring the summers of 1816 and 1817 were very cold, especially that of 1816. The family of Benjamin consisted of the following children: Lysander, Alouzo, Nelson F., Henry J., Dewitt C., and one daughter, Adaline. All of them have married and most of them left children among us. Nelson F. and Dewitt C. are the only ones now living. Benjamin Snyder was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and built many of the first frame buildings in town, some of them are still left as monuments of the olden times. One I will mention. It is the house in which Frank Goodno now lives, belonging to N. A. Kellogg, on the Southwarth farm, which was built over sixty years ago. Benjamin Snyder and Aaron Marvin were two of the strong pillars of the Methodist church of Springwater, and remained so to the end of their days; and let me say that in their day the Springwater church was a strong and working church, and the members could be recognized without their telling you. Alexander McCuller left town long ago, and I was not well enough acquainted with him to give a description of his family. Johnson Wilcox had a family of children. One daughter married David Lawton and went west. Another daughter married Aaron H. Root. She is the only one left here. Another daughter married Julius Higgins. Henry Wilcox married Delia A. Hopkins. He died at Cohocton a number of years since leaving a number of children. Eben, another son married a daughter of Judge Robinson. They both died a few years since, leaving three children, viz: Ida, Mrs. George Willis; Harvey, and Willie, both living here.

I will now return to Marvin's corners. On the north-east corner in an early day we find Henry J. Niles. He was not only a farmer, but was a carpenter by trade. He built many of the first frame buildings here. Some of them are still left as mementos of olden times. I first remember of his building a barn for David Goff on William Brewer's south farm. This was in 1820 or 1821. The old barn is still there, and to all appearances will last for many years. Another barn of his building is now on the old Joad Gillet farm, on the road to Wayland. Mr. Niles married a widow Carpenter who had three children. The oldest, Matilda, married Ezra Grover, and went west. She is still living. The next, Thirsa, is Mrs. Bullard. She is now living here and is well known by all. One son, Serril, died here a few years since. Mr. Niles and wife have both died and gone to their rest. They had four children, two sons and two daughters. One son, Henry, died young; the other son, James L. Niles, is now living in this village. Lucy married John Phillips and is now living in Michigan. Hannah married C. D. Jones. She died a number of years since. James L. Niles still owns the old farm where he resided until about three years since, when he removed to the village. He married a daughter of Curtice W. Marvin and has three children, two sons and one daughter, all living. One of the sons, H. J. Niles, is now editor and proprietor of the Springwater Enterprise. Nathaniel W. Niles, a brother of Henry J., also came here in an early day and lived with his brother. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was taken prisoner and confined in an English prison ship, and taken to England and there kept as prisoner until the close of the war, when he was sent home. He lived for many years, the last of his time in the village of Dansville, where he died but a few years since at a good old age. I will now mention Samuel O. Pearl. He lived when I first knew him, east of Marvin's corners, on the Samuel A. Howe farm. His wife was a sister of Samuel Story who has been mentioned before. They had three children, one daughter and two sons. Sally Pearl married Samuel Howell and went west. Stephen Pearl married a daughter of Isaiah Horton and moved to Michigan. Orsemus Pearl also went to Michigan and married there. He died a short time ago.

Thomas Vincent was a man living on a part of the Samuel A. Howe farm, with a wife and three children, named Abigail, Gideon and Michael. In the fall of 1826 he had been to the valley, and was going home in the evening. When a little east of Marvin's corners, where there were some peach trees with peaches on, he got upon the fence to pick some to eat, and in getting them he slipped and fell on

the fence in such a way as to rupture a blood-vessel, by reason of which he soon died. Mrs. Niles, who lived a short distance from there, heard him groaning and went to his relief, and learned how he was hurt. Now this man Vincent was a poor man, and left his family in very destitute circumstances, so much so that Aaron Marvin provided a coffin for him to be buried in. Not as any disgrace to him, but to show the contrast between the manner of a Christian burial in 1826 and 1887, I will give a vote of the town of Springwater at the annual town meeting, held on the 3rd day of April, 1827: "Voted that the Poormasters pay Aaron Marvin two dollars for providing a coffin for Thomas Vincent. " Now I think this came nearer to a Christian burial than those who are buried in a coffin costing fifty or one hundred dollars, and taking from the living what they need for their comfort and support, with no benefit to the dead, and to carry out a foolish fashion gotten up by the rich, for I verily believe that a man would rest as easily, sleep as sweetly, and be as readily found and as easily brought forth when the graves shall be called upon to give up their dead, and I think be as likely to hear the "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou to the joy of thy Lord," if he had been laid to rest in a coffin costing two dollars instead of two hundred. I will now give an account of Vincent's family. His widow after a time married Samuel P. Benedict, and finally went to Michigan. Abigail went to live with Harvey S. Tyler, and lived with him until she grew to womanhood, and then went to Michigan. Gideon died in this town a short time since, and Michael I think went west.

I will now pass on north to the next four corners. Just west of there we come to the place where Archibald Willis located on the farm where Nelson Willis now lives. Archibald Willis was a son of Thomas Willis, who also settled in Springwater in an early day. Mrs. Willis, the wife of Archibald, previous to her marriage was Deborah Wadams. She first married a man by the name of Jennings by whom she had two children, Eunice and Oliver, after which Jennings died, and after a time she was married to Archibald Willis, and about the month of January, 1816, they left Cayuga county, N. Y., and removed to Springwater with their family of children, and located as before stated. I will now mention their children as I recollect them. Eunice Jennings married David Herrick; Oliver spent his days here, and died many years ago; Lucena Willis married Allen Lownsbury and removed to Michigan; Enoch also went to Michigan and married there; he is now dead; Horace married Lucy Brockway; he is dead; his wife, "Aunt Lucy. " is now living at Wayland. Caleb W. married a daughter of Stephen Robinson; they are now enjoying their old age on their farm in Springwater. Nelson married a daughter of Deacon Walker; they are now living on the old homestead, and happily enjoying their declining years among their surrounding children. Electa, the youngest daughter, is now living with Stephen Robinson, her fourth husband, at Dansville, N. Y., and bids fair to live many years yet.

I will now go up the hill east, to a little west of where Simeon Smith now lives, where Sylvester Goodno lived in an early day. He came from the north-east part of this state, up in Essex county, and settled here with his family, consisting of a wife and a number of children. Their names were, Nathan, Enos, Israel, Anna, Sophrona, and I think some others. The old Gent, had some peculiarities. One was that he never wore anything upon his head, but went summer and winter with no covering except the natural hair that grew thereon. One time he was going to Geneva to the land office, and his friends persuaded him to wear a hat, but the first place he stopped at he took off his hat and when he started he forgot to put it on and went the rest of the way bare-headed, as usual. He was an industrious hard working man. After living here a number of years he, with some of his family, went to Potter county, Penn., and there we leave him and come back to time Willis Corners; and on the south-west corner of the Joel Hudson homestead we find John W. Barnes. He lived there at the first organization of this town; was town clerk several times and held other town offices; finally removed to Wyoming county. I do not recollect about his family. Joel Hudson came from Cayuga county I think in 1820, and settled on the farm north of above mentioned corners with his family. They had five children, three sons and two daughters. They were Matthew, now dead; Luther, now in Minnesota; James M., residing here; Lydia Ann, Mrs. Walter Bryant, living at Wayland; Charlotte, who died long ago. Joel Hudson was a soldier in the war of 1812, and is now a pensioner. After he came to Springwater he held many town offices and finally was elected justice of -the peace, which office he held for about forty years. He is ninety-two years old, and is as smart as many men at sixty, and comes to the valley a distance of one and a half miles on foot nearly every Sunday to attend church, whether it storms or is fair weather. Going north we come to the place where Isaac Howe lived in an early day. He moved down where Mrs. Bottle now

lives, and after a few years went west. Ira Howe, a brother of Isaac, lived on the hill, on the David Smith farm. He went west after a few years. We next come to Asbell Lamont, who first settled on the farm where Charles Curtice now lives, and where he lived until his death many years since. He was a farmer and worked his own farm, but in addition to farming he took delight in hunting for deer and other game, which was plenty in those olden times. I recollect of being with him one day hunting for deer when he brought one down by shooting it through the head when going at a fast run. Lamont had a number of children. I will give them as far as I remember. Of the sons, there were David, Smith, Niles and Isaac, Ira, Lyman and Hiram: two daughters, Phmbe married to Wm. Winfield and Charlotte married to Stephen Monk.

I have mentioned Isaac Howe as having resided where Martin Collins now lives. When he left there Ira Howell came there and built a furnace and went into the manufacturing of plows, known as the Springwater Howell Plow, which business he carried on for a number of years, when he sold out to Stephen L. Higgins, who continued the manufacture for some time by the assistance of George Hall, who will be remembered by many of the older residents. We will now pass on to the next farm north where Alanson Tiffany lived on the east side of the road where Henry Lawrence now lives, and Truman Tiffany on the west side where George Knapp now lives. They were brothers and each had families. There was an old man, their father, also living there. I think his name was Joel, but am not sure, he was a short, chunked man, and some of the boys nick named him the "Jack of Clubs." I believe he was a good man for all of nick names. They all sold out and went to Michigan where some of the children are still living. Elisha Bailey came on to the west farm, and William Willson on the east farm, and after a few years Willson sold to John E. Lawrence and moved to Canadice, and remained there until his death, which was a short time since. He lived to a great age, I think ninety years or over. As I have mentioned John Lawrence I will go back and give some recollections of him and his family. When I first knew him he and his wife, Maria, were living on west hill on what- was known afterward as the John Moot farm. They then had one child. This was about 1820. In a year or two he sold to John Moot and moved to Sparta, where Welcome Neadham now lives. After a few years he came to Spring-water and purchased the George Farnsworth farm, where C. W. Willis now lives, and after a time he sold to Henry Skinner and bought the Willson farm where he lived until his death, about thirty years since. As they had quite a large number of children, I will give their names. Of the boys there were James, Loren, Ira, Charles, Elijah. David, George and Henry. Of the daughters there were Ciarissa, Eliza, and Mary. We will now pass on north to the next farm where Isaac Williams lived for many years, and kept a tavern. He, too, had a large family of children, two sons, Harlow and Harry, and a number of daughters. One married Ashbill B. Grover, and one married a man by the name of Johnson, Harriet married Sidney Brown, Neoma married Areuna Gilbert. Mary married A. B. Green and after her death he married Ruba, another daughter. Sobrina married Levi Snyder. Eliza married Reuben Snyder. Isaac Williams and wife both died long since, and Christopher Ford bought the old tavern property, where he still lives. Christopher Ford came from Cayuga county to Springwater about 1821, and settled on the East Hill, and has lived there since, except a short time he lived in Richmond, after which he came back to where line is now living with his daughter, Mrs. Moses West. He had two sons and five daughters. Their names were as follows: Avery A. , who married a daughter of Liberty W. Butler; John, who married a daughter of David Lyon; Lucina, who married Orra Crooks; Shalina, who married Gideon Vincent; Phebe, who married Heman Crooks; Eunice, who married Moses West. One daughter died many years ago. Mrs. Ford died some ten years since, but Christopher is still living at the advanced age of ninety-two years, and is quite smart, and can walk two or three miles to the village and return. Gideon Brown lived where John Ford now resides, in an early day. After a few years he moved away. Jesse Brown also lived in that neighborhood. He is long since dead and gone.

Ira Jackman lived for many years on the old Josiah Fuller farm. He is dead but his wife is still living there. She was a daughter of Josiah Fuller. Jesse Fuller first settled on the Hiram Becker place, and after a few years John Chapins came there and remained until his death in 1831. Thomas Willis settled on the west side of the road opposite the Christian church, and after a few years he moved to Ohio. He has been mentioned before. Isaac Borden lived on the north part of the same farm, and after a time went to the valley and kept a tavern, where Maurice Brown lived. After living there a few years he went west to Indiana. Harry Gates lived on the Wiley Jackman farm for a few years, and up to 1840. Do

not recollect who was the first settler there. Adam Zieley lived on the opposite side of the road. He died and left a wife and three children. The wife was a Tiffany, sister to Alanson and Truman.

We will now cross the big gull to where Clark Stuart now lives, and where in an early day Benjamin Reynolds first located, amid where he lived for many years. He built a grist and saw mill in the gull south of the house, where he used to do custom grinding and sawed quite a large amount of lumber. In the spring of 1840, Gooden Thayer and myself had a contract for building a lattice bridge across the gull near the said mill which required a large amount of hemlock lumber, which was all sawed at this mill. To show the difference in the price of lumber then and now I will state that I bought of Harry Gates, on the Wiley Jackman farm, all the timber for said bridge delivered in the log at the mill for \$2.50 per thousand and I paid Seth W. Sylvester, who then owned the mill, \$2.00 per thousand for sawing, so that the lumber cost me \$4.50 per thousand at the bridge. I also bought all the shingles, shaved pine. for \$1.00 per thousand.

In 1846, at the time of the big freshet, the gull was completely cleaned out, and the mills and also Lomice's house in the gull below went down stream and into the valley. Mrs. Lomice and two children were carried down, and one child came out alive. The others were dead. One of the mill stones was found on Norton's field a number of rods west of the road; such was the force of the water that it moved everything in its course. Jiles Norton lived on the north side of the Stuart farm. He lived to be over ninety years old and died at the house of his daughter, Mrs. Stephen Walbridge. Green Waite and Francillo Stuart lived on the Furman Thompson farm. They are both long since dead. Josiah Short lived for a time where George Bailey lives. Liberty W. Butler lived for many years where George Buckner now lives. He was a blacksmith by trade and a noted horse shoer. He died over twenty years ago, and his family went west.

I will now give the names of some of the persons on the East hill at the time of the organization of the town, and those who came here soon after. I will commence with Ephraim Calkins. He lived east from the Christian church. He married Betsey Northrop, a daughter of Elam Northrop. Samuel Sparks, John Porter, Samuel Gott, Obedish Barber, Arthur Phelps, Alfred Phelps, Clark Lankton, John Town, John Andrus, Noah Crittenden, Pascal P. Cheney, William Fairchild, Eliakem Grover, Luke Bemis, Handle B. Martin, Geo. Flanders, Jeremiah Whalen. James Moore was elected a justice of the peace, and served the town as such for a term of years. Ozias Reed will be remembered as a hunch-back, having been drawn out of shape by rickets, causing him to be a very short man, but full of life and ambition. John Esty, Abel Green, Nathan W. Austin lived on the island. David Bliss had a family of children. I will mention some of them. Of the sons there were John, Andrew and Benjamin. The first two are dead, but Benjamin has been in the habit of visiting his old home occasionally. I saw him here the past summer. He is over eighty years old, but is able to tramp from place to place, which he continues to do. One daughter married Josiah Fuller, and one married Aaron Fuller. Henry Popino came from Cayuga county in an early day and lived here for a number of years. He married a Miss Wadams, a sister to John Wadams, and Mrs. Archibald Willis. I do not remember what became of him. William Peabody came here early and settled on the farm where Alva Peabody now lives, and resided there for many years. I will mention some of his children, as I remember them. First, William, jr., who settled a little west of Tabors' Corners, and resided there for many years, and until his death which happened many years since. He was a farmer and a citizen of considerable importance. Was justice of the peace for a time and held other offices of trust. He leaves two sons, William B. and Sheffield W. Daniel Peabody, a brother of William, I recollect as having carried the mail between Springwater and Geneseo. He carried it on horseback once a week each way. He used to distribute the Livingston county paper along the route to all who saw fit to take it. He would start out with a pair of old-fashioned saddle-bags well filled, and leave them at the houses as he passed along. I think he moved to Pennsylvania. Alva Peabody went to Livonia and lived there a number of years, and then came back to the old homestead, where he is still living. He has raised a large family of children. Some are dead, some gone west and some living here- I will now mention Rufus Ricks and family. He came from Oneida county, N.Y., to Springwater in 1815, and settled on the farm on the south side of the road opposite Henry Ford's farm. He had five sons and three daughters. I will give their names in order: James died many years since, Samuel also long since dead, Edmond dead and gone to rest: Lydia, Mrs. Erastus Barber, is now living

with her daughter, Mrs. David G. Smith. She was 91 years old on the 27th day of October last. Esther, Mrs. Hossa H. Grover, died ten or twelve years since. Lewis is now living in Canadice, and was 85 years old last July, and is very active and smart for a person of his age. Hannah lived a maiden lady with her brother near Tabors Corners, in this town, until her death, some eight years since. Sylvester, the youngest son, was 75 years old on the 28th day of February, last. He is hale and hearty, living on his farm north of Tabors Corners. Erastus Barber was an early settler on the hill. He had a family of children. I will mention them as far as I recollect. There was Erastus, Jr., known as captain of a rifle company of militia. He was also a surveyor and did considerable business in that line. He died long since and left a wife and a number of children. Another son, Benadiah Barber, after living here until about 1880, removed west and I cannot give any further account of him. Of the daughters, one married Matthew Fuller, and after a time removed to Wisconsin. Another married Emery Swan, and another married Tobias Osburn. They both went to Wisconsin. One daughter married Thomas Osburn, and lived in the south part of Springwater for a number of years. Do not know what became of them. After the death of Erastus Barber his widow married Solomon Grover and removed to Wisconsin, where they both lived to a good old age, and finally died and went to their rest. Elisha Capron settled on the farm west of where L. D. Monk now lives. He was a soldier in the revolution and a pensioner from bullet wounds which he received, and had the marks to show. He was very patriotic and liked to talk over the old campaigns as well as any of the soldiers of the late rebellion do at the present time. I will mention his children. There was Elisha, Jr. He married a daughter of John Reace and lived for a time on the farm where Murray Doughty now lives, and then removed south. Clarissa married Mr. Whitman, who will be remembered as toll-gate keeper for a long time on the road to Dansville. Lewis H. Capron married a daughter of Aurelius Hyde. He lived many years on the hill south of Tabors Corners, and where he died, leaving a wife and children. One son, Orlando, died long ago. George is now living at Tabors Corners. Of his daughters, one is Mrs. John S. Wiley, one Mrs. Hiram Baker and one Mrs. Charles Sedgwick, of Dansville. Sylvester Capron married a daughter of Stephen Higgins. He, too, left a family of children, as follows: Wilber and Wesley Capron of Wayland, James Capron, Mrs. S. L. Whitlock, and Mrs. H. E. Allen, of this place. Mrs. Whitman and Sylvester were both killed by the cars at the Buffalo street crossing a few years since. James and Benjamin Henderson were brothers. Benjamin lived on the Lyman Morris farm, now owned by Murray Doughty, I recollect that when he was living there about 1824, there was a Methodist camp meeting held on the west part of the farm in the woods, which was the first camp meeting I ever attended. I will now mention a family of Rowells. There were John, Bethewel C., Jared M., and Benjamin, all living on the hill. John lived where Oscar Rodgers now lives. I will now mention some of his children. Ira, before mentioned as a furnaceman, Mark, Samuel, Bethewel, and one daughter, who married Silas Grover. Do not recollect further. Samuel Chapins, John Otto, Henry Muck, Elisha Cox, a family of Moltbeys, and many others who I cannot now call to mind, lived in Hunt's Hollow, and on the side hill west of the hollow. Aaron J. Hunt, I think, once lived in the hollow, which gave the place its name. He moved up on the Cohocton stream and built and ran a saw mill there for some time. Dr. A. L. Hunt of this place is a son of his. Two other sons are now living west. The old gentleman went to Michigan and died there, some 14 years ago. Lemuel Crocker and Isaac Koons both lived on the "Fort," so called. They are both long since dead. Crocker moved to Michigan, Koons died here. One of his daughters, Mrs. Barber Eldridge, is still living here. Thomas Warner and Henry Warner, brothers, lived near each other, Thomas on the farm where he died a few years since, and where his son now lives. Henry lived on the south side of the road adjoining. He moved to Pennsylvania many years ago. John Green-back will be remembered by the old residents as keeping a tavern on the Robinson street corners, where he and Aunt Mittie used to deal out the three cent drinks of whiskey, and where at the town meeting, in 1883, the floor gave way and let a large number into the cellar with the cook stove.

About 1821 or 1822, Elder William Robinson, with his family came to Springwater from Cipeo, Cayuga County, N.Y., and settled on East hill, on what we call Robinson street. There were five brothers, sons of William, whom I will now mention. Stephen, about 70 years ago, married Phebe Horton. They first settled on the farm where Edward Coats now lives, where they resided for a long time, and raised a family of fifteen children, all of whom lived to man and womanhood. The first death in the family was a daughter at the age of 18. Stephen, the father, is now living at Dansville, with his second wife. He was 88 years old last Oct. 10th, his wife, Phoebe, having died in 1881, at the age of 81 years. I will now

give the names of the children in order: First, Malinda, now Mrs. C. Willis, living here; Esther married John Wheeler. She is now living somewhere west. Nathan married Emma, daughter of David Parshall. They are both dead, having left four children about here. William married Eliza Skinner. He died at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ann Eliza married Samuel Norton. She is still living. Charles married a daughter of John Gilmore. He is living in town. Saloma died at the age of 18 years. Manila married Eber Wilcox. They are both dead, having left three children here. Rosannab married Harvey Wright, went to Michigan and died there. Candice married Henry Skinner. She died many years since. Stephen married a Miss Collins They are now living at the south end of the valley, with a large family of children. Phebe, Mrs. Daniel Norton, is now living in this village. Caleb died long ago. Mary is Mrs. Frank Wetmore of Bloods Corners. M. Jefferson is now a preacher and pastor of a Methodist church in Wisconsin. Joseph Robinson, settled on the hill, west of, and near Stephen, at first and after a few years moved on to the farm where D. Monk now lives, where he lived until his death, which was about forty years since. He had a family of twelve children. I will mention them: Henry, Sally, William, Edmond, now living in this village, and too well known to need any description from me; Carlton, George, Fayette, James, Mary Ann, Nelson, Joseph and Amos. Ten are now living, all of them in the western states except Edmond. Nathan Robinson, one of the brothers, I have no account of. Levi settled on the farm where Oscar Rogers now lives. He died a number of years since. He had a number of children. Henry is now living at Wayland. John I remember, and there were others I do not remember. David Robinson, the fifth son of William, I think now lives in Bristol, Ontario county, N. Y.

I recollect, living on the Robinson street in an early day, two families by the name of Dyer. Samuel and Jotham. Samuel had a number of children. Can't give all their names. One will be remembered, Russell, who acted a prominent part in the Anti-rent movement here a number of years since, when Alonzo Snyder was pounded most to death by them. Jotham or Deacon Dyer, as he was called, had a family of children. One son, Alson, I remember. He went to Jackson, Michigan, and held some important positions of trust there. Now, Jotham being a deacon of the Baptist church and a good man, it will do no harm to relate a little anecdote of him. Some of his neighbors had a little disagreement by which there was talk of going to law. It is probable that the deacon had read his Bible more than he had the dictionary or legal terms; but being a peacemaker, volunteered to give them advice, he said they had better not go to law, but to pick three good "pernicious" men and leave it out to "refugees" as it was bad to have "intentions" in a neighborhood.

Rezi Monk came to Springwater in an early day and settled on the John H. Price farm, where he lived for a number of years and then moved on Robinson street, north of E. A. Robinson's, where he lived the remainder of his days, and where he died some ten or twelve years since. His wife having died about two years previous. He was 86 years old at the time of his death. He was elected justice of the peace soon after he came here and was re-elected several times, holding the office for a long time. I have heard it remarked that very few if any of his judgments were reversed by the higher courts. He had five children, two sons and three daughters. Hannah and Phoebe both married and died many years ago. Lorenzo D., married Mary Ann Wetmore. They are living on the E. A. Robinson farm and are well-known by all. Stephen married Charlotte Lamont. He died about thirty years ago. Mary E., the youngest daughter, married E. A. Robinson. She died some three years since leaving her husband and four children, who are still living in this village. Elder John Cole was pastor of the first Baptist church of Springwater. He first lived on East hill. I remember of hearing him preach some strong orthodox sermons and full of fore-ordination and eternal punishment of the wicked. This was long ago. He had quite a large family. Will mention some of his children: Joseph, John, Jeremiah, Candice, Abigail and I think there were others who I cannot call to mind. A family by the name of Higgins settled on the hill east of the Christian church. I have forgotten the old gent's name, but will mention some of the sons: Dyer, Stephen, Abigail, Edmond C., Jerry, others not now called to mind. They all left town in a short time except Stephen and Edmond C. Stephen remained here until his death long since. I will mention his sons: Stephen L. Higgins, Julius, Philo, and two daughters, Mrs. Myron Wheeler, who died here last summer, and Mrs. Sylvester Capron, who died a number of years since. E. C. Higgins kept the old hotel on the corners previous to its being burned in 1854. He went to Wellsville, Allegany Co., and died there long since. One of his daughters, Mrs. Harvey T. Grover, is still living here. I will now mention some that I have missed. John Stack, or Esq. Stack, as he was called, lived in the south gull where the

Parshall mills were. After Parshall left, Cornelious Cannon lived a little north of the gull. Ephriam Slade lived on the Brockway farm opposite to Jacob Cannon. Abner Goodrich lived on the south part of Scott W. Snyder's farm and after the lake road was built, and about 1826, built the Halfway house on the lake shore and kept a tavern for a number of years. Salmon Waterbury lived in the valley, and built a tavern near where E. N. Curtice now lives. He carried on the business of boot and shoe making quite extensively. After a few years he sold to Loren M. Guitau, and built another tannery on the place where Harvey Wilcox lives, and in company with George C. Marvin, did business for a few years: when he sold and went to Steuben county, on Neil's creek, near Wallace station, where he did an extensive business at tanning, and where he remained until his death, some years since. I will now give a few names without comments on East hill. There was a family of Chesebros-Sylvester, Stephen, Daniel, and Mrs. Ethan Grover, Mrs. Milton Holmes and others not recollected; John B. Miner, William Bussing, Shubel Paine, Terry Parshall, Stephen Harrington, Abram Harrington.

I will now show the way that the poor of the town were supported by giving a copy from the town records. DISPOSAL OF SALLY HYDE. *"By a special town meeting called for the purpose of disposing of Sally Hyde, alias Sally Bundy, being a town charge, agreeable to law her maintenance was sold by vandue and bid off by John Wadama for one hundred and forty-nine dollars, January 23d, 1819."*

There was an old man by the name of Bundy here. He was a cobbler, or shoemaker, and used to go about whipping the eat, as it was called, going from house to house with his kit and making and repairing their shoes, and then passing on to the next place where he found work. He had a good opinion of himself. He used to go around and recommend himself by saying that if they would give him good victuals and good wax, he could make as good a shoe as any man. I can't say as he was any relation to Sally Bundy.

As we were about to describe a visit to Springwater west hill in olden times, I go back so as to take a fair start. Just one hundred and one years ago, in the month of April, in the town of Bennington, Vermont, my father, Stephen Walbridge, was born; and about one hundred and three years ago, in the town of Pownal, at the foot of Pownal mountain, Vermont, my mother, Eunice Matteson, was born; and a little after 1790, both of their parents moved west and settled in the town of Burlington, Otsego county, N. Y. ; and in process of time and about 1805, Stephen and Eunice were married; and on the fifth day of September, 1806, a daughter was born to them, and they called her name Myranda; and on the fourteenth day of September, 1809, a son was born, and they called him Orson; and after seven years and on the thirty-first day of October, 1816, another son was born; and they called him Chauncey; and on the third day of March, 1819, another daughter was born to them, and they called her name Minerva; they all this time living in or about Bennington. In the fall of 1818, my father came west to Springwater, and bought of Ralph Lawrence a place or farm on West hill, then known as the Simeon Shed farm, and lately known as the Edward Totten farm, and intended to move on in the winter; but on account of sickness was unable to do so, and Ira Day came on and occupied the house on said place for the next season and cleared five acres of land for him, there being but four or five acres then cleared on said place. In the month of June, 1819, my father with his family started from Burlington Flats to move to Springwater, and on the last day of June, 1819, arrived at the Valley and stopped for the night at Daniel Day's, near where Jacob Snyder now lives; and on the first day of July, 1819, we all went up the west hill through the woods, for it was all woods from the corners north of Hugh Wilison's, so that most of the way the limbs of the trees came together over the road, till we came to where Reuben Smail now lives, at which place there was a log house belonging to the Nelsons, Jesse and Nathaniel of Lima, and a small piece of one or two acres partly cleared. Father's house being occupied, he hired the house of the Nelsons, where we lived until fall, when he moved on to his own place. The road at that time passed smith of where Smail's house now is, and across a part of the south Totten farm, and intersected the old road west of Charles McNich's, and on the said south farm John Emmons lived when we first came there. After two or three years he moved away and lived on the east side of Hemlock lake, near where the St. James hotel now is, and a man by the name of William Anable took his place on the hill. The next house on the road west was where my father lived for six years, and cleared most of the land that is now cleared on the said farm. Without following my father longer at this time, I go west up the hill and mention the inhabitants by name and location, as I then found



them. The first was James Redmond, where the John D. Clemons homestead is. He had a family of seven children, three sons and four daughters. I will give their names: James Seymour, Bartholomew Stoddard, Richmond Cadwell. The daughters were, Samelia, Experience, Jerusha and Fetney. Samelia married Reuben Strong, and lived where Mrs. Ira Whitlock now live. Experience married Alvah Hale. James S. was married and raised a family of children. Some of them are still living on the hill. He lived north of the schoolhouse. B. S. was married and raised a family of children. Some of his grandchildren are living at Wayland. He died on election day of 1840, at the Whitlock house. Richmond C. married Posey P. Borden, and Ira H. Redmond is one of their sons. The old man and youngest two daughters moved west. All the rest are long since dead. Going north from the old log schoolhouse, where all the children attended school, we come to Eliakem Brown, living on what is now known as the Erwin farm. They had three children who I used to attend school with. Their names were Salinda, Permelia and Orange. After a few years they moved to Nunda, where the old people died and Orange also many years since. I have lately learned that Permelia is now living at Hornellsville, a widow lady. Passing on north near the top of the Tubbs hill, Alfred Lawrence lived on the east side of the road. He was a brother of the late John E. Lawrence. On the west side where Clark Baker now lives, Daniel I. Tubbs lived for a number of years. He married a widow Osburn, mother of the Osburn of Rochester, who built the Osburn block there. Still further north and where E. T. Webster now lives, we find William W. Weed, who was afterward elected sheriff of Livingston county, and went to Geneseo to live. Benjamin Irish also lived near there a few years. An old man by the name of Chapman and another by the name of Janes lived in that neighborhood. I recollect that Janes had a large son, David, as much as twenty years old, that came to school and read with the small children in the spelling book, but he made quite a businessman. The last I knew of him he was the owner and captain of a canal boat on the Erie canal. Now to go back to the school corners and go west, the first house we come to was John E Lawrence's. He has been mentioned before. About 1821, John Moot came from New Jersey and bought the Lawrence farm, where he resided the remainder of his days, which was about fifty years. I well remember of seeing him when he was moving in. He had a pair of very large brown horses which he kept for a long time. His wagon, too, was of the large Jersey kind, with a frame body and covered with canvas top and a stiff pole or tug, extending three or four feet in front of the horses, with chains from the end of the pole to horses as hold-backs. The wagon of itself was a good load for a common-sized team. He built a log house on the north side of the road, that remained until some four years since, as a monument of olden times. I will now give a brief description of the Moot family. There were George K., now living in Conesus; Mathias and Martin who left here a long time ago. I think they are living; one of them in New York City. John, Jr. , remained on the old farm until his death about five years since, after which Samuel Hill bought the farm and removed the old house and built a nice farm residence in the place of it. The next house west of Moot's was where Fred Hill now lives, and was occupied by Fred Wilson when I first knew it, or Knapsack Wilson, as he was nicknamed. Now to show how he received the name of Knapsack Wilson, and also to show what a person may do after he becomes a slave to his own appetite, I will relate a circumstance that took place with this man. Now Fred Wilson was a soldier of the war of 1812, and after serving through the war and being honorably discharged received what was called a soldier's right or land warrant for one hundred and sixty acres of public land. Now Wilson, like many others, had formed a habit or liking for strong drink, and instead of locating his land he concluded to sell his warrant, and did sell it, and took his pay all in whisky, delivered at Doud's still, which has been mentioned before as being near Philo Higgin's place on East hill, and over six miles from Wilson's. When he (Wilson) came home from the army he brought his soldier's knapsack with him, and after he had made the trade above stated, he would put into the old knapsack a wooden bottle or roundelet, so called, which would hold about two gallons, sling it upon his back and start for Doud's still, get the roundelet filled with whisky, and tramp back to his home on West hill; where not only he, but his wife would imbibe of the contents of the roundelet until they got most gloriously drunk, and until the bottle was empty, when he would again start for the still as before. He continued to repeat this until the avails of the one hundred and sixty acres of land had been backed home in this manner, and had run down the throats of Wilson and his wife, and what few visitors might have called to help them. I recollect once having stopped at the house, and found Wilson on the floor, and his wife on a straw couch in one corner, and they were both most beastly drunk; and a little babe not old enough to care for itself crawling about its mother. In these days such a scene would be quite a subject for a temperance lecture, but in those olden times it was not thought much of. But I will say that a quarter

section of land was never more foolishly disposed of or sooner drank up than the one I have just described, and that this should be a warning to all who are forming an appetite by strong drink, to stop before they become a slave to their own appetite, as this man Wilson and his wife were.

Having mentioned some that were here when we first came to West hill, I will now go back and speak of two families that came here the next year after. Josias Matteson, a brother of my mother, came on from Burlington, Otsego County, N.Y., in March, 1820. He moved with a pair of three year old steers and sleigh. He built a small log house on my father's place, and lived there two or three years, when he moved on to the Fred Willson place last mentioned. After living about town for some ten years he removed to the state of Ohio, near Centerville. When he left here he had a family of five children, four sons and one daughter. In the summer of 1820, David Holmes, who I have mentioned before as living in the valley, came up the hill about half way from the foot of the hill to where Reuben Small now lives, and built a log house on the north side of the road, where he lived for about eight years. He was a shoemaker by trade, and made and repaired our boots and shoes for us. He raised a family of ten children, six sons and four daughters. I will name them in order: First, Mariah, Lewis, Harry, Daniel, Green A., David, Jr., Elects, Eliza and Nelson. They moved to Lima about 1830, where the old people died; and I think they are all dead except Elects, who was a short time since living at North Bloomfield. She was a widow lady by the name of Hunt, and mother of the Hunts who are proprietors of the woolen factory of North Bloomfield. Nelson was also living a short time since in the state of Illinois.

I will now return to where we left Fred Willson, and go west to near the town line, where we find a man by the name of Jemison, living on the farm where Chancey Burdick now lives. I well remember of going with my father, soon after coming here, to the raising of a log barn at his place. Jemison was an Irishman. He married a widow lady by the name of Hill, who was mother of the late Mariah Lawrence, and also of one son, William. After a few years Jemison had a brother come to see him, who stopped with him for a time, when they both left town and were not heard of any more. It was supposed that they went back to Ireland.

As there were but few settlers on the town line, or Story road, as it was then called, I will mention some that came there within the next ten years. Commencing at the north line, we find James Bailey and family. He lived there until his death a few years since. Wm. Furman came on the Jemison place, and lived there for a time. Next south was Michael Gillman and family. After a few years, about 1822, he went to Michigan. Archibald Drake lived on the Wm. Brewer farm. Jacob Snyder and family lived next south. His family consisted of himself, his wife and eleven children, four sons and seven daughters. The old gent and some of his family moved to Potter county, Pennsylvania, and Jacob Snyder, Jr., living in the valley, and Mrs. Levi Swarts, living on the hill, are all the ones now left in town.

Continuing south we next come to Selah Stedman who was well-known by all the elder inhabitants of the town, as also were his children. We next come to Lewis Locey on the west side of the road, and then to Dr. Abner Davis on the late Marvin Clemons farm. Davis was a man of considerable note, and had quite an extensive practice. He died there long ago. Daniel Kuhn lived on the corners near the Mt. Pleasant schoolhouse. Still farther south on the Story road lived Daniel Rau, Benjamin Rau, John Roberts, Alonzo Mace and others not now called to mind.

About 1822 or 1823, Henry A. Lake and two of his sons, Robert H. and Benjamin, with their families came in and settled on the hill, the old gent at the four corners south of Mt. Pleasant, where the old Dansville road at that time crossed the Story or town line road. Robert H. Lake located on the J. B. Wilhelm farm and built a sawmill on the stream near where Sylvester Kimbel now lives. Benjamin after a few years came to the valley and lived on A. G. Marvin's west farm. About 1830, or soon after, Benjamin moved to Ohio, and Robert H. moved to Honeoye Falls, N.Y. The old man I think died here. They all did considerable lumber business when they first came here. We will now come north-east, down the old Dansville road into the hollow where the Markley steam mill used to stand, and where Deacon Jonathan Colburn lived at a very early day in a log house on the east side of the road. He was a

man of considerable note in those days. He had a family of children. I will give their names as far as I recollect. Loren, the oldest son, married a daughter of Samuel Story and lived at the place where the old Tyler house now stands, near the sash factory. The other sons, Archibald, Charles and Erastus, are all that I now call to mind. They all went away after a few years, and I cannot give any further account of them. John M. Pixley came on to the farm where they lived, and built a sawmill on the stream running through the farm, which at that time was sufficient to do considerable sawing, but now is nearly dried up. Pixley had children. Two sons I remember, Isaac and Charles. The latter married Roxey, a daughter of Zaddock Grover. He lived in the valley, and was clerk in a store for Thomas Grover. He was also constable and collector of this town for a few years. He finally went to Rochester, where he died, and where his wife is now living. But to return to West hill, coming easterly, the next house we come to was on the corners, where I remember Ebinezer Furman as being one of the early settlers. He, like most of the others at that time, was in the habit of making shingles and lumbering for a living and was consequently barely able to make a living, and a rather poor one at that. I do not recollect much about Furman, so I will give N. R. Hopkins credit for a little story in relation to him. It seems that he, like many others at that time, was in the habit of imbibing too freely of the ardent, and having attended an election where there was plenty to be had, it so happened that he got a rather heavy load, and did not get home till late in the evening, and not until his wife was in bed; and when he did arrive he had got very tired, so that when he opened the door he fell full length upon the floor, which awoke his wife. She called to know who was there, he answered back, *"It is me? wife; and' I tell you, I have got just as full of whisky as my skin can hold, and it aint cost me a cent."*

I will now go south to Carney Hollow and mention one of the early settlers there Peter Bevins. He built and run a sawmill near the south line of the town and lived there until his death at the age of about 90 years. He was twice married and raised a large family. By his first wife he had four daughters, to wit: Polly, Betsey, Helior, Catherine. After the death of his wife he married a widow lady by the name of Miner, who also had four children at the time of their marriage. I will give their names: Rhoda, Caroline, Nancy, and Luther, who is Elder Luther Miner now living on the hill, about one mile north of the old homestead. The result of the last marriage was one son and four daughters, to wit: William, now living in Pennsylvania; Sarah, Julia Ann, now Mrs. Jacob Snyder; Philena A. , now Mrs. I. T. Hollister of Mt. Morris; and Adaline, Mrs. Sergant. Catherine is now living at J. Snyder's. I will now mention some that came there a little later. There was Adam Zimmerman and others of the same family. William Cummins, Stanton Cummins, Richard Jones, Timothy, James and Daniel Jerome, Joseph and Jesse Carney and their families, . James Wicks, Henry Janes, Markley and Carpenter who built the steam mill; Aaron Washburn and family; Hambleton and family; also old Mr. Humphrey and family. Two of his sons are now living in town, Harvey D. at Webster's Crossing and Carl M., in this village.

Having mentioned some of the early settlers of the west hill, I will now return to where I left Stephen Walbridge and family, and give a brief history of them. He, Stephen, in 1821, was elected commissioner of highways for the town, which office he held for some seven years. In 1828 he was elected constable, and in 1824 was elected constable and collector, and was re-elected for ten years in succession. He also held the office of assessor for a number of years, after living on the old farm for six years, on the first of April, 1829, he moved to the valley into a house that was on H. H. Wiley's land where his hop yard now is. Here he lived for four years, and on the first of April, 1829, he moved on East hill, near where Levi Brockway now resides, where he lived one year. He then rented a farm of William Lawrence, where A. G. Marvin now resides, for one year; sad in the spring of 1831, he purchased a farm of 200 acres of Richard Masters, east of Tabor's Corners, now known as the Jared Barber farm, where he moved the first of May. That summer or fall his wife died and was buried on the Higgins farm cemetery. He continued to live there until September, 1832, when he married the widow of John Chapin, and went to live on what is now Hiram Becker's farm, and remained there until his death, which was on the 11th day of November, 1864, being in his 79th year, and was buried in the old cemetery near Christopher Ford's, where we will let him rest until the Lord shall call for him.

I will mention the rest of the family. The oldest daughter. Myranda, married John Wicks, and after a few years moved to the town of Junius, Seneca County, N.Y. They raised a family of five children, but they are all dead. She died in the spring of 1872, after which Wicks went to Michigan and has since

died. The oldest son, Orson, lived with his father until the time he moved on the Masters farm, when he left home and went for himself and is now here in the valley, where he has been for over fifty years. Will give a general history of him at another time if the Lord will. Chancey, the second son, is now living at Manchester, Michigan. He was living with his father on the fourth day of July, 1885, when he met with an accident by a premature discharge of a cannon when loading, by which he lost his left arm. At the same time N. T. Withington, who is still with us, lost his right arm. A few years after this he married Mary Ann Freeman, and some thirty years since moved to Manchester; and in the spring of 1861, soon after Lincoln took his seat as president, he was appointed postmaster at Manchester, which office he held until about the first of March last, when he was excused to make room for a Democrat as his successor. The youngest daughter, Minerva, married Harrison Brownwell, of Junius, N.Y., They had four daughters, after of which Brownwell died and she went to Buffalo to live, where she died on the 24th day of September, 1861, and was buried at Springwater near her father. The four daughters are still living, and are all married and have families. Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Ackherst are living at Chicago, Mrs. Cooper at Hornellsville, and Mrs. Waldron at Decatur, Ind.

Having given a brief account of some of the white people in town in early times, I will now mention the few colored ones that were here also. First, when Alvah Southworth came here he brought with him a colored boy by the name of Medal Church. He lived with him until after he became of age. He was a respectable citizen, joined the Methodist church and was looked upon as being a man notwithstanding his color. There was a man by the name of Jacob Wright and his wife, (colored), who lived on East hill They were very clever or kind old people, and were respected by their neighbors.

When S. G. Grover came from Auburn to Springwater he brought with him a colored girl by the name of Jane Nichols, who was known here as black Jane. She was a bright active girl. She lived with them until of age, and after a time removed to Hornellsville, where she died a few years since. Those were all the colored, people in town in early times.

## CHAPTER VI

### ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN OF SPRINGWATER FIRST TOWN OFFICERS DESCRIPTION OF EARLY SETTLERS AND REMINISCENCES BY ORSON WALBRIDGE

When I first knew the place where the center or business part of the village now is, it did not seem that the time would ever come when it would be one of the most active and thriving country villages in Western New York.

From the first settlement of the town until 1824, there was only one log house on the south side of the road crossing the flats. It was where Humphrey & Marvin's hardware store now is. The road crossing or four corners was then farther east, about where Hiram Willson's wagon shop now is. A few rods west of the log house above mentioned you came to a swampy piece of woods on each side of the road, extending to near where the mills now are, and the road for the most of the way was a log causeway, and on the south side, where Center street now is, was a dense forest of elm and maple timber.

But to return to the corners. On the 7th day of January, 1824, Thomas Anls, George Smith and Isaac Marsh, commissioners appointed by act of the Legislature, passed the 17th day of April, 1822, laid a road from Bath, Steuben county, to the town of Livonia, Livingston county, which passed through this valley, and is the road now passing through this village north and south, and establishing the four corners where they now are.

Soon after the opening of this road, and in 1824-25, Harvey S. Tyler and Dr. John B. Norton built a store on the corner where Allen & Whitlock's store now is.

I will here state that all the store or place where goods were sold previous to this time, was a small store kept by Hosea H. Grover, on the old road on the west side of H. W. Tyler's grove, where there were two or three small buildings and a log house and potash. But to return to the corners. Soon after the store was started Varnum Barber built a house and hat shop where Frank Doughty now lives; and soon after b built a blacksmith shop and house where Hiram Becker now lives, and where he did business for a number of years.

Zaddock Grover, who owned and occupied the house first mentioned, sold to Timothy Rider and built a log house near where Mrs. Alonzo Snyder now lives. Rider built a frame barn south of the house, and in a few years sold to John B. Norton, who occupied the premises until about 1850, and sold many village lots. Otis Stratton bought a lot and built a house where James Capron now lives, about 1826 or 1827, and about the same time Ira Harrington built a house where H. E. Allen now lives, and worked at shoemaking.

After the store on the corner had been occupied by different ones until the spring of 1829, Horatio Dyer and Nelson Wells came from Richmond and went to selling goods there. They built a potash building and bought ashes and made potash. H. W. Tyler's barn is partly the old potash building. About this time or a little before, Varnum Barber built a house where the evaporator is and sold to H. S. Tyler, who occupied it for a number of years. Also about the same time the house where David Curtis lives was built and the land on both sides of the road to the grist mill had been cleared.

In the summer of 1829, Zaddock B. Grover bought a lot on the corner where Morris & Grover's store now stands, and built a store building, which was the first building on that side of the road anywhere near the corners. I recollect of having helped Timothy Jerome to frame the potash building for Dyer & Wells, and the store for Grover; and I also helped D. H. Grover to enclose and finish the store which was the first of my working at the trade, Soon after this the house now occupied by L. R. Hopkins was

built, and also the house now owned by J. D. Hendershott was built by S. G. Grover, where he lived until his death many years since, and the village began to grow slowly.

In 1883, Dr. J. B. Norton built for himself a dwelling house where the old log house formerly stood, which he occupied until 1850, when he sold to Alonzo Snyder. Snyder put on an addition and converted it into a tavern in 1851, and the same was used as such by different ones until a few years past, and might have been until the present time if the town had not refused to grant license to sell strong drink since 1878.

In 1835, Thomas C. Grover having bought the store on the southeast corner, made an addition to it, and converted it into a tavern, or hotel, as they began to be called, which hotel was opened, as I learn, on the 5th day of July of that year. Grover built a store adjoining on the south. Clark & Bradner had a store, and there were three or four other buildings adjoining on the south. Gary Knapp, Solomon Waterbury, D. H. Grover, C. Y. Andruss and others occupied those buildings. There were barns and other buildings east of the corners on the south side of the road. All of those buildings were occupied by different ones until the summer of 1854, the hotel then being occupied by Porter Hotchkiss, when a fire broke out in the east hotel barn, in which a valuable pair of horses belonging to Esq. Babcock of Burns was burned. The fire spread to the other buildings and all on that side of the corners, some ten or twelve buildings, was wiped out.

I will not try to give each building as it was built, but will mention some as I call them to mind. The large house now owned by Edmund Robinson was built in 1842, by Thomas C. Grover. D. H. Grover was the contractor, and I assisted in doing the work. About this time Tyler & Grover built the store where H. H. Densmore's drug store now is.

I will now mention the church buildings in town. In 1833 the Methodist church was built by subscription from the church members and others. It was to be a Methodist church, but free for other denominations when not used by them at their appointments. There were many Universalists, as well as those who did not make any profession, that subscribed for the house. The contractors who built the house were Willson Willey and a man by the name of Partridge, of Livonia. The next church was the Christian church on east hill, built in 1839, by my father and myself as contractors. The Presbyterian church, at the south part of the village, was built in 1840, by myself as contractor and builder. The A.C. or Advent church was built in 1871, under direction of a committee chosen for that purpose, D. H. Grover overseeing the work, assisted by J. D. Hendershott, Charles Green, George Davis, Orson Walbridge, and others in doing the work.

About 1853, Horatio Dyer built the store where Henry T. Grover is now doing business. After a few years Dyer sold to D. H. Grover & Son, and they continued to do business there until the death of D. H. Grover, some four or five years since.

I will now mention some improvements at the south part of the village at a later date. In 1870, D. C. Snyder built a fine residence at the corners where J. D. Clemons now lives, and a little later N. R. Hopkins built his house, where J. M. Root now lives. E. B. Snyder, S. H. Withington, Wm. Hunter, E. W. Doughty, Frank S. Grover, J. L. Nibs, and George A. Pierce are each occupying splendid residences, which have all been built within a few years past. Mrs. Alonzo Snyder occupies the old house built in 1832 by Zaddock Grover, but having been repaired and added to, it is now a residence that should be an ornament to any village. North of the corners are a few residences lately built which I will mention: H. H. Densmore's, Harvey W. Tyler's, Erastus Wemett's, Henry Stuart's, F. M. Waite's, and the two houses by W. C. Robinson and Sheldon Robinson. Wm. Amos and others have repaired their buildings so that they have now quite fine residences. The stores and houses combined of Frank E. Delong, and Stephen Parshall though mentioned last are by no means least among the additions to the village.

About 1872 or 1873 there was a new street opened, running south from Mill street, which I shall call Center street. In 1878 Furman Thompson built and moved into the house where he now resides. Soon

after the schoolhouse of district number 2 was moved on, enlarged and made into what it now is-a very commodious house. Since then there has been added a number of residences, mostly very good ones.

On Mill street there are some fine residences. Will mention those of D.C. Boone, Edwin Wilber, H. L. Snyder, C. B. Jackman, Henry Ford, David Curtis, S. C. Tyler, Fred Conderman, all which have been lately built or repaired.

## CHAPTER VII

### HUNTS HOLLOW THE FIRST SETTLEMENT IN THE PRESENT TOWN OF SPRINGWATER WRITTEN BY D.B. WAITE

The historian, when he has all the facts and data carefully preserved for him and ready for reference, can feel as he selects and arranges his items that he is not disturbing the crumbling ruins and debris of past ages; but when he is obliged to cull a little here from decaying native tombstones engraved by unlettered art, and a little there from almost obliterated relics of family history, and from the memories of those who, long ago received the last warning of their final dissolution, and arrange them in legible shape, it is certainly not a very pleasing pastime. This we have been obliged to do, and we have aimed to retain such items only as will bear the test of the closest scrutiny, knowing full well that when we controvert the long-published data of misinformed and guessed-work historians who have preceded us, we are incurring the displeasure at least of those, or the descendants of those who took a part in framing the history of their own peculiar people. We shall ask the indulgence of the reader somewhat, for in introducing our earliest settlers we feel obliged to include some who were not residents of the town, but were so closely and so intimately interwoven with its history, that it would be almost impossible to make a separation, and yet present the facts intelligibly, and again, we fully realize the unpleasant fact to us, that as the land had not yet been subdivided, no one knew how lots would be located, and hence two or more would often locate on the same lot, and for convenience often creased the lime of township. This was emphatically the case in the first settlement of the present town of Springwater, which commenced in its north-east corner, in what has been called from a very early days "Hunt's Hollow." A few pioneers from Berkshire county, Massachusetts had settled in the present village of Naples, and were undergoing the privations incident to the life of backwoodsmen, when Aaron Hunt, a soldier of the Revolution from New Jersey, who had a few years before taken up his abode in the once pleasant valley of Wyoming, thinking he could better his situation, with his wife and four children, Aaron J., Andrew, Jane and Sarah, and Jacob Holdren an enthusiastic admirer of Jane, in the early spring of 1795 left Wyoming and ascended the Susquehanna as far as Newtown, now Elmira. Here they put upon an ox sled necessary provisions and what articles of furniture they could conveniently carry, with the family on foot, and proceeded as far as what is now Blood's Corners, where temporary cabins had been erected by Richard Hooker and Joseph Blivin. Fearing the little snow remaining would leave, and thus make it almost impossible for them to bring the balance of their goods on their only land vehicle thus far towards their destination, they unloaded the sled, and the team and driver returned to Newtown for the articles left there. The company now six in number, with what provisions and articles they could carry on their backs, took the Indian trail that led from the Susquehanna to Honeoye lake. Night came on; they lost their way, and amid the howling of wolves, they spent a dreary night beside a fallen tree in the unbroken forest near the eastern line of the present town of Springwater. The next day they resumed their journey to what was after the subdivision of lands lot No. 2, in the present town of Richmond. This is the farm on which Mrs. M. A. Bray lately resided, and the first one settled between the head of the lake and the present village of Naples. Col. John Green had preceded them one year, and was the first settler on the J. G. Briggs farm near the head of the Honeoye lake, and Elijah and Stiles Parker were very early comers there. Many of the first settlers along that road exchanged their farms with the Hon. Francis Granger of Canandaigua for wild lands in Hardin county, Kentucky, and removed thither in an early day.

Jacob Holdren took at first what proved to be lot No. 7, mostly in the present town of Canadice, built him a cabin where the old orchard is on the bottom north of the present school house, married Jane Hunt, and made a temporary abode there, and in the spring of 1796 built a house where George Alger lives, and became the first permanent settler in that town. Jonas Belknap, a soldier of the Revolution, from Massachusetts, but who had also been a resident of the valley of Wyoming, made a temporary residence in the corner of Hopewell near Canandaigua, and then came in the spring of 1795 to this hollow and took lot No. 1, the extreme south lot in the town of Pittstown, now Richmond, and Andrew Hunt, a brother to Aaron, came and went into the cabin first erected by Holdren. Belknap's house stood in the present town of Richmond, but he extended his claim southward into what is now the town of



Springwater, and he made the first improvements, and may well be said to be the pioneer of the town. Andrew Hunt also extended his claims southward, and set out the orchard back of the school house near the old burying ground. James and John Garlinghouse the next year put up a cabin on the line a little west of the present saw mill, and became the first actual residents of the town, and here Mary Garlinghouse was born in June- 1797, and was the first white child born in town. She became in time the wife of Thomas Briggs, of whom we shall speak hereafter. James Garlinghouse married Elanor Hunt, a sister to Aaron. Through the kindness of Mrs. Cynthia A. Avery, a grand-daughter of both Jonas Belknap and James Garlinghouse, of Graudville, Ohio, we have had access to the family records of Jonas Belknap, and learn that Esther Belknap was born just across the line April 1, 1797. Orin Belknap, May 29, 1799, Cynthia Belknap, July 13, 1801, and just over the line in Canadice, Samuel Holdren in 1739. Those were the earliest births in this hollow. John Garlinghouse and his Nephew, Benjamin, afterwards settled in what is now called the "Garlinghouse Settlement." John afterwards went to Richmond, died there and Moses Briggs, the father of Caleb, Thomas, Barzillai and John, married his widow. Belknap sold out his interests on the Richmond side of the line to Aaron Hunt, and in 1806 built a house in Springwater a few rods from the line, where the apple trees are west of the present road. Here his wife, whose maiden name was Esther Parker, died June 10, 1809, and was no doubt the first white person who died in town. She was buried in Richmond, north of the old orchard on the bottom set out by Jacob Holdren and Jennie Hunt in 1795, by the side of George Holdren who was burned to death in 1801. This was without doubt the first death in this hollow. Jonas Belknap sold out in 1813 to John Kelly, went to Kentucky, died and was buried on the bank of Green River, Feb. 16, 1824. He was a man of fair qualifications, a commissioner of schools in Pittstown in 1796, a constable and collector there, also overseer of highways and fence viewer in Middletown in 1808. His children were Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Jonas Jr., Jesse, Susannah, Esther, Orin and Cynthia. Samuel married Sarah, the youngest daughter of Aaron Hunt, and died in Hopewell in 1810. His widow married Artemus Lincoln, after whom Dr. A. L. Hunt of Springwater was named. Lincoln was his uncle by marriage. Elijah died in Indiana, Elisha, Susanna, Esther, Grin and Cynthia in Ohio, and Jonas Jr., and Jesse in Oregon. Kelley came from Canada to his farm, built the house William S. Washburn now lives in; kept tavern there, and was undermined in 1821 or '2 by John Otto. Otto traded farms with Isaac Maltby for lands in Naples, and Hiram, a son of Isaac, kept tavern there in 1839, and remained there one year longer, when Maltby exchanged it with Thomas Briggs for land in Richmond. Briggs lived there until a severe accident befell him, leased the land to George Chapman for two years, and removed to Richmond where he died. Chapman stayed there till the expiration of his lease in 1851, when Barzillai T. Briggs, son of Thomas, bought out the heirs, obtained a deed from the land office, and sold two years afterwards to Frank Culver, and he not meeting the conditions of the contract with Briggs, his father George W. Culver took it off his hands and sold in 1854 to John B. Moore. Moore lived there until 1872 and sold to Cheney and George Abbey 45 acres of the west end of the farm, and they to William S. Washburn, and he to Samuel G. Wilber the present possessor. Moore sold the east 58 acres to the present owner, William S. Washburn, who is the owner of some three hundred acres of land in one body and lying in the five towns of Naples, South Bristol, Canadice, Richmond and Springwater. Kelly's wife died there in 1821, and he and his children went to Troupsburg. His children were just an even dozen, John, James, William, Joseph, Jediah, Ner, Richard, Abram, Catherine, Martha, Sarah and Harriet. Otto died in Naples in 1857 aged 88 years. He came from New Jersey to Canandaigua and to this place; had twenty-one children and brought up two grand children. Hiram Maltby was son-in-law to Otto; went south for his health, and when returning died on shipboard off the coast of South Carolina and was buried in the sea, March 18th, 1848. Moore was born in 1816 in Naples; his mother died in 1821, and he was brought up by Hamilton on the east shore of the Honeoye, and is now living at Blood's Corners, and his children are Lillie living at home in single blessedness, and Albert J. is a train dispatcher at Avon. Barzillai T. Briggs is living in Livonia. Horace Gaylord Washburn grandfather to the present owner of the most of this farm came from Worcester, Otsego county to this hollow in 1798.

The tract of land next south containing some three hundred acres, was first claimed as a home by Samuel Chapin in 1799. He built his first house west from the present road where the old orchard is, and a little north of the old mill site. Elisha Coxe soon afterwards erected a cabin on the west side of the hollow. Andrew Hunt and Samuel Chapin built a gristmill there, probably about 1812 or '13, and a man by the name of Narrowcorn lived in a log house just south of Chapin and tended it. Isaac Maltby

came from Vershire, Orange county Vermont in 1814, and bought out Samuel Parker and James Wright in Naples, just across the line of towns as the line runs now. Andrew Hunt sold out all his worldly interests to Chapin about the same time, and Hunt, Parker and Wright went to Kentucky. Chapin lived there quite a number of years and then built the house, now across the line, where Rachel Maltby now lives, and sold in 1823 to Isaac Maltby. The Maltby farm in Springwater once included all the lands now owned by Byron and William Maltby, John Polmateer. Elisha G. Washburn and George Muck, besides the farm first written about. Ira Maltby, son of Isaac, was the next occupant, and he dying in 1848, his heirs sold to Thomas Warner. Warner owned it some three years. Charles Maltby, another son of Isaac, came next and his widow Rachel, and sons Byron and William own one hundred and thirty-six acres of the original farm. After Chapin built the house now occupied by Rachel Maltby, and moved thereto, Samuel Emmons lived in the house he moved from, and Stephen McFarlin also lived there. While Isaac Maltby owned the farm he built a sawmill not far from the gristmill. These old mill sites are on the premises now owned by John Polmateer. When Chapin sold out, he went to Michigan. His children were Jacob, Anson, Jay and Hannah. Anson lived in the house his father built last, a year or two after they sold out, We are well satisfied that one or more "little strangers" were added to the family of Samuel Chapin while living here, but in the absence of positive proof on that point, we have placed Willard Knowles on record as the second white person born in town. Issac Maltby never lived in the present town of Springwater, but died where he first settled in Naples, April, 1858. Emmons died on the two acres of land his widow now resides on. His children were Serena, Richmond, Lovina, Zerucia, Youngza and Seymour. When Andrew Hunt was a resident of these parts, he was a noted hunter, and many a deer has been brought down by his unerring aim. Before the morning dawned he often visited a deerlick in the immediate vicinity of his home, and his red skinned neighbors also put in an appearance at the same place for the same purpose. On one occasion as he was watching the approach of deer, he spied something crawling through the brush towards the lick, and feeling satisfied it was a deer, he took aim and fired. On examination he found he had not killed a deer but an Indian, an old neighbor with whom he was well acquainted. At first thought, he hardly knew what to do, and not feeling safe to reveal the accidental facts, he took his victim to the little swale west of the present schoolhouse and after depositing him in the mud, threw a few chunks over him, and soon afterwards went to Kentucky, but did not dare to lisp the matter aloud, until on a visit to his old home a long number of years afterwards.

The highway in that hollow in the town of Springwater, was first located near the creek, and passed by where the gristmill stood, and was laid out Dec. 19th, 1790, by John Hooker, surveyor. In June 1808, it was changed to where it now is, and Ephraim Cleveland was the surveyor. As we said in the beginning, the unpleasant part of our task becomes apparent, when we say that only one of the proprietors of the main portion of the lands written about, at present resides in the town of Springwater, and that is William S. Washburn, although all of them and many others in this hollow are within the bounds of the original township lines. Mrs. Emmons, the widow of Samuel, has a lot of two acres, and the town and county lines take but a small portion of her house into the town of Naples. Rachel, Byron and William Maltby live in separate houses in Naples, and cross the line of towns to reach the highway. Their horse barn and nearly all their possessions are in Springwater, and nearly the same may be said of John Polmateer. For convenience this corner of Springwater should be added to Naples.

The first schoolhouse in this hollow stood in the town of Canadice on the corner of the cross road that leads by the present one, and the remains of the old stone chimney can now be plainly seen. The first school taught here was in 1806, and the names of the teachers of 1806 and '7 we are unable to learn, but Judith Hawes, the mother of the late Seymour H. Sutton, of Naples, taught in the summer of 1808, and Jacob Holdren was one of the trustees. She rode upon horseback to and from school, and taught for seven shillings per week, and six miles of that distance had but a single house. Erastus Barber in his youth was a teacher in this district.

## CHAPTER VIII

### NORTH OF THE REYNOLDS GULL WRITTEN BY D.B. WAITE

The farm now occupied by Alva Peabody, his father William Peabody first settled. He came from Stonington, Connecticut, in 1706, to Albany county, and lived there until 1804, when he moved to Manlius in Onondaga county. In the winter of 1813 and '14 he came and took up the farm mentioned; (returned), and he and his family were five days on the road, arriving at their destination the last of February. He erected the first log house on that side of the gull east of Gilbert hollow. He then returned to Manlius and worked by the month through the summer and came back on the 18th day of August and assisted his boys in sowing a small piece of wheat, they having chopped it off during his absence. In the spring of 1831, he not having been very prompt in paying on his land according to agreement, Stephen Higgins, Sen., obtained an article for the purpose merely to enhance the price, which Peabody refused to pay. He left the place the next year and built a log house on the north edge of the John Pursel farm in Canadice, where he died in January 1833, and his wife died soon after. While he had possession of the premises in question, another log house was built near the apple trees on the south edge of the place, where his son Thomas lived for awhile, also another son, Daniel after him, and he was succeeded by Ezra Brown. While Higgins had charge of the place Archibald Coleman from Conesus resided there, when the place was deeded by the office to Fowler Clark who sold it to Henley Thomson. Thomson lived on it until 1853 and sold it to Adney Gibbs, of Livonia. Gibbs sold it in the fall of 1855 to the present owner. While Gibbs owned it Garret Mott, a brother-in-law to Peabody occupied it. Thomson came from Maryland in 1812 to the town of Canandaigua, and to the town of Canadice on the Joseph Gilbert farm in 1817.

The farm next west of there was first claimed by Reuben Mann, in 1813, but he did not build on it or clear any. In 1815 Alpheus and Elisha Martindale came on it, and sold out the west half in 1830 to Salmon B. Howe, and he sold in 1832 to Green Waite, and he to Furman Thomson the present owner, in 1868. The Martindales disposed of the east half in 1831 to Ira Howe, a brother to Salmon. Ira sold in 1834 to Isaac Evens, and he in 1836 to Francillo Stuart. Stuart sold in 1846 to John McCrossen and he to Henley Thomson who willed it to his son Furman, and he deeded it to his daughter, the wife of Oscar F. Ray.

The George W. Bailey farm had a Mr. Kinney for its first claimant in 1813. Noah Crittenden succeeded him, and then followed Seth Sylvester Sen., Seth Sylvester Jr. . Josiah Short, Breeze, Twitchell, Snyder and Boothe to Bailey. Kinney built his house in the lot some distance east of the road, and Crittenden lived in the same. Seth Sylvester Sen. built a log house at first where Bailey's barn now stands, but the Sylvesters before they sold to Col. Short erected the house now standing on the place. Josiah Downs, Daniel Peabody, Nelson Waite, Craton Eldred, George W. Beardsley, William Prine, D. C. Chapman, John McCrossen, L. D. Beers, Isaac H. Bishop, Edmund Dalrymple and Elder Newel have lived on the premises under the different proprietors.

In about 1816 Benjamin Reynolds and his brother-in-law Hill took possession of the farm now owned by Clarke W. Stuart. From old school rolls in my possession, he must have sold in 1834 or '5 to Seth Sylvester Sen. Sylvester died there in about 1837, when the premises passed into the hands of Seth Jr. , who sold it to David Lyon, and he to Francillo Stuart in 1847. While Reynolds and Hill owned the place they built a grist and sawmill in the gull southwest of the house. The grist mill was a small affair, but was a great accommodation to the neighborhood, and the sawmill was used for a long term or years, but in its last days it became so bewitched under the superintendence of Alpheus Conger that he bored the posts full of holes and plugged in the troublesome things. Reynolds also had a grocery where he kept the common necessities of life. While Sylvester Jr., owned the premises he gave one acre of land to Elder Amos Chapman and moved the grocery building on it for a dwelling. George and D. C. Chapman, sons of the Elder, afterwards bought another acre on the west, making two acres, on which the family lived for a number of years after the Elder's death. This is the house in which John W.

Struble lives. Below there a short distance, years ago, stood a log house, but who built it I am unable to learn, and on the knoll north of the brook stood a blacksmith shop where Walter D. Willis once blacksmithed. Giles Norton is the first one I can recollect living in the house, Walter D. Willis next, and Alpheus Conger was the last occupant.

The farm on which George Buckner now lives was in an early day occupied by Samuel P. Benedict, who, when he left the place was boxed up and carried to Buffalo, to avoid being arrested for debt. Jesse Mills was the next occupant, then Liberty W. Butler whose heirs sold it to Samuel Robertson, and his heirs to John Reeves the present owner. At the same time that Benedict was on the main part of the farm, old Mr. Bliss was on the east part. Mason King was next after Bliss, and Butler bought of King.

At an early day the highway led across the gull on this farm, and at that point a sawmill was built by, I think, Stephen Walbridge, and William Pursel lived there, and after him E. A. Still-man. Benedict went to Michigan, Mills also: King to Iowa, and Bliss, Butler and Robertson died on the premises, Pursel died in Springwater and Stiliman lives in Canadice. The Butler heirs are in Illinois.

The Bay farm was first taken by Josiah Downs and Ezra Brown. Brown lived on the east half and Downs on the west half. Stephen Cornell and Edwin Blackmer undermined Brown and Downs, and John Bay, father to Richmond, bought it of them. Cornell I think died there. Brown long went by the name of "sheep" or "Mutton" Brown. He died I think on the knoll west of Hyde Marvin's.

## CHAPTER IX

### MANNER OF LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS-AND FINANCIAL CONDITION OF EARLY SETTLERS

Having mentioned some of the early settlers of the town, I will now describe their condition financially and their means of procuring a living. The most of the first settlers who came here were dependent upon their daily labor to support themselves and families, and as most of the lands were in a state of nature and covered with heavy timber, and required clearing before there could be raised sufficient food to feed the people; therefore other means were necessarily resorted to; and as there was plenty of pine timber upon the hills, a large proportion of the first settlers resorted to lumbering and making shingles for a livelihood. Consequently there were many sawmills built here. The manner of procedure was to select the best trees, take two or three sawlogs, the best of the tree, to the mill to be sawed into lumber and leave the remainder of the tree in the woods to rot. Also in making shingles, they would select a shingle tree by chopping into the side of a tree and split out a block and try it to see if it would split free. If they thought it would make good shingles they would cut it down and saw out a block the right length for shingles and if it worked well they would use up what was suitable for shingles and leave the rest in the woods to decay and go to waste. After the lumber and shingles were manufactured they had to be taken north to some of the previously settled towns and exchanged for bread-stuffs and other necessaries for family use. One way of transporting them was to draw them to the head of Hemlock lake and raft them down to the foot during the summer season, and taking them down on the ice in the winter, or when the lake was sufficiently frozen, where the lumber and shingles could be sold or exchanged for such things as were needed for family use.

In the winter when there was sleighing and the lake well frozen, many of the northerners were in the habit of coming up after lumber and bringing something to exchange for whatever they wanted. Some would bring a barrel of pork and some a few bushels of grain or apples, or such other commodities they might have to spare; and they would frequently get as much lumber for one barrel of pork as they would need for a long time. I have seen as many as one hundred teams passing north from this valley in a day. But things have changed. Our lumber has been used up, and we now have to go to other parts to get lumber for our own use.

I am happy to say that there have been other changes. The forests have been cleared away, and the lands brought under a good state of cultivation, and we are now able to raise our own bread-stuffs, and have each year a large surplus, of the products of the earth to dispose of and send to the eastern markets, instead of to a few northern towns as was previously done, and a citizen of Springwater now may not feel ashamed to say he lives in Springwater, Livingston Co., N.Y.

### MANNER OF CLEARING LANDS.

The most usual way was, when a person wished to clear a piece of land, he first went on and cut all of the brush and timber and commenced the brush heaps. Then he would cut down the larger timber, trim off the limbs and brush and pile them on the heaps, then cut up the bodies of the trees into logging length, about fourteen feet long, and proceed in that manner until the piece was finished. It was a custom with some to leave a few large trees after the tops and brush had been cut and piled without cutting up the bodies of the trees. These were called "roll pile trees." It was a common practice to hire chopping done by the acre; and in such a case the parties would specify that there should be (generally four roll piles to the acre.) Another way of clearing was by slashing, so called, that is by cutting all of the brush and timber so as to nearly cover the ground as possible lopping down the limbs of the larger trees and leaving it for the brush to dry in that manner, not cutting up any of the trees or logs until after the brush was burned. Another way, which was practiced by many, was to cut and clear off all the brush and small timber and girdle the large timber, that is to cut a ring around the tree so as to prevent the sap from ascending, and thereby kill the tree. This was the quickest way of getting the land ready for a crop, but I think the poorest and dearest way in the end, for the limbs

would soon die and become tender and begin to fall off and made it necessary to be continually clearing until the old dead trees were all removed.

But to go back to the first chopping. After the brush were sufficiently dry they were burned; and if they were in good condition the ground was mostly burned over, and the fallow was ready for logging. I will here state that the logging was done by men and ox teams, and there were many who had no team, and those who had not sufficient help to do logging to advantage, therefore, they were in the habit of assisting each other, and when one got his fallow ready to log he would go around and ask all hands and teams to his logging bee; and they were most all ready to turn out, and those who had oxen came with their oxen. If there was a large fallow to log they would make an all day bee, and furnish dinner for the men and teams, and in this way they would log ten or twelve acres in a day. In this way they would go around until all the logging was done for three or four miles around. My father, I remember, made an all day bee and had twelve acres to log, and after that he attended a bee with his team for about two weeks each day, so it was a kind of mutual help all around. By the help of a liberal supply of whisky there could be quite an excitement gotten up in logging. When they arrived at the place of work they would all start in on the same side of the field, each team with a chosen gang of hands. About four besides the driver would take a strip about four or five rods wide and pile the logs into suitable heaps. The large logs were drawn by oxen to the heap and piled by the men, and the small stuff was piled on by hand; and there was a strife to see who could first get across the field, and by passing the jug, often the excitement would increase and the work become more lively, and before night the spirits ran high and the logs came together in a miraculous manner; and the oxen, some of them, seemed to enjoy the sport as well as the men and some of them that were used to the business seemed to know what they were about as well as the men, and when their chain was hitched to a log they would go to the heap with it, and the men had to get out of the way or be run over.

#### **NIGGERS.**

As I have given a little in relation to clearing land, I will now state that some employed "niggers" to assist in working up their large timber. (Do not take this as meaning the same kind of Negroes that the lazy Southerners employed to do their work) I will explain: If one had some very large logs to dispose of, and too large to chop he would nigger them up into logging length by cutting a few notches on top of the log, at proper distances apart, and then build a fire on the log and lay a few poles across the log, and let them burn ; by going around once or twice a day and waking up their niggers, by punching off the coals and laying on more poles across they would in three or four days nigger off or burn the logs in two.

#### **MANNER OF DOING BUSINESS.**

Having made mention of some of the early settlers and their locations, their manner of doing business may be in order, and to show the contrast in the way of town business then and now, I will give the record of the settlement with the supervisor of the town as taken verbatim from the book:

Oliver Jennings, To the town of Springwater, Dr. as supervisor for 1817, to monies received of the collector \$175.00. Cr. September 28th, 1818:

We the undersigned having met to audit the accounts of Oliver Jennings, later supervisor, do find that the money paid together with his own services to amount to \$175.16. JOHN CULVER, J. P. Hugh Wilson, Town Clerk. Will now give some of the by laws on votes taken at the second annual town meeting held in the town of Springwater, on the 1st day of April, 1818: Voted that path masters shall be fence viewers That Erastus Barber shall be pound master and his barn said to answer for pound, and that John Wadams and Joad Gillette shall likewise be pound master, and their yards to be town pounds. Voted that owners of rams shall forfeit one dollar per day for each day they run at large from the first of September to the first of November. Voted that all hogs weighing over fifty weight shall be free commoners. Voted that solid fence five feet high shall be considered lawful fence. Voted that the next

town meeting shall be held at the school house near John Rudes (This was at Marvins corners on the hill.)

-Ontario County - Statement of votes as taken at the anniversary election for members of assembly, 1818, viz: Benjamin Green had one hundred and one votes; Elijah Spencer had ninety-six votes; John Van Fossen had ninety-nine votes; William McCartney had ninety-six votes; Nathaniel Case had ninety-five votes; John A. Stephens had eighty-seven votes; Myron Holley had eleven votes; Michael Mussleman had five votes; Timothy Barnard had six votes: William Billinghamurst had five votes; Eli Hill had one vote; Valentine Brother had thirteen votes. For members of Congress, Nathaniel Allen, had one hundred one votes; Albert H. Tracey had one hundred and one votes. For Senator, Perry G. Childs had ten votes; Gamaliel H. Rarsto had twenty votes, David L Evens had twenty votes; Samuel Paine had ten votes.

#### **EAR MARKS.**

In the early days of Springwater it was a custom to let cattle, sheep and hogs run at large on the commons anal in the woods, and it was necessary that they should be marked, so that each person could claim his own; therefore, each person had an ear mark by which all stock was marked before they were turned loose in the spring. I will give a few as I find them upon record: May 11th, 1817, Oliver Jennings (mark) square crop off the right ear and a slit underside the same; Alphus Phelps' mark is a square crop on the left ear; Lyman Herrick's mark a swallow' fork on the right ear; Simon Pemberton's mark a slit in the right ear and a hole in the left; David Herrick's mark, a swallow fork in the left ear; John W. Barnes' mark, a slanting crop on the under side of the right ear; Abner Goodrich's mark, a square crop on the right ear and a slit in the left; Solomon Doud's mark, a slanting crop on the upper side of the left ear; Hugh Wilson's mark, the left ear cropped, the right slit deep; Mark Wilson's cows, his hogs and sheep; Jacob Gillette's mark, the right ear cropped (as he has said it) the other left as nature made it; as H. H. Grover nothing got I slip his mark down 0.

As I have given sufficient to show style of marks, I will say that cattle, sheep and hogs running at large, and having the range of the woods, could come out in the fall looking sleek and well, and many young cattle fit for beef, and hogs, especially when it was a good fall for shack, (plenty of nuts and acorns) would grow well and fatten so as to be fit for pork without any other feeding. I have known a great many hogs taken from the woods and killed, and they were very nice pork, except it would be a little oily when fattened mostly on beach nuts. When our cows ran in the woods in the spring they were in the habit of feeding on leeks, and when they found plenty of them their milk and the butter made from their milk would be so highly flavored from the leek that it would be nearly unfit for use; and sometimes an onion or leek would be eaten before the milk or butter, and in that way it could be eaten very well. There were many ways in which the early settlers were deprived of the privileges and conveniences which we now enjoy. The wheat then raised was very apt to be smutty and as the mills here were not provided with smut machines or other means of cleaning the smut from the wheat, it had to be ground as it was taken to the mill smut and all; consequently we got very dark flour unless we cleansed the wheat before taking to mill. The usual way was to wash the wheat. I will describe the way of doing so: They would take a tub or other large vessel and partly fill with water and then gradually pour in the wheat. The smut balls would remain on top of the water and the wheat sink to the bottom, then skim off the smut balls and what else that came to the top, and then by stirring and rubbing the wheat with the hands, and then draining off the water and adding fresh water and rubbing and washing until the smut was all removed, then drain as dry as possible and spreading on blankets or sheets and placing in the sun or other convenient place to dry; and by tending and stirring a few days it would be sufficiently dried to grind, and in that way we could get quite passable flour. But let us go back and mention the manner of harvesting, threshing and separating the grain from the chaff. The only way of cutting grain in the early days of Springwater, was with the sickle, which was a slow way but a very saving way, as there was but very little grain wasted if well reaped. A good reaper would reap about one acre and bind the same in a day. In a few years grain cradles came into use, which was an improvement on the sickle, but after the cradle came into use the sickle was resorted to for lodged

grain, rough places or steep side hills. I recollect of cutting wheat for Wells Chamberlin with a cradle on the west part of what is now A. G. Marvin's farm, when at the same time there were other men cutting with sickle on the steepest part of the field. This was in 1827 or '28, and the first crop ever raised upon said field. I also cradled a piece of wheat for Willis Carpenter the same year on the field east of Nelson F. Snyder's house. I was then but eighteen or nineteen years old. After cradles came into general use the most of the grain was cut by them for a number of years, and until within ten or fifteen years past, when reapers began to take the place of cradles and horse power was used in place of man power for cutting; and now self binders are doing away with hand binding and the latest improvement is the bundle carrier by which sheaves are dumped in piles ready for setting up in shocks to dry, which as yet has to be done by hand, here but on the western prairies they have machines to cut, thresh, separate and bag the wheat all combined. I believe the bags have to be tied by hand and thrown off the machine, but we are not able to guess what will come next. But to go back to Springwater. Seventy years ago the most of the grain raised had to be threshed with a flail, which at that time was about as cheap and profitable way as any, for if a man had more grain than he wanted to thresh himself, he could hire a man, usually during the winter season, for about thirteen dollars per month, or fifty cents per day, and let him thresh all winter or as long as the grain held out; and if there was stock to feed they could feed out the straw while threshing, which was much better than for the cattle to pull it from the straw stack, as at the present time, and as the farmers were not in a hurry to market their crop, as at that time there were no railroads, and the Erie canal was not completed until 1824, so there were no means of conveying the grain to the eastern market, and the surplus had to be disposed of at home. Consequently much of the coarse grain was manufactured into whisky. One other mode of threshing: After there were barns with floors sufficiently large they were in the habit of using horses to thresh. They would fill the floor with sheaves of grain and then drive on the horses, as many as could be conveniently used; and by driving them around on the grain and letting them tramp it out with their feet, and by continuing to stir up the straw with a fork and tramping with the horses, they would get the grain very well threshed. There were no threshing machines here until about 1830. There was then one built and started at Thos. L. Spafard's barn where Ezra Willis now lives. The cylinder was made of wood and cast iron lags or beaters bolted on to a tight hollow cylinder, and when they started up the machine it seemed to be all right, but in a few minutes, from some cause the cylinder burst and the fragments flew in every direction, one of the pieces striking Amos Spafard in the head, putting out one of his eyes, breaking his jaw bones, and disfiguring his face very bad. He made out to live and get well, but it changed him from a good looking and one of the most active young men among us to a poor disfigured and discouraged man, and after a few years he died. The improvements that have been made in threshing machines since then are too well understood, and the manner of threshing so familiar to all that they need no explanation from me; so we will go back and clean up the wheat that we had pounded out with the flail. As there were no fanning mills here for a few years after the first settlement of the town, the people had to resort to the old style hand fan, such as we read of in olden times, or by winnowing. The fan was fiat and fan-shaped, and so as to hold about a peck of wheat with the chaff at a time and by tossing up and catching the wheat in the fan as it came down the wind from the falling wheat would blow away the chaff, and by continuing this process for a little time the chaff would be all removed, leaving the wheat in the fan, and then by wrying so called yerking the fan back and forth a few times, the wheat heads or short straws that were left would be collected on the top and at the center of the wheat and they could be brushed off. A common thing to brush off with was a hen's or a goose's wing, which was kept for that purpose, and in that way the wheat could be very well cleaned, though it was a slow and tedious process. Another way to clean up was by winnowing. To do this they would clean a place on the threshing floor, and then when there was a good strong wind blowing they would take a scoop shovel or measure of the wheat and chaff and by holding it as high as possible pore it out gradually, and the wheat would fall in a pile by its self and the chaff would be carried along by the wind and fall in a place separate from the wheat, and by repeating this process a few times the wheat could be got possibly clean. But in the present age of progress and improvement these old ways of doing business are almost forgotten or unknown to the young or the rising generation. This is truly a wonderful age, and old customs as well as old people, are fast passing a way, and new inventions and a new or younger generation are taking the place of those that have gone before; and still the world wags on awaiting God's appointed time for another change



## CHAPTER X

### HEMLOCK LAKE STATE DAM REMOVED BY SPRINGWATER BOYS

In giving a brief account of the removal of the above mentioned dam I will go back and state why the said dam was built. About the same of the opening the Erie canal, which was in 1824, it was thought that the waters of the lakes might be needed to assist in feeding the canal, so they got a grant from the legislature of the state to build dams at the foot of the lakes, Conesus, Hemlock and Canadice; and the dams were built about 1825 or 1826, so as to raise the water some three or four feet above the usual high water mark; but in a short time it was ascertained by the canal authorities that the water from the said lakes were not needed as canal feeders, and they were never used for such purpose. But the mill owners on the outlet of Hemlock lake found the dam very convenient to hold back and reserve some four or five feet of water, so that it could be drawn off and used to supply their mills in the latter part of the summer, when owing to the dry season of the year the natural flow of water was not sufficient for their use. So they kept up the dams and kept the gates in the flumes where the water was drawn off until needed by them, which caused the water at the head of the lake to set back into the swampy woods at the south of the lake for some half or two-thirds of a mile, and by being kept back until the hot part of the summer and then being drawn down, it soon caused the timber in the swamp to die, and also left decaying vegetation and malarial substance which impregnated the surrounding atmosphere in such a manner that the inhabitants in the vicinity of the lake believed it to be the cause of the numerous cases of ague and malarial fevers that prevailed during the summers of 1828 and 1829, in Springwater, and about the head of the lake; and as the mill owners on the outlet having refused to take out the gates at the dam and let the water take natural course, and as the water in the lake in the spring of 1830 was very high, so much so that a person with skiff could easily pass up through the swamp south of where Caleb Buckner now lives, and about to the north line of Harlow Colegrove's farm; and as there was no sign of relief from the foot of the lake, the people of Springwater and around the head of the lake decided to take the matter into their own hands and remove the dam. So a day was set and notice given for a general turnout to go down and accomplish the work. On the morning of the day appointed, which I think was about the first of June, there was a goodly number assembled and started from Springwater Valley to go down the lake, some on horseback, some in carriages, and such means of conveyance as they might have; and as they passed along, others fell in by the way so that when we arrived at the Half Way House, then kept by Abner Goodno, there were not less than two hundred men ready for such work as might be required of them. Here a council was called and Solomon K. Chamberlin was chosen captain or commander of the forces; and before starting from there was a resolution passed that we would be governed by and strictly obey the orders of our captain in all things. We were then instructed that we should not have any conversation with any one outside of our own company, and not to use any loud talk among ourselves, and to be very peaceable in passing to and from our work. We then started down the lake and all passed along quietly until we got down to the old Abidjah Archer farm, when those in front saw a man in the field plowing with a pair of horses. He hitched one horse, took the harness off the other, got upon him and started him at a run, those seeing him, thinking he might be going to get possession of the building over the flume at the dam, let their horses run for the dam also, but the man from the field was going to Slab City to notify the millers and not to the dam. So we all arrived safely at the dam. Now for a fair understanding of the matter, it will be necessary to give a brief description of the dam. It was built by first bedding two heavy oak mud sills on each side of the outlet of the lake ten or twelve feet apart and twenty feet or more in length. Into these sills were framed heavy oak posts about one foot square and some five or six on each side, and framed into and pinned to the mud sills so as to form a strong bulkhead or flume. The posts were of sufficient length to stand some six or eight feet above high water, with caps across the top and roofed over with a shingled roof, and planked up above the water, and so constructed as to put in head gates to shut back the water, or take out as they wished to draw down the lake. On each side of the flume and at the lake end of it there was a wing built of square hewed timber some fifty feet in length and laid on top of each other, and held to the gravel bank and of sufficient height to come above high water, and a bank of gravel raised as far as necessary to hold the water.

We were well supplied with axes, crowbars and heavy ropes, that we had brought with us from home. The first work was to cut off the posts of the bulkhead hitch ropes to the roof, and tip it over into the water, and draw it out on the land, which was easily done, as the water was high and the outlet full to the top of the banks.

After removing the roof the next thing was to draw up and remove the gates, knock off the planks, and then by hitching two large ropes to the top of a post in opposite directions, and as many men taking hold as the ropes would allow, we commenced pulling first one way then the other, and after a little the post would begin to move a little and increase in motion, as they continued to pull, and after the pins gave way the post would come to the top of the water and be drawn out on to the land; and by perseverance all the posts were removed in this way and there was none of the bulkhead left standing. During the removal of the posts some of the men were engaged in taking out the wing timbers, and about this time Isaac Van Fossen, Ichabod A. Holden and others interested in the mills on the stream below came up and protested against the removal of the dam. But as the men did not scare worth a cent Holden began to beg saying that his mill dam was broken and if they let down so much water it would ruin his mill, and begged them not to take out any more of the dam at present; and it was decided to adjourn the rest of the work for a few weeks; and as the men at work at the wing timbers had removed the top timbers, and as about twenty of us were in the water and had loosened a timber and raised it to the top of the water ready to be drawn out, S. K. Chamberlin, our captain, called a halt and we let the timber back in its place and sat down upon it in the water. Then the captain said, "Boys your work is done; we have decided to remove no more of the dam at present, and now we will start for home;" and in less than five minutes all had left and were on the road homeward bound. Abner Goodrich, the keeper of the Half Way House, went down with a skiff and as he learned that they were after a warrant for him, and as he was anxious to get home and out of the county, he got a horse and started in advance of the main force. He requested me to get his skiff, and as I was getting ready to start out with the skiff, and after all the others had gone and were some distance away, John Van Fossen, the owner of the Slab City mills came up on a horse at full rue and commenced to question me in relation to the men that had been there. I answered him by saying that I was under instructions to have no conversation with strangers, and I rowed away in the skiff and left him standing upon the shore, and from his appearance I judged him to be as mad a man as ever was left alone without any one to scold at or quarrel with. One little incident I will mention, Captain Reuben Gilbert Sr., a man some seventy-five years of age was one of the company that went down from Springwater on this occasion and old Mr. Jacques, living near the dam about the same age, and an old friend of the captain, came out and seeing the captain among the company began to remonstrate with him, and was very sorry to see him engaged in such a work. The Captain answering him said, "Mr. Jacques I have lost all my hearing since I last saw you. I can't hear a word you say. - Not a word. " We will now go back with the company to Springwater Valley. Andrew Spafard then kept a tavern where Maurice Brown lived, and when we got there all the horseback riders formed a line with old Captain Gilbert at the head on a large white horse and rode up through the village and back to the tavern where we found plenty of lemon punch, egg nog and other refreshments, and after refreshing the inner man, the company broke up and went to their homes. I have now only to state that later in the summer, and after having got permission from the state authorities, another company went down and removed the remaining portion of the dam. This time the company was not as large, but we found no opposition and we did the work in a peaceable manner and returned to our homes. I. A. Holden sued S. K. Chamberlin and a number of others for damage done to his mill dam and got three or four hundred dollars damage and this ended the removal of the old lake dam.

## CHAPTER XI

### BIOGRAPHY OF EARLY SETTLERS

**Orson Walbridge**, The writer of this biography was born on the 14th day of September, 1809, at the town of Burlington, Otsego County, New York was a son of Stephen and Eunice Walbridge, lived with his parents at Burlington until June, 1819, when they removed to Springwater, N.Y. Arrived at Springwater the 30th day of June, and went to live on the west hill, on lot No. 113, which is now known as the Edward Totten farm; attended school at the old log school house where the house known as the liberty pole school house now is; worked on the farm summers and attended school in the winter; assisted some in clearing the land which was mostly woods when we went there; cleared about fifty acres in the six years we were there, after which my father removed to the Valley on to the farm now owned by R. H. Wiley and where his hop yard now is; continued to live with my parents; worked on the farm in the summer and attended district school some in the winter for three or four years longer; made my home with my parents until the spring of 1881, when they moved on to the east bill near Tabor's Corners, at which time I left and provided a home for myself in the Valley.

In the summer of 1829 I commenced to work at the carpenter and joiner trade, and assisted in building a store for Z. B. Grover, on the corner where Morris & Grover's store now stands. The next season worked some at the trade, a part of the time at Dansville, for Jabes and Sedley Sill, on the paper mill being built by them; in the fall engaged in the business of butchering and peddling meat, in company with Solomon K. Lawrence. In the spring of 1831 was elected a constable for the town of Springwater, and was kept quite busy, this being the last year of the law of imprisonment for debt, the law having been repealed to take effect on the first day of March, 1832; and as the merchants and others having outstanding debts were suing and trying to collect and making it lively times for justices and constables, but not very profitable, as the fees were not more than half what they are now. On the 5th day of June, 1831, I was married to Eliza Frost, daughter of Jonathan Frost. She was born in the town of Hartford, Washington County, N. Y., on the 30th day of January, 1809. She came to Springwater with her parents in the fall of 1880. We lived in the Valley until the fall of 1832. On the second day of September, 1832, our first child was born, a daughter. She died when but a few days old. On the first day of November, 1882, we removed up south of the Valley, near where the fish ponds now are, built a log house to live in, and commenced to build a saw mill for Thos. L. Spafard; worked through the winter and started the mill in the spring; employed Samuel Culver to oversee the mill work, and worked with him myself, which was the first of my working at millwright work. I assisted in running the mill the first season, and in the fall rented it for one year, and run it on my own account. About the first of April, 1834, the mill took fire and burned off the upper story, and I was forced to rebuild, and as I could not find a millwright that I could employ, I was compelled to be my own boss, and in a little over two weeks we had the mill in running order again. On the first day of October, 1884, we moved back to the Valley, which has been my home ever since, except a few times going away to do a short job of work. After this I continued to work at carpenter, joiner and millwright work for many years. On the 12th day of February, 1837, our second child was born, Eunice S. Walbridge, who is now living with me in the same house in which she was born. In the spring of 1889, I took a job of building a meeting house for the Christian church on east hill; went up there and built the house and came back in the fall to where I now am. In the spring of 1889, I was elected one of the commissioners of highways of Springwater with Green Waite and Harvey Morley, and served as such for that year. In the spring of 1840, I took the job to build the Presbyterian church in the Valley and built it during that summer, and continued to work at the trade as I received calls. In June, 1842, I went to Burns, Allegany County, N.Y., and put up a church frame for the Little John Presbyterians. On the 30th day of June, 1842, our third child was born, a son, George H. Walbridge, who died on the 26th day of September, 1847. In the spring of 18, I got the "Michigan fever," or a desire to go West and see what I could see; so in April I went up to Hilladale, Mich., and stopped and worked there for a spell, then went to Jonesville and put up the Episcopal church at that place, after which I came home about the last of August and was soon taken down with malarial or Michigan fever, and came near to death's door, but was spared for that time, as my work was not all done. Between 1840 and 1850, I was elected commissioner of highways of Springwater for five years in succession, and served the town as such whether good or bad, I leave the

people to decide. About this time worked mostly at millwright work. In 1847 assisted in building a steam saw mill for Gilbert and Scribner, in the town of Ossian, Allegany County, and a house for Christopher Ford, where Mrs. Barber Eldridge now lives. In 1848 built over the old grist mill for Thos. M. Fowler, where Wm. Brewer's south mill is. In 1849, helped to remove the old Fowler mill from the big gull over on the Cohocton stream, and built it up again where the East Springwater grist mill now is. In 1850 built a saw mill for Fowler near the grist mill. Also built a saw mill for Dr. John B. Norton where Wm. H. Norton now lives. In 1851 built an addition to the Fowler mill in the Valley, which was burned the winter following; and in the spring of 1852, D. H. Grover and myself took the contract to build a large mill with three runs of stone, for Thomas M. Fowler at the place where the old mill was burned, which job lasted us all summer. In the spring of 1853 I took a job in company with D. H. Grover to build a grist mill for Waterbury & Head on Neil's Creek, Steuben County; also a saw mill for Salmon Waterbury on the same creek, and an addition with one run of stones to the grist mill at Liberty Corners for D. H. Wilcox, all of which we completed in seven months time. In the summer of 1854 I built a saw mill for Ithial Nickson on Twelve Mile Creek, Steuben County, which was all the mill work I did that summer, I will now go hack a little. In the spring of 1851, at the town meeting for Springwater, the people saw fit to elect me a justice of the peace of said town, to fill a vacancy, so that I commenced to do business as such justice immediately, and as the railroad was being built through this town it made business quite lively, as fights and other troubles among the workmen were very frequent and they were in the habit of calling for legal help to settle their troubles. One important event I will mention. On the night of the first of January, 1852, the Irish had a dance at the house where Frank Doughty now lives, and as they had some trouble with outsiders, and seeing a number of persons coming towards the building some one in the house fired into the company, and Edwin Barnes was killed, and Wm. Totten, D. G. Smith and others were wounded with shot. I issued warrants and over twenty of the Irish were arrested, examined and sent to jail, but the person that did the shooting could not be identified, and they were all discharged. Had they allowed Rodney Messer to have blown up the house with a keg of powder, as he wanted to, I think they might have got the right one. After this I continued to hold the office of justice until the first of January, 1862, and worked some at my trade and did such official business as I was called on to do. At the election in November 1855, I was elected session justice for Livingston County, and served as such for the year 1856. Now this brings to mind the officers of this judicial district. The justices of the Supreme Court were Thomas A. Johnson, of Conning; Henry Welles, of Penn Yan; E. Darwin Smith, of Rochester; the others name I do not now recall. The county judge was George Hastings, of Mt. Morris; and David Gray, of Livonia, was the other session justice. They have all finished their labors and gone to their reward and I alone am left to tell the story. I will mention some of the prominent lawyers that have passed away that were then in the habit of attending court at Geneseo: Orlando and Truman Hastings, of Rochester; Adolphus Skinner, of Batavia; Luther C. Peck, of Nunda; Martin drover, of Angelica; Benjamin Harwood, of Dansville; Reuben P Wisner, of Mt. Morris; Wm. H Kelsey, Amos A. Handa, Scott Lord, of Geneseo; Harvey J Wood, of Lima; John Wilkinson and Joseph Smith, of Dansville. They are all dead, and there are but few now that I can call to mind living. I will mention a few that were then active lawyers and are still engaged in their profession: James Wood, A. J. Abbott, Solomon Hubbard, John A. Van Derlip, James Adams and Hon. Edwin A. Nash were then young lawyers and were about commencing business. But to return to myself; I continued to work at my trade and do justice business until the fall of 1858, when I was taken with sciatic rheumatism, and was confined to my house all winter, and was not able to do any work, except to attend my garden, until the spring of 1860, when I had so far recovered as to be able to commence working at my trade; and having a call from the trustees of the Universalist society at Liberty Corners, I went and assisted them in putting up a church frame, and then D. H. Grover and myself finished the church for them, which took the most of the summer. In the spring of 1861, I was elected supervisor of Springwater, which was the time of the commencement of the war of the Rebellion, and we had lively times in filling the calls of the President for volunteers, and raising bounties to get them to enlist; but we had very good success in finding troops, and as time passed along until the winter of 1862, I was again attacked with rheumatism, and was confined to my house for a long time. At the town meeting in the spring of 1862, I was again elected supervisor without opposition, though at the time I was confined to my bed by sickness. At the meeting of the board of supervisor that year I was chosen chairman of the board, and served them as such during the year. Though suffering some from rheumatism. At the town meeting for 1868, Thomas M. Fowler was elected

supervisor, and I did not hold any town office for that year. In the spring of 1864, I was elected a constable and collector of the town and collected one of the large taxes during the war. In the spring of 1865, I was again elected supervisor of the town, and served at the close of the war. The next year Albert M. Withington took my place as supervisor, and I was again a free man without being a servant of the people or holding any town office. But as time passed on to the spring of 1868, I was again elected a justice of the Peace of the town, which office I have held the most of the time since, and excepting two short vacancies, and am now holding said office, which term will expire on the last day of December next. Having got through with giving my official history I will now go back to 1871. This year I helped erect the Advent Christian church in Springwater, which was about the last I did at such kind of work, though I have worked some at the trade since. On the fifth day of December 1871, my wife died with typhoid pneumonia after we had lived together just forty years and six months to a day, having been married on the fifth day of June, 1831, and since then I have been living with my daughter as house keeper where I am now and where I have lived for over fifty years, and in the same house where my daughter was born. and having gone through with this lengthy though brief description of myself and family, I will close by giving my most sincere and devout thanks and praise to God for his mercy and goodness towards me in sparing my life to a good old age, and for the many mercies and blessings he has daily bestowed upon me as well as to my friends, citizens of Springwater, for the many favors and benefits they have freely bestowed upon me, and my prayer is that God will reward them if I am not able to do so.

**Dyers Family.** I will now mention a family of Dyers that were born in the town of Benson, Vermont. I will give the names of those who came to Springwater to live, as they come in order of age: Lima, born in 1802, came to Springwater in 1882, and died here in 1873; and Horatio Dyer, born in 1805, came to Springwater in 1828, and engaged in mercantile business. He married Electa A. Southworth, daughter of Alva Southworth, Esq. They raised a family of four children, two sons and two daughters. After a few years he quit selling goods and engaged in farming. He was successful in both trade and farming, and in 1884, he sold his farm and removed to Dansville where he and his two sons, Solon S. and Frank, engaged extensively in the mercantile business, in which they continued until his death, which was in 1880, his wife having died a few years previous. The two sons are still continuing the business at the old place. The daughters are also living at Dansville. One is Mrs. Marcus O. Austin, and the other Mrs. Charles Stephen. Thomas T. Dyer, another of the family first mentioned, was born in 1810 He came to Springwater in 1829, and was engaged in a store of his brother's for many years. He was also postmaster here for a few years. He finally got married and went to the state of Ohio, where he resided until some eight or ten years since, when his wife died and he came back to Springwater and remained here until his death, which happened in 1882. The father of this family having previously died, the mother came West in 1832, to Richmond, N. Y., where she was attacked with cholera and died, and Lima came to Springwater to live with her brother Horatio. The youngest son of the family, Daniel E. Dyer, was born in Benson, Vermont, on the 22nd day of November, 1817, and remained there until the fall of 1834, when he came to Springwater to live, and where he has made it his home ever since. He first tried farming, then teaching school, after which he tried selling goods by traveling from house to house. He was rather successful in business, in about 1842 or 1843, commenced selling goods at the old store on the corner where Allen & Whitlock now are, and continued the business for ten or twelve years. On the 13th day of September, 18, he married Cordelia H. Day, daughter of Dr. Elisha C. Day. She was born in Cohecton, Sullivan County, N. Y., May 18th, 1817. Dyer was engaged in selling goods at the time the railroad was being built, from 1850 to 1853, and had the most of the Irish trade, and sold a large amount of goods and made considerable money, but soon after this his health failed and he retired from the business, and is now trying to enjoy the fruits of his labors of earlier days, and having no children and no one but himself and wife to provide for, and having an abundance of means, he has taken it upon himself to look after the wants of the widows and orphans, and is very liberal in supplying the wants of such as he considers deserving poor about him; and there are many that will remember with grateful hearts the assistance they have received from him in time of need.

**Edward Withington** Married his first wife in Stoughton, Mass., and settled in Dorchester, and from there in 1813 he moved to Windsor, Berkshire county, and from there he came with his family to Springwater, in the spring of 1813, and settled on the farm now occupied by Samuel Wheaton. Mr.

Withington married for his first wife Nancy Monk, (She was a relative of Bezi Monk late of this town,) by whom he had seven children. He buried three of his children and his first wife in Mass. He married for his second wife Susan Chilson, by whom he had two children, Albert M. Withington and Benjamin Franklin Withington. A sad accident occurred with Franklin. I think it was in 1834, when he was about 6 years old, on returning from school in company with his brother, Albert, they were riding on a buck-board on a two-horse wagon. When he arrived opposite his home he jumped from the wagon, but not clearing the wheel, he was run over and fatally injured, and died the same night. The children of Edward by his first wife who came to Springwater with him were, Nathaniel P., Hiram, Samuel H., and Nancy Monk Withington. Hiram went south to live in 1840, and settled in Memphis, Tenn., where in 1878 he died. Nancy married Hon. Wm. Webber in 1849, and settled in East Saginaw, Mich. He is a prominent lawyer and one of the leading men of the state. Nathaniel and Samuel are still living here with their families, having retired from the active business of life. Albert is also in this place, engaged in the warehouse business, buying and selling grain, and at present in company with George E. Withington, son of S. H. Withington.

Mr. Withington lost his second wife in 1832, some time after which he married her older sister, Lydia Chilson. Mr. Withington's farm consisted of about 200 acres. When he settled on it in 1831, it was quite new and unimproved, but under his judicious management it became one of the best farms in town. The fall before he moved here he brought from Windsor a flock of about 200 fine Saxony sheep. He in company with two of his sons, Hiram and Samuel, drove the sheep to Albany, and from there to Utica he took them by the Erie canal, and from there to Springwater drove them by land, averaging about 20 miles a day. The sheep were wintered by General S. U. Chamberlain, and Hiram assisted in the care of them through the winter. Samuel stayed through the winter with Jonathan Bassett in Canandaigua, and came on to Springwater in the spring with the family.

Mr. Withington died Sept. 25, 1855, and his wife died Oct. 17, of the same year. There were five heads of families buried the same day that Mr. Withington was buried. A great many of the people died by a terrible epidemic that prevailed extensively in town that season. Samuel and Nathaniel carried on the farm after their father's death until 1868, when they sold to Allen Becker, and by him it was sold to Samuel Wheaton the present occupant.

**Jonathan Frost** came to Springwater from Hartford, Washington Co., N.Y., in 1830 He purchased of David Luther the old tannery property near where Maurice Brown lived. He repaired the tannery and went quite extensively into the business of tanning leather and manufacturing boots and shoes, which he continued for about fifteen years, when he sold the property to Joseph C. Whitehead who continued the business for a number of years. But to return to Jonathan Frost and give a brief description of his family. He married Tamor Ballou. They had eight children, two sons and six daughters I will mention them in their order. Elvira married James C. Van Duzee. They are now living at Almond village, Allegany County, N.Y. Eliza married Orson Walbridge and lived in Springwater until her death, which was on the 5th day of Dec., 1871. John J. Frost, the oldest son, married Ann Johnson, of Groveland. They are now living in the town of Ossian. Mary M. married John Jennings and lived in Springwater for many years. They are now living at Sparta. Mrs. Mary Jennings died Jan. 3rd, 1887. Rebecca first married George Barber, of Groveland, who died in 1840. After about twelve years she married Rufus Chandler, of Nunda, and they soon after left for California, she crossing the Isthmus on mule back. After remaining at Walla Walla California some three years they returned to Nunda, and he volunteered and went into the Union army where he died, after which she came to Dansville to live, where she remained until her death, May 9th, 1875. Lydia Frost married David Fuller, and after a few years they removed to Wisconsin, where she died some ten years since. Electa P. married John Van Husen, of Avoca. She is now living at Dansville. David, the youngest son, is now living somewhere in Northern Wisconsin. Jonathan Frost died at Springwater, August 4th, 1857, aged 76 years, 8 months and 2 days. Tamor Frost, his wife, also died at Springwater.

**Jared Erwin** was born in the town of Piermont, New Hampshire, June 12th, 1797, where he continued to reside until about 1885 or 1886. He was married January 1st, 1823. He came to N.Y. state, to Rochester and then to Mt. Morris, in 1886, where his wife died on the 27th day of April, 1838, leaving him with four children, one son and three daughters, viz: Henry, now living at Mt. Morris; Emily

married Carrol M. Humphrey now living at Springwater; Hellen married George Baker, and Mary married Calvin Barnes, of Conesus. The two last mentioned are both dead. After a time Mr. Erwin married a widow Arnold who had two children by her first husband, the oldest Linda E., is now Mrs. John D. Clemmons, of Springwater, the other Nathan M. Arnold is living West. After Mr. Erwin's second marriage and in 1842, he came to Springwater and bought the Ehiakem Brown farm on West Hill, where he spent the remainder of his days. By the last wife they had three children who are all now living. Will give their names, Laura A. , now Mrs. Erastus Knowles; Ann Eliza, Mrs. Winfield Janes, now of Boston: and William, now at Geneseo. Jared Erwin was a man of influence and besides being a first class farmer, he held some offices in town; was justice of the peace for a number of years, and was truly a peace maker, for he always discouraged lawsuits. I believe he did not issue but one summons during his term of office, and then he got the parties to settle so that he never tried a case. He died on the 28th day of September, 1871. Mrs. Erwin survived him and continued to live at the old homestead until July 12th, 1884, at which time she also died.

**Amos Root** was born September 2nd, 1796, in the state of Vermont, came West and finally settled at Livonia, and after a time married Roena Hale, who was born October 81st, 1794, and after living at Livonia for a time they moved to the state of Ohio, and not being satisfied with the country came back and stopped at Springwater, about 1827, and settled on a farm now owned by Jacob Snyder. About 1831 he bought the farm where James M. Root recently lived, and moved on to it, where he remained until his death, which was a number of years since. His wife survived him for a considerable time and then died. When Root came to Springwater he was quite poor but after removing to the last mentioned farm he was successful in business, and after a few years was able to purchase other farms adjoining and build a fine residence, and was well prepared to enjoy his declining years, but time waits for no one and he was called to rest. They had eight children, five sons and three daughters. Will mention them. Aaron H. married Hannah Wilcox. He died long ago. Amos S. married Harriet Parshall. He died a few years since his wife still survives. James M. married Adilade Hopkins. They are now living in the village. Zara B. also married and died a number of years since. Frank is still living in town, married to a Miss Holmes. The oldest daughter, Julia Ann, married Levi Brockway and is now living on the east hill within a mile of her old home. Fanny married Nelson F. Snyder. She died a few years since. Lucina married Henry Parshall and is now living in Michigan.

**Prentiss W. Shepard** was born in the town of Cohocton, Steuben County, N.Y.. on the 2nd day of July, 1829. After a few years moved to Naples, and married Anna Briggs in March, 1865. He came to Springwater and bought the H. H. Faskett farm on east hill. He was very successful in farming, and after a few years was able to buy other farms adjoining. Three years since he moved to Lima for the purpose of educating his children. He has three, one daughter, Mina M. Shepard, and two sons, the oldest William W. has just become of age and his father has given him a fair start by giving him the old homestead in Springwater, containing one hundred and fifty-seven acres of land with good farm buildings; also three good horses, two colts, four cows and other young stock, and purchased new furniture to furnish his house, and all that is necessary for house-keeping except a wife, and if reports prove true he will find one for himself. The other son Vern L. is a minor, I believe about eleven or twelve years old, but his father has another farm of one hundred acres adjoining the one given to William, which he says is to be reserved for Vern L. when he is of age. He also has a six thousand dollar farm in Lima.

**Levi Brockway. Jr.** was born in the town of Otsego, in the county of Otsego, N.Y., on the 9th day of April, 1816, where he resided until the 2nd day of March, 1832, when he came to Springwater, where he settled on the east bill, on the farm on which he has remained ever since, and on the farm his father, Levi Brock way Sr., had lived for two years previous, and where he died many years since. Levi Jr. was married on the 26th day of June, 1840, to Julia A. Root, a daughter of Amos Root, of Springwater, with whom he is still living. They have raised a family of four children, one son and three daughters, who are all married and now living within a few miles of the old homestead. Edgar married a Miss Hicks, Zalida married James M. Hudson, Hannah married Ezra Willis, and Zaide married John Salter. They arc all in comfortable circumstances. Mr. Brockway is one of our substantial farmers; has a

good farm with nice buildings and comfortable surroundings, and they are well prepared to enjoy the fruits of their labors in their old age and declining years.

**Ephraim Rowley** came from Jamestown, Chautauqua Co., N.Y., to Springwater in 1838, and engaged in the business of running a sawmill for Andrew Spafard, and being a first-class sawyer he was in good demand as such and had charge of a number of mills in town, and continued in the business as long as he was able to do the work. He married Mary Ann Jones, by whom he had ten children, three sons and seven daughters. Will give their names. Caroline, who married Henry Barber; Hiram, Augustus B., Mary, Jane, Polley Ann, Milo, Fidelia, and Elizabeth. There are but two now living in town, viz: Polley, Mrs. Ami Robins, and Milo, the youngest son. He married a Miss Reynolds. They have four children, Jennie, Mrs. J. S. Stark; Eugene, Charles and Nellie. Milo is 53 years old, and has had much experience in running sawmills both water and steam power, is now a carpenter and joiner by trade. Has assisted in building some very fine buildings for the past few years in and about Springwater. Ephraim and his wife are both long since dead.

**Elisha T. Webster** was born at Granville, Washington Co., N.Y., November 29th, 1818. Came West with his father Elisha Webster, and family in the fall of 1830, and settled in Conesus, where he continued to live until 1845, when he came to Springwater, and purchased a farm at what is now the village of Webster's Crossing on the Erie railroad, and built a sawmill, and in addition to farming, went extensively into the business of sawing lumber and shingles. He was married in 1846, to Anna M. Clemmons who is still living. They have had two children, one daughter and one son. The daughter married Harvey P. Hill, and the son married Clara Moose. They are both engaged in selling goods and general merchandise at the crossing. After the railroad was built in 1852, Webster was very active in business and assisted much in building up the village and making it quite an active business place, and a good market for grain and other products. He got a Post Office established there and he was the first postmaster. Though now sixty-eight years old he is as full of life and push as his age will allow him to be.

**Maurice Brown** was born at Richmond, N.Y., May 31st, 1806. He was a son of Parley Brown. He was married to Marinda Fox on the 5th day of May, 1831, and came to Canadice to live in March, 1836, and remained there until 1851, when he moved to Springwater east hill, and lived on the hill until 1859, when he came to the Valley, where he now lives and has remained since he came. He is a lawyer by profession, held the office of justice of the peace both at Canadice and at Springwater for a time, and was postmaster at Springwater for a term of years. He had a family of eleven children, four sons, and seven daughters. Only one of the sons are now living, Dr. John P. Brown of Tuscarora, Livingston County, N.Y. The others are dead long since. Of the daughters, five are living, four in Springwater and one in West Sparta. The oldest daughter, Mrs. D. B. Waite, and one younger, died a number of years since. Mrs. Brown the wife and mother died at their home in Springwater, on the 27th day of August, 1884. Since the above was written Maurice Brown died March 25th, 1887.

**Ira Whitlock.** Prominent among the names of the early residents of West hill, is that of Ira Whitlock, who came into this town in 1886. He was born in Granville, Washington county, N.Y., where he passed the early years of his life. He was educated at the old "Granville Academy," and after attaining his majority, he went to New York City, and for several years was employed as engineer on the Hudson and East rivers. In 1828, he came to the town of Conesus, where he engaged in the mercantile business. In 1836, he removed to this town, and in the following year was married to Miss Amelia Stuart, and settled upon what was known as the "Stoddard Redmond" farm, at the Liberty Pole, where he remained until his death, which occurred Sept. 2, 1886. Mr. Whitlock was a man of more than average intellectual ability, and from the first commanded the respect and confidence of the people. As early as 1839, he was elected commissioner of highways, and subsequently as assessor and justice of the peace, and in various other positions of public trust, he faithfully served the interests of the community until prevented by the infirmities of advancing age. As a surveyor his skill and accuracy were proverbial. During the active years of his life he probably surveyed more land, determined more ancient boundaries, and settled more knotty and disputed questions in that line than any other man in



the country. Naturally a close observer and endowed with rare judgement and discrimination, his decisions were seldom questioned. Bold, fearless and outspoken in his convictions of right, and withal a man of uncompromising integrity, he was for many years one of the nastier spirits of the community in which he lived.

**Parker H. Pierce** was born in Little Compton, R. I., Dec. 11, 1794, removing to Boston, Mass., in 1812, where he was married to Hannah Withington, Feb. 23, 1818. He was a merchant in Boston until 1838, when he removed to Springwater, where he purchased the Zaddock Grover farm, on which he lived until 1863. He died in Springwater, June 23, 1875, and his wife March 31, 1878. His children were Parker H. Pierce, Jr., who died in St. Louis, Aug., 1872; Hannah Elizabeth, wife of Rev. Daniel B. Woods, of St. Louis, Mo.; Wm. Henry and Geo. A., who reside in Springwater; Eliza Jane, wife of Robert McCarthy, Esq., of Syracuse; and Sarah W., who married Marcus O. Austin, in 1857, and died in Springwater, Dec., 1859.

**Wm. Henry Pierce** was born Dec, 27, 1826. at Boston, Mass. Came to Springwater with his parents in 1838, and worked upon his father's farm until 1845, when he went to Boston. Was engaged in mercantile business there and in St. Louis till Jan, 1869, when he removed to Syracuse, and engaged in the wholesale hardware trade with his brother-in-law, Robert McCarthy. In 1869, owing to ill health, he was obliged to relinquish business, and returned to Springwater, where at that time he was also connected in business with his brother, Geo. A. Pierce, and where he has since resided.

**Josiah Norton** son of Daniel Norton, was born in the town of Otisco, Onondaga county, N. Y., and came with his parents to Springwater, in 1825 or '26, and after residing in and about Springwater for a number of years, he went to Canandaigua to live, and after a few years he married Elizabeth Clark, and about 1873. They came to Springwater and settled at the north end of the valley, at a place where his father once lived in early days, and where they are still living. They have no children but are comfortably situated, and to all appearance are enjoying themselves as well as though they were blessed with a large family.

**Daniel Mead** was a native of the county of Limerick, Ireland, where he remained until 1840, when he emigrated to America, and after living in different places until 1858, he came to Springwater. and bought a small farm of twenty-five acres of land, and commenced farming, and by diligence and good management, in a few years he was able to add to his farm until he now has one hundred and fifty-five acres of land, comfortable farm buildings and well provided with stock. He has also considerable money invested in lands at the West. He has four children, two sons and two daughters, all living in western states, and he and his wife are now living alone and enjoying the fruits of their hard labor, and their comfortable surroundings in their old age and declining years.

**John Frazer** a son of David Frazer, was born August 1, 1818, and is now living on the old farm on which his father settled in 1810. He is a well-to-do farmer, and besides his farm here he has a large amount of land in the western states. He has never married, but lives with his sister, Jane, a maiden lady, who has remained at the old home and place of their birth. They were a family of eight children. I will give the names of the remainder: Palina, now living in Erie, Penn.; James died in 1838, Elizabeth died long since, David died at West Sparta a few years since, Wm. G. is now living in Iowa, Minerva is now living at West Sparta, and is married to a man by the name of Canada.

**Ozias Humphrey** moved from the town of Sennet, Cayuga Co., to Springwater in the year 1836, and lived on West Hill near the Liberty Pole corners until his death in 1856. He was born in Simsbury, Connecticut, in the year 1789. He married Parnal Douglass of New Hartford, Conn. They had nine children, Leora, wife of John Wilhelm, of Conesus. Harvey D. resides at Webster's Crossing, N. Y.; Aranda K. died in 1877, in the town of Birdsall, N.Y.; Lucy Ann married Willis Clark, of Sparta, and died in 1868; Esther M. married David Crittle, of Holly, Mich.; Correll M. resides in Springwater; Enphrasia married John M. Baird, of Holly, Mich., Mary L. died in 1852 aged 19 years; Charles resides in Almond, Allegany Co, N. Y.

**John Weidman** was born in the town of Sparta, Livingston Co., N.Y., on the 16th day of November, 1827. He was a son of Jacob Weidman, and one of a family of twelve children, all now living. He married Mary Ann Hartman, on the 24th day of March, 1849. In 1852 he bought the old Wadams farm, where Ezra Willis now lives, and moved to Springwater on to the said farm, where he lived for a few years, when he sold and bought a large farm of about three hundred and ten acres, on the south part of West Hill, which was mostly wild or unimproved land, but by faithful attention to business and much hard labor he has the farm well cleared, and has erected large and elegant buildings, where he can live and enjoy the fruits of his labors in his declining years. He and his wife are both hale and hearty, and bid fair for ninny years of happiness. They have six living children, Andrew, Joel, John, Jay, Mark, and Matie.

**Joel Hudson.** The following biographical sketch of Joel Hudson, who is still living, was written by himself for the Springwater Enterprise in 1883, He then being in his 89th year: I was born in the town of Chatham, Columbia, N.Y., on the 10th day of October, 1794. In 1799, my father went to the town of Scipio, Cayuga county, and bought 145 acres of heavy timbered land with no improvements. In the winter of 1800, we moved to Scipio with an ox team, and were about three weeks on the road. In the spring, father put up a log house with one room, about 18 feet square. For the want of boards he split out and hewed stuff to lay the upper and lower floors. He had bargained with a man the summer before to chop the timber on three acres of his land. He burned the brush, and planted it to corn in the spring, among the logs, and had a good crop. We brought two good cows with us from Columbia county, and the second spring after we moved they both died, which to us was a great loss, as we had left no others except a two-year-old heifer. Cows were very scarce; none for sale, and not much money to buy with. There were then eight in our family. Times were very hard, for there was no market short of Albany. It was almost impossible to get leather there, and we had to go the most of the time without boots or shoes. We cleared our land as fast as we could without hiring it done. When I was about 15 years old my father cut his leg very bad and bled almost to death, and never had good health after that. I was the oldest son and had to take charge of the business, and I well recollect that I took as much interest in it as I ever did of my own.

It was some eight or ten years before we had any addition to our little house. We built a log barn too. All the settlers in that part of the town had log houses and barns. The tools used seventy-five years ago were very different from those used now. If our young men of the present time should see such a plow as the first one I remember seeing, they might not guess what it was made for. The iron part, called the shear, was flat, with cutter fastened to the forepart of the shear which went up into the beam and was keyed on top. There was a piece of wood fastened to the hind part of the shear, called the chip; the handle was fastened to the beam. The mould-board was made of wood split out of a winding tree, and was fastened to the plow, which raised and turned over the ground not much better than a cultivator tooth. The auger that the carpenters used had no screw to it, and they had to begin the hole with a gouge. Wagon tire was made in as many pieces as there were fellies in the wheel, and was piked on so as to break joints on the fellies. They did not know that a tire could be put on whole. The buggy seats were set on wooden springs. There were men who followed teaming from Auburn to Albany, drawing wheat, pork and potash. Their price generally for taking wheat to Albany was 75 cents a bushel. Some of them had six heavy horses on one wagon. Their wagons had three widths of tire on the wheels which were about six inches thick. I understand that such wagons went free on the turnpike as they packed the road.

Near the first part of September, 1814, I was drafted, to go to the front at Buffalo. My mother and sisters said that I must not go, for if I did I would never return. They influenced father to hire a substitute for me. We were ordered to meet at the Cayuga bridge on a certain day; so we fitted out my substitute with a knapsack, a blanket and some provisions, and I went out with him to the place of meeting. He was a man who was in the habit of drinking to excess sometimes, and the captain refused to accept of him. I was at first at a loss what to do, but concluded that I would not go home and be called a coward; so I shouldered the knapsack and went on to Buffalo. When we got there we had nothing to cook our meat in, so we had to borrow of the people living there for a number of days. They were very willing to lend, as they had been burned out that year. I think that there was then not a

house in Buffalo that was worth \$400. After the Erie battle there were two companies ordered to guard the prisoners to Greenbush near Albany. Our company was one of them, and we were glad of the arrangement. We were tired of being in Buffalo, for we drew nothing to eat but fresh beef and hardtack, and that was very hard. We could not eat it until we soaked it in cold water. It was not fit for a dog to eat. We drew each morning, I think, a half pint of whiskey. I did not drink much of mine. I used to give some of it to the prisoners. I should have much rather had thy worth of my whiskey in something fit to eat. The prisoners that we guarded were Germans, and said that they had been hired by their government to the British and pressed into the service; that they did not want to fight Americans, nor would not if they could avoid it. After we started with our prisoners we fared better. We drew potatoes by the tops to eat with our beef. We traveled, I should think, 20 miles a day. We shut our prisoners in a barn at night, two of us to guard them. We had to go back to Batavia and were then discharged without any pay, which seemed to me to be wrong, for our company's home was in Cayuga county, and probably not half of them had any money. How they got home I cannot tell, as I did not go home with the rest of the company. I had some money with me, but not half as much as I needed. I started for home on foot, for I could not pay fare on the stage. It was near 100 miles. I recollect, and always shall as long as I remember anything, the last morning, when I was some thirty miles from home. I got a scanty breakfast, such as I could pay for, and started off. I thought I must get home before I could get anything more to eat. I traveled as fast as I could until some 2 or 8 o'clock P.M. I was then some ten miles from home. I was very hungry and thought I could not get home unless I could get something to eat. I did not know what to do. Not a cent of money. I did not know how to beg- I had never reached that-but after a while I ventured into a farm house, and told the woman that I had been soldiering, and had been discharged without receiving any pay; that I had no money, and if she would let me have something to eat I would pay her when I could. She set on the table some cold boiled victuals and bread and butter. If she had cooked all day she could not have suited me better. It seemed to me the best dinner I ever ate. I told the woman that I would pay her for the dinner as soon as I could. She told me I need not pay anything, that I was welcome to them. I then put on for home much refreshed. I was very glad to get home again, and my folks appeared to be very glad to see me. In the summer of 1817, I came out to this town and bought 40 acres wild land. In 1819, I shouldered my ax and pack with some provisions and clothes, came out to this town again, and chopped off a piece of said land, and cut logs to build a long house. After harvest I came back, cleared off the piece chopped and sowed it to wheat, and put up the body of a house. The next winter I moved out with my wife and child, to a house near my land. In the spring I put a slab roof on my house, laid the floors, and moved in it, where we lived until fall without any chimney.

I have added to my little farm as could pay. I have been permitted to live here to see and assist to bury almost all of my old friends and acquaintances. There are very few living that were here when I moved into the town of Springwater. I once was young but now I am old. I have been blessed with good health for the most of the time, for which I am truly thankful.

## CHAPTER XII

### MORE ABOUT HUNTING AND FISHING

After the Indians had done hunting here there were considerable many deer left, and there were a good many white people who continued to hunt for them, but they were mostly used up in a few years; though up to 1880, there were enough to give the hunters all the exercise they needed in following them. When the first light snow came in the fall we could go on to the hill, and by going to a thicket of small pine or hemlock timber, we would find where they had lain the night previous, and as they were in the habit of herding together, it was not an uncommon thing to find where from three to six or eight had bedded the previous night; and as they would usually scatter in search of food, the hunter would take the trail of one or more, if they kept together, and then follow in as careful a manner as possible. But the deer being a cautious animal appeared to be constantly on the lookout, and would generally be the first one to see or hear the approach of the hunter, and be off; and in this way I have followed on their trails all day without getting a shot or seeing a deer except on the run at a distance. At other times we would see them quite frequently, and occasionally get a fair shot and if we were not too much excited, would wound or kill the game. But whether we had the luck to kill or not, it was sufficiently exciting to keep us frequently on the trail all day, while the snow was right for tracking. Though a deer was quite a large mark to shoot at, a beginner was apt to be too much excited, and would miss when they would have hit a squirrel the same distance. I must say that I have killed but few deer for the time that I have spent in hunting. I recollect one time being hunting on the west hill, I think on what is now D. C. Snyder's farm, when I saw quite a herd of deer. They were in an open piece of woods too far off to shoot. They were going up the sidehill in line, and I counted sixteen, which was the most that I ever saw at any time. As the country became cleared up the game grew scarce, and by 1840, it was a rare thing to see a deer. The last one that I killed was in the fall of 1841 or 1842 and near where the railroad crosses the road leading to Sparta. Two or three have been killed since, that had been chased by dogs from some of the surrounding country. The hunting here now is confined to foxes, coons, skunks, and other small game. Fishing in the early days was quite interesting, as there was plenty of fish in the most of the streams; and in the fall of the year the speckled trout, of the brook trout species, were in the habit of coming up the stream from the Hemlock lake to spawn, and there were large quantities of them. The usual mode of taking them was with a spear. As the fish were in habit of running in the night they would go with a light and spear and take them as they were running in shallow water. They were sometimes taken in a net and sometimes taken with the hands. They would range in size from a half to four pounds in weight, usually between one and three pounds. They were the best fish that I ever caught or eat. As the mills increased on the stream, and the sawdust filled in at the head of the lake, the trout decreased in numbers, and after a while ceased to come up the creek. In the fall of 1840 we caught considerable many, and after that year there were but very few taken. In the spring the suckers came up the creek to spawn and there were large quantities of them taken by nets spears and with the hands. They ranged all the way up to five pounds. I have assisted in taking six bushels in an evening. In the spring of 1850 there was a one horse wagon box full taken with a dip net in one day from Edward Withington's farm bridge over the creek, but they too are getting scarce, and though there are a few taken each year, nothing in proportion to former years; and those that wish to enjoy the sport of fishing have to resort to the lakes, Hemlock or Canadice, where trout, bass and pickerel are plenty.

## CHAPTER XIII

### SUPERVISORS AND TOWN CLERKS

The following is a list of Supervisors and Town Clerks of the town of Springwater from the organization of the town up to the present time:

#### YEAR SUPERVISORS; TOWN CLERKS

1817 Oliver Jennings; Hugh Wilson  
1818 Alvah Southworth; Hugh Wilson  
1819-21 Alvah Southworth; John W. Barnes  
1822 Alvah Southworth; Isaac C. Howe 1  
1823 Alvah Southworth; Martin Hopkins  
1824-26 Alvah Southworth; Joel Hudson  
1827 Zennos Ashley; Joel Hudson  
1828 Alvah Southworth; Joel Hudson  
1829-30 John Culver; Martin D. Hopkins  
1831 Salmon G. Grover; Martin D. Hopkins  
1832-33 Salmon G. Grover; Thomas C. Grover  
1834-35 Thomas C. Grover; Horatio Dyer  
1836 Andrew Spafford; Salmon Waterbury  
1837-38 Andrew Spafford; Thomas C. Grover  
1839 Andrew Spafford; Rufus G. Clark  
1840 Horatio Dyer; Rufus G. Clark  
1841 Stephen Robinson; Rufus G. Clark  
1842 Stephen Robinson; Rufus G. Clark  
1843 Thomas C. Grover; Rufus G. Clark  
1844-45 Thomas Spafford; Rufus G. Clark  
1846 John Ray; Rufus G. Clark  
1847 Stephen Robinson; Rufus G. Clark  
1848-49 Horatio Dyer; Salmon G. Grover  
1850 George C. Marvin; Salmon G. Grover  
1851-52 George C. Marvin; William A. Robinson  
1853 H. H. Fosket; Jerome B. Patterson  
1854 Stephen Robinson; N. Byron Hopkins  
1855 Moses A. Commins; N. Byron Hopkins  
1856-57 Arnold Gray; Salmon G. Grover  
1858-59 John S. Wiley; Salmon G. Grover  
1860 John S. Wiley; Marcus O. Austin  
1861 Orson Walbridge; Marcus O. Austin  
1862 Orson Walbridge; James G. Morris  
1863 Thomas M. Fowler; Marcus O. Austin  
1864 Thomas M. Fowler; George A. Pierce 1865 Orson Walbridge; George A. Pierce  
1866-67 A. M. Withington; George A. Pierce  
1868-69 Robert H. Wiley; Edward S. Coates  
1870 Robert H. Wiley; N. Byron Hopkins  
1871 Robert H. Wiley; A. M. Brown  
1872 Robert H. Wiley; Frank S. Grover  
1873-74 Harvey H. Marvin; Frank S. Grover  
1875 E. A. Robinson; Rufus G. Clark  
1876 John S. Wiley; Rufus G. Clark  
1877 Dewitt C. Snyder; Rufus G. Clark  
1878-80 Dewitt C. Snyder; George M. Willis  
1881-82 Nathan A. Kellogg; George M. Willis  
1883-85 Wm. E. Humphrey; John S. Stark  
1886-87 Addison G. Marvin; Chas. H. Marvin