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THE WILLING STORY, 1795-1850

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The Willing Story

1795—1850

By HAZEL M. SHEAR

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Hazel M Shear

1960

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Introduction

The Town of Willing is an average rural town with a normal history and common, everyday people. It has sent a number of persons out into the wider world, of whom it is justifiably proud; it is neither rich nor poor; its beginnings were in agriculture and lumbering as were most towns in Western New York.

It is with the hope of presenting the picture of its growth and development in such a way that someone may some day be able to use it for the key to a history of wider scope than that in which I have attempted to tell part of its story.

HAZEL M. SHEAR

April 1, 1960

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Allegany County Towns

Albany was set up as an original county Nov. 1, 1663; confirmed 1691.

Montgomery was formed from Albany, March 12, 1772.

Ontario was formed from Montgomery, January 27, 1789.

Genesee was formed from Ontario, March 30, 1802.

Allegany was formed from Ontario, March 30, 1806.

Livingston was formed from Genesee and Ontario, February 23, 1821.

* * * *

Angelica, mother town of Allegany's Morris Reserve, set up by Act of Legislature, February 25, 1805, a part of Genesee County.

Angelica and Nunda were in the Morris Reserve. The others are:

Alma, formed from Willing, November 23, 1854.

Allen, formed from Angelica, January 31, 1823.

Amity, formed from Scio, February 22, 1830.

Birdsall, formed from Allen and Almond, May 4, 1829.

Granger, formed from Grove, April 18, 1838, as West Grove. Name changed March 6, 1839.

Grove, formed from Nunda, Livingston County, March 8, 1827.

Scio, formed from Angelica, January 31, 1823.

Ward, formed from Amity, November 21, 1856.

West Almond, formed from Angelica, Almond and Alfred, April 15, 1833.

Wellsville, formed from Scio, Willing and Alma, November 22, 1855.

Willing, formed from Scio and Independence, November 19, 1851.

First town meeting, March 4, 1852.

Historical marker, commemorating that meeting, on Route 19 at Yorks in front of present (1959) Loring Store.

* * *

The Allegany County towns listed on Page 10 were formed from the Morris Reserve.

Map of Willing



From 1869 Atlas. Reproduction by Carl Fanton Studios, Park Avenue, Wellsville, N. Y.

Geology

The history of mankind in this, the new world, is necessarily brief when one thinks of the countless centuries of time that rolled away before the appearance of the first man.

The first geologic era, the Cambrian, left no traces in the rock strata of the Genesee Country, although there is evidence of it in the St. Lawrence Valley of Northern New York State. The Cambrian fauna is of especial interest, being the oldest record of life preserved to us, the fossils of which represent the simplest forms of the evolution of life.

The Ordovician period is well represented in the area but deeply buried. It shows us that at one time this entire region was at least partly submerged. Since there was no supply of sand or clay, the lime-secreting organisms flourished for untold centuries until the total of the shells of their dying bodies became one thousand feet and more of limestone. At the close of this period, known as the Trenton Limestone Epoch, all of Western New York was exposed to an inwash of land waste and clay deposits, probably coming from the north. The different rock strata are clearly visible in the rock walls of the Genesee canyon at Rochester and eastward from Rochester along Lake Ontario to Oswego.

This age was followed by the Silurian, a period of more rapid changes, beginning with shallow

water conditions which produced the wavy Medina sands in which marine worms loved to burrow. There were inwashings of some different lime-creating substances. The gypsum and salt found are believed to have been formed from the evaporation of the sea waters. This leads us to believe that for a time at least, desert conditions must have prevailed. During this time great thicknesses of rock were deposited. Toward the end of this period there is a break in the rock succession indicating that part of this area was for a long time above sea level. It reveals itself to us in layers of greenish Oriskany sand. The Onondaga limestone, lying at the bottom of the rocks of the Devonian period is of marine origin. In the southern part of the Genesee country it is about 90 feet in depth, increasing to 200 feet at Buffalo. Over it is the black Marcellus shale, increasing in depth and supplanting the limestone as it goes eastward. Southward the covering of shales and sandstone becomes deeper and gives us our flagstones, used mostly for sidewalks.

During the early part of the Devonian era all animal life was aquatic. Gradually, with the development of plant life, insects appeared and some crustacea came out of the water to eat the vegetation growing along the shore, thus slowly developing the faculty of taking their oxygen from the air instead of from the water. Devonian fishes were cartilagenous, wearing heavy "enamel" armour. The land plants were ferns, lycopods and oldest of all living trees, the conifers.

The story of the Olean Conglomerate is of inter-

est to our town for the same outcroppings occur in boulder form in many of our hilltop farms and quite completely cover the top of adjoining Alma Hill. Fairchild's Geology of the Genesee Country says,

> The Olean is a non-marine deposit. It is a continental formation deposited as part of a vast delta laid by rivers which flowed westward from some high land that has now sunk beneath the Atlantic Ocean. To the reader this explanation may seem far-fetched but no better theory has been found. There is no visible source on the continent for such a vast quantity of crystalline quartz. The deposit is thickest in the east-central part of Pennsylvania, thinning away to the west and northwest. All the characteristics indicate that the material was carried westward in spreading or fan-shaped form. Geologists are discovering that some formations which were formerly supposed to be marine are really continental, having been laid on lowlands by rivers or by storm wash from highlands similar to the present deposition in the Great Basin in the West. It is quite possible that some other strata in New York may belong in this class.

In a hasty review of the past conditions that formed this country, it must be borne in mind that the present topography was not the original land surface but is the result of erosion, winds and storms over a long period of time. The region around Lake Ontario being first to arise out of the sea was first higher and thus sloping southward, drainage was first in that direction. The rivers, as a gradual process of erosion based on their ability to overcome rock strata, and assisted by the cutting in of rivers flowing into them from the east and west, turned northward to flow into the great Ontario Valley. It is a popular misappre-

hension that the Genesee River, which flows through Willing Township, is the only one in the state to flow northward, but a little study of a good map will convince one easily that across New York State there is a whole row of northward-flowing rivers, emptying into the greater eastward-flowing streams and the lake.

This was all accomplished before the coming of the great Quebec Glacier. This glacier reached out across Vermont, New York and even Northern Pennsylvania, its huge tentacles choking streams and locking them in a grip of centuries like an octupus. When it finally released its hold it left behind in the tortured soil our beautiful glens, lakes and moraines. The rivers, although disturbed, stirred themselves and wherever they found their directions cut off made themselves new channels going indomitably upon their relentless ways. Thus at Portageville where the river once went by Nunda, it must cut a new passage and drain a glacial lake. There is evidence that the old Irondequoit Valley was the former bed of the Genesee.

While all this was going on, on the one side of us, in Pennsylvania quite other things were taking place. Here an older stratum was disturbed by crumpling and folding which formed the coal beds, made deep valleys of the weak strata and elevated the hard ones to mountain ranges. This folding reached into our part of the State of New York to upset the well calculated Devonian strata and cause much concern to our present-day geologists in search of gas and oil.

Anyone brought up in the vicinity of Sinclair, Kendall and other Pennsylvania crude oils has absorbed from contemporary advertising a pretty accurate idea of how these products were formed from the bodies of prehistoric animals. The names of dinosaurs and pterodactyls drop easily from the tongues of even our very young children. Probably their ideas of these prehistoric forms of animal life are much clearer than their ideas of early human occupancy. It is said that our aborigines probably were familiar with the mammoth and mastodon.

In prehistoric periods a large part of Willing township was a vast lake, draining down the Honeoye into the Ohio Valley. This lake occupied all the present river valley and extended from above Genesee to below Belmont. When riding along Route 19 from Stannards to Genesee this becomes clearly evident and it is easy to imagine the water lapping over this, the first bench, especially from Stannards to Yorks Corners. What is more difficult for us to realize is the western, rather than the northern drainage but this becomes easier to comprehend as one travels over the road from Mapes to Shinglehouse which was our outlet to the Ohio.

Original Inhabitants

The earliest races of man to inhabit this part of the world were the Eskimo people or, if not truly Eskimo, at least closely resembling them. They were a nomadic people. They made crude pottery from local clays but made many dishes and uten-

sils from steatite or soapstone. A family in Willing Township owns a very finely polished specimen, a pipe, undoubtedly from this era. It was turned up by the plow at Mapes about 1910.

Following the Eskimo came, apparently, three separate waves of Algonkians. It is estimated that they must have lived here at least 5,000 years. They were not entirely nomadic, living part of the time in villages where they raised crops of corn and beans. They were expert flint workers, also working in jasper and chalcedony. They made many articles of stone and bone and pottery decorated with cord markings. They had notched chopping implements and grooved axes. They did not leave as many traces of their occupancy as did the later Iroquois.

During this time there was an invasion from some unknown part of the continent by a different race. They were a people which used semi-lunar choppers, spears and rubbed-slate knives. Later, there was another migration of a people from the south or southwest. They were more civilized and possessed a sense of the beautiful. Theirs were the polished implements of slate secured from the Hurons, large and small beads, copper, monitor pipes and many other better articles than those then in use.

They were the people whom we call the Mound Builders. Willing Township possesses one of these mounds in a very perfect state. It is on Lot 43, known to most people at the Yale farm but now owned by Paul Regan. It is on the west side of the river about a mile above Stannards. It has never

been disturbed except that the Yale family, and the Ford family before them, have used it for a private cemetery.

The Peabody Museum of Baltimore opened the mounds at Fort Hill near Portage and at that time endeavored to get permission to open the Willing mound. They had agreed to buy lots and move the bodies from the Yale Cemetery to Woodlawn in Wellsville but one member of the family objected and the mound was not opened. There is a formation on the Knox farm in the western part of the town that might be a mound.

This earlier and peaceful race of red men was conquered by the Iroquois who called themselves "Onqweh Howeh," which means Surpassing Men. Anyone interested in studying these early races in detail will find a wealth of information in the New York State Museum bulletins written by Dr. Arthur J. Parker. The early archaeologist and historian Brodhead is also an excellent and fascinating source of Indian material. Brodhead gives 1539 as the date the Iroquois came to this state. He says that they were driven from Canada by the Adirondacks. The Senecas, or "keepers of the Western Gate," were the tribe of Iroquois which occupied the Genesee Country. It is of interest to us to know the different names by which they were known. The English always spoke of the Iroquois as the Five Nations, the French as the Iroquois and Sonnentouan. The Dutch called them Sinnikins, from which eventually came the corruption of that word as it passed through may languages and dialects—Senecas. They called themselves

Konoshioni, meaning cabin builders, and Hendenosaunee, meaning people of the Longhouse.

Senecas in Willing

The only Indian village in Willing whose name we have been able to learn is that of Chenundah which was located near the site where Chenundah Creek empties into the Genesee. This would place the village about on the town line near the river. We have learned, from concentrations of relics, the various places where good-sized villages existed. One of these was on the Graydon Davis farm at Mapes, known formerly as the Mapes farm, where large pines now grow. Another was on the flats of William Cook's farm at Mapes. On the south side of the river on the Chilson farm, formerly Elias Harris, was another location. There was one on the right of the corduroy read across the river from Shongo. There were others near the top of Truax Hill, on the Fred Peet farm on the Cruyder, on the Schrader farm at Stannards and at the confluence of Fulmer and Chenundah Creeks below Hallsport. There was one in Independence at the top of the hill northwest of the present Allen Stout farm. Indians in this village made a type of round basket that they sold to early settlers who used them as mending baskets.

One of the most interesting Indian stories of the town was told to me by Bernard Fanton to whom it was passed down by his grandfather Charles Fanton and uncle Horace Fanton, who had had the story from their father Jacob Fanton and

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grandfather Sheldon Fanton. The latter, born in Connecticut in 1796, was an early settler here. The Fantons occupied Lots 193, 197 and 198, the homestead being located on Lot 197. This farm may be aprroached by a road turning to the right above the Mingus farm as one goes toward Hallsport from Stannards. It originally served as a well-used crossroad between the main road and the Palmer Road. It is very steep, washes badly and is now practically abandoned, although passable in dry weather.

The story told to Sheldon Fanton by the Indians was of a terrible battle between the Senecas and some other tribe of Indians that took place on his farm. So fierce was the battle and so long it lasted that the older generation of Fantons could go out on this field and literally scoop up arrowheads. There was also evidence that in an earlier day many arrowheads were made at this place. At a high point on the hill, overlooking the Genesee Valley, is a large, flat stone of rectangular shape on which a crude map of the valley had been chipped by the Indians. Although several of the older men told of seeing the rock, those interested enough to look for it in recent years have not been able to locate it. However, this entire hill was swept by the big fire of 1856 and the rock was probably covered with debris.

Harold Palmer, who lives on Lot 179, has a collection of relics most of which were picked up in the locality. Donald White of Whiteville, a grandson of the Beaches, also at one time had a large collection of artifacts, many of them from the

Beach Hill area. Raymond Neal of Shongo has a collection, most of them picked up on the flats at Shongo and on the side and top of Bald Hill. On the Cook farm, it is said that a certain triangular piece of land is never plowed without turning up quite a quantity of arrowheads, knives and other articles. Up to and during the 1920's it was a common sight to see the hunters of arrowheads walking newly plowed fields on all the river farms. It was said that they never came away empty-handed from such a stroll. Interest in this type of collecting seems to be about gone. This is one of the reasons that those of us who remember the old stories want to preserve them before it is too late.

Some Indian Stories

The village of Shongo takes its name from an old Indian chieftain, or possibly medicine man, of that name. His cabin is said by some to have been on the farm now owned by Archie Woodcock. On this farm one goes up a rather steep hill and to his surprise finds a tiny, round lake. This was known to the Indians as the Lake-in-the-Woods. The tiny creek that comes down to the river on the Woodcock farm was called Indian Cabin Creek. This farm was at one time that of Abner Graves who had one of the earliest deeds in the town. It was also one of the last hunting grounds of the local Indians and, of course, they resented Graves and his cabin. One day they stripped the bark from a hemlock tree and painted on it the picture of a white man with an arrow through his heart. Abner

stripped the bark from a neighboring tree and painted the picture of a red man with a bullet through his heart. He was never again bothered or threatened.

There was a village or favorite camping place on the Archie Foster farm, Lot 139. They find many relics when plowing. The hill on which they live was formerly called Cheney Hill, named for an old doctor. The creek tumbling rapidly down the steep hillside bears the same name. The place where his cabin stood may still be seen across the run from the road on the Lampe farm, near an old barn.

When Frank Shear, who was born in 1873, was about four years old his father called him to see something that he never forgot. Two Indians, one of them in Indian dress, came down into the middle of a field on the Shear farm, Lot 181, from the road now known as the Brandes Road on the north side of Beach Hill. They looked all around them, shielding their eyes from the sun and making many strange motions. From their motions it seemed that they were imploring the Great Spirit for some favor, whether a curse upon those who had pre-empted their land or a blessing upon the land they had loved and lost could only be a matter of guesswork. After the strange rite, they turned and passed somberly down the road.

Shear says that in going to Wellsville there was a footpath through the woods which went directly from the corner of the Shear homestead towards Stannards, passing over the Fanton farm, previously mentioned. None could remember when the

path was first used since it was there when the first settlers came. It was believed to have been worn by the feet of generations of Indians.

Fred Peet says that he is sorry that he did not write down the stories told to him as a child by his grandparents, Fanny E. and David F. Peet and Amasa and Electa Huyer Robbins. They were among the very first settlers and cleared their own farms on Cruyder Creek. At the time there were in the locality only occasional Indians, but they did not see them nor were they ever molested. On some meadow on the Peet farm there was quite a large camping ground and for many years assorted relics were picked up there. He has always regretted cutting down a certain tree that bore innumerable scars made by tomahawks. In fact, it had been so greatly injured by them that it was stunted.

Ray Harris remembers that an Indian once came to the present Lorenzo Graves farm and dug up the body of another Indian and took it away.

Mrs. Melvin Brandes tells an interesting story of her grandfather August Schrader who lived in Stannards. Near his home was a little hollow in which Indian treasure was supposed to be buried. He had doubted the story but there came a time when an Indian came to him and asked permission to dig up some keepsakes that he had left there many years before. Permission was granted and Schrader was rather surprised that the man knew exactly at what spot his belongings were buried. He never allowed anyone to search there or tried to find anything himself, believing that if some-

one, even if he belonged to another race and time, had left something there, it was still his property.

The Shongo school children told of going up on the big hill opposite the schoolhouse to play and of finding many relics, mostly arrowheads there. Eddie Cook and a Costello boy, when about sixteen years old, were on the top of the hill at Mapes and found large stone vessels. They brought some of the smaller ones down to the Cook home where they were used for ornamental purposes in a rock garden.

The local lore relating to the Indian mines in the Ore Bed would fill a chapter by itself. One story may illustrate the general vein of mystery. The Indians boasted to the settlers about their ability to obtain lead from the Ore Bed. To prove their claims, they one day took a man from Shongo, blindfolded him and guided him to the Ore Bed by way of Stone Dam. They removed his blindfold and showed him the place where they took the metal from the ground and even gave him a piece of it. He looked around him closely, thinking he would go back; they put the blindfold on him again and led him out by a different route. He spent a great deal of time throughout the rest of his life trying to find the spot but he could never locate it or find anything that resembled it in the least.

The most thrilling story is that of Nancy Ford Parks, daughter of Willing's first settler, John Ford, and wife of Asa Parks. They had built their cabin in which there was an opening for a door but no door. Modern imaginations allow us to believe

that Nancy may at least have put a chest across the doorway. Asa had to make a trip and was gone several days. Nancy knew well how to use her gun but, nevertheless, she was terrified by the sounds of the animals and birds at night. The second evening she had further cause for alarm when several Indians appeared. She could not understand them but they made friendly overtures and gave her some food. By their signs she discovered that they meant to stay and they stationed themselves in front of her cabin. They came back every evening and sat all night long in front of the cabin until Asa returned. They protected the lonely white woman from the animals and thereafter they were friendly as long as they remained in the neighborhood.

Trails to Willing

Wherever we travel on our modern highways we find roads named after the Indian planners of the routes, called "trails" as, in New York State, the Mohawk, Susquehanna and Tuscarora Trails, and across the nation, the Yellowstone Trail. In Willing Township, as elsewhere, the early settlers and traders used as their first roads and paths the trails pressed into the soil by the feet of centuries of red men. Unfortunately, none of our roads are now known by their Indian names although the road from Stannards to Hallsport was once rather well known as the Chenundah Road.

One of the most important early trails was that over which Van Campen was taken as a prisoner from Muncy, Pa., to Caneadea. It is known that he

was taken along the Pine Creek Trail to Gold, Pa., and then up the Genesee River to Caneadea. Coming from Gold, the trail must have followed approximately the present road from Gold through Genesee to Wellsville, except that it did not cross the river at Shongo but remained on the western side. The site of the famous village of Pigeon Woods has never been positively established. It may well have been at the confluence of Marsh Creek with the Genesee.

A very important trail led from the Couanesque River region and the Canisteo through Marsh Creek Valley in Independence and Greenwood, down Cruyder Creek to Truax Hill and over that to Shongo. There it met the trail from Gold whence it could follow north along the Genesee or go west to the Allegheny River region through Marsh and Honeoye Creeks, through Alma to Shinglehouse and Ceres. There was a trail from Green's Corners, or Independence village, westward to Chenunda and one from the direction of Andover through Fulmer Valley. The first road over Christian Hill was said to have followed a well defined trail that came up from the Cruyder by a road now abandoned. It met the trail from Green's Corners near Hallsport and continued to the Chenunda, spelled Chenundah on old maps.

Page 46 of the History of Wyoming County mentions two trails that ran through the Genesee Valley to Caneadea, "thence south and west to O-hee-yo" (Beautiful river). This route up the Genesee to Marsh Creek and Honeoye seems to have been the preferred one although there were

at least two other trails leading westward from the Genesee from approximately Belfast and Belvidere.

Elza Hawkes, an aged man who lived in the Shongo area, said that the place near Shongo where the settlers forded the Genesee River was packed down on both sides from long use by the Indians. He and other old people said that white prisoners were taken to Buffalo either from "Gold way or Canisteo way" down the river to Ford's Brook and thence over the North Branch and "across Wirt some way to Buffalo." Those familiar with the topography of the land and armed with a good map can easily follow this across the northern part of the Town of Alma and probably, if it crossed Wirt, to Petrolia and up Hog Brook towards Wirt.

Roads

Those familiar with the roads of our town will see how closely our ancestors followed those Indian routes, especially if they have some knowledge of the location of roads that are now abandoned. The first road constructed in Allegany County came through Willing township, following Nathaniel Dike's route of blazed trees which, in turn, had followed an Indian trail. Proof of this is given on Page 71 of Allegany and Its People and was quoted in full on Page 25 of The Wellsville Story.

Thus this authentic source proves that our road is much earlier than some that have been publicized in the northern part of the county. In her

Sketches of Potter County, Mrs. Mary Welffling, secretary of the Potter County Historical Society, mentions the route thus: "Packhorse paths were cut through to the place (Ceres) and also to Dyke's Settlement during the summer of 1799)."

The northern part of this road was known as the Pennsylvania Road by 1826 or perhaps earlier. The Pennsylvania Road which entered the town at Shongo was the route by which many of our settlers coming from that state arrived in the town. Potter County, Pa., was formed in 1804. In 1816 Isaac Lyman, N. B. Palmer, Peter Knickerbocker, Jacob Whitney, John Taggart and Calvin Ellis were appointed by the court to "lay off a road from a point on the State line through which the Genesee passes, and in a southern direction to the Jersey Shore Road near the ten-mile tree." This met or was the beginning of our New York State road which was called the Pennsylvania Road and was also referred to occasionally as the Angelica Road. It connected with what our Pennsylvania historians choose to call the Dyke Road which came from Shoemaker's Corners, now Elm Valley, to Ceres.

Four Chamberlain brothers from Pennsylvania settled near the "Transit" in the Town of Belfast in 1803, and in that year a road was cut to Dike's Creek in Wellsville. Though we find no trace of a land office at Friendship, records are found of many early settlers who, as did John Ford, came to Friendship one year and to our town or some other town the following year. This is puzzling as far as towns of the Morris Reserve are concerned

and suggests that there may have been an agent for lands in the Reserve living in Friendship. It was doubtless over this road from Belfast that John Ford came to Lot 43 in Willing.

We know that the village of Green's Corners in Independence, now called Independence, was in existence in 1822 and that it was on a direct route to Whitesville in Independence. Most of the settlers coming to our town from the direction of Alfred came from the two villages.

Augustus Beach came from Connecticut to Willing in 1835 via Genesee County, N. Y. All of our histories say that he cut the road to his cabin for a mile through the woods. No one can say positively from what point Beach cut this road to Lot 163, which in 1959 is owned by William Graves. It would have been about a mile from the Pennsylvania Road which passed through the Genesee Valley at Yorks. There are some who believe that he came over the Independence Road which was the name of the road beginning at the Ackerman farm, Lot 8, and going east over the hill. It would have been about a mile from the old Shear homestead, Lot 182, to Lot 163.

This Independence Road was one of our earliest. In 1833 Nathan Woodcock settled on Lot 189, now the Brandes farm, two years before the advent of Beach. Mrs. Olen Woodcock said that Ebenezer Foster had a large loghouse with two chimneys on the present Harold Palmer farm when the Woodcocks arrived. The road did not turn, as now, and go down the hill at the Shear farm but went straight ahead to the ravine, skirted that on the

right side and crossed over at about the location of the former Frank Elliot lot which at that early date was occupied by a Sherwood family.

If Beach cut a road from this point, it would have gone directly south and followed closely what was then the Town of Independence line. It is very doubtful that he cut a road from the direction of Yorks, as many believe, for Hugh Burrows had settled on Lot 162 immediately below the Beaches in 1833 and there were Bentleys, Brails, Covels and others on that road, the last house only about a half-mile from Lot 163. Some believe that he cut the road from the Hiles place in Independence which is now the main road over Beach Hill. However, this would have been considerably more than a mile. Descendants of Beach now living in the town have papers which prove to them satisfactorily that he cut his famous road from the village of Shongo, then Beanville, up over the hill to his lot. All this discussion of Beach's famous mile shows how many angles there can be to a generally accepted idea.

The main road, which is now hard-topped, from Yorks over Beach Hill was formerly on the opposite side of the creek; its name Worden Run is nearly forgotten. It went fairly high along the hill, one of the houses on the road being in the approximate location of Will Graves's sugarhouse. It came on in a northeasterly direction through the woods on the old Beach farm where its path may still be plainly seen. It crossed the run below the present four corners, went on back of the woods on the old Phillips farm (now Truax), turned

gradually north and finally east through Independence. This road was moved to its present location on the northern side of the creek before 1852. It is now known as Route 39, connecting with State Route 248, the main road between Stannards and Whitesville. It crosses Route 19 at Yorks where it becomes Route 29 as it crosses the river and follows the route of the old plank road to Millport and Shinglehouse in Pennsylvania.

Notes from Willing Highway Book

Willing, March 30, 1852.

At a meeting of the commissioners of highways of the town of Willing held at the house of Hiram York in said town, all said highway commissioners being present and having been for that purpose duly notified, after due deliberation on the subject of this . . . it is ascertained to be impossible to obtain from the town records of Scio and Independence a correct description of the highways and roads of the said Town of Willing . . ., therefore we direct that a survey be made and the lines of said roads be ascertained and put on record of the commissioners Book in the Clerk's office in said Town.

Given under our hands at Willing this 30th day day of March 1852.

Asa Parks, Oliver Ackerman, George M. Arnold, Commissioners of Highways.

Recorded by me May 24th, 1852. Ozias Yale, Town Clerk.

The next meeting was held at the office of the

town clerk in Scio "for dividing road laid on the town line," being the north line of the town of Willing.

"Resolved that the town of Scio take the west seventy rods of said road and the town of Willing the east 70 ... Joel Ware to be the surveyor." This was signed by G. W. Early and Wm. Bellamy, commissioners of the Town of Scio and the commissioners of Willing, duly recorded by the hand of Ozias Yale.

The third meeting was held at the house of Jonathan Richardson in Independence for "the purpose of districting the highways lying on the line between said towns commencing on lot known as the Joseph Sherwood lot and running south on the line of lots as near as may be to the center of the Cruyder Creek road at Ebenezer Richmond's ... Resolved that the north part of Said Road as far south as the south line of lot 151, First Range, new survey, be alotted to the town of Willing. And the remainder of said road from the south line of no 151 to the creek road near Ebenezer Richmond's ..." This was signed by Charles C. Allen, Edmund Livermore, the commissioners of Independence, and Asa Parks and Oliver Ackerman for Willing, "filed and recorded by Ozias Yale."

The next recorded meeting was at the house of of Hiram York where decisions were made regarding the survey, notices, etc. Joel Ware was named as the surveyor. The outline of the survey follows:

"Commencing at lot 194 ... and terminating in a highway near the northeast corner of lot No. 212, No 1 has been altered as to include Stafford

scribed line as originally surveyed and put on record in the town of Independence.

"A road commencing at the western line of Independence, N. E. corner of lot 186 and terminating in the east river road. Whole distance 1227 rods.

"Commencing at river bridge near Jared Stillman . . . terminating on east line of Willing." (At this point in the highway record book they began numbering the roads).

No. 9

"Also a road that may be called the Town line road, commencing in the road leading from A. Beach to Independence . . . thence south 2½ degrees, west along East line of Willing, 464 rods."

No. 10

"A road called the Harrington Road in center of town line road N E cor. lot 152, thence south . . . and terminating in a road near the south line of lot 140 . . . whole distance 516 rods."

No. 11

"Also the Hinyon road, commencing at its inter- Burlinghan and the eastern line of his lot . . .

"A road commencing at a stake on the left bank of Foster Creek and in n. line of lot no 126, 70 rods east of the center of the river . . . and terminating at the east line of lot 204, the same being the east line of the town of Willing.

"A road commencing at the s w cor. lot 89, lying in Independence the whole distance 95 rods . . . terminating in a road leading from Hallsport to Whitesville.

"A road commencing in the center of the highway at Hall's Inn . . . terminating in road leading

from Hallsport to Briggs Settlement . . . leading southerly toward Shongo from John Carrs. Commencing on the north line of 210 . . . terminating with road on lot no 132.

"A road south from Cards & Crittendons store commencing n e line of 2A07 along line of lots . . . terminating in junction with Nathan Woodcock road at S E corner of lot 189 . . . the above road in its whole width lies east of the above desection with Cryder Creek road on the river lot No. 23, thence north . . . terminating in the intersection with Harrington road on Lot 153."

No. 12

"Hawks, Horace Road, 1 to Shongo commencing in Hinyon Road at S W Cor. lot No 137 . . . Thomas Fortner's lot thence . . . not complete." (This was Horace Hawks—only instance where last name was used first).

No. 13

"The Seba Norton road, commencing at its junction with the Hinyon Road . . . terminating in Cryder Creek road."

No. 14

"Harris and Butter (Butler) Road . . . commencing at the east line of Willing and the east line of lot 116 . . . terminating in West corner lot 124."

No. 15

"East road leading to Pa. line, commencing in Cryder Creek road and ending at Pa. line."

No. 16

"To Pa. from Truax at Pa. line . . . terminating in river road northerly of Truax Bridge."

No. 17

"Santees . . . north from Shongo, commencing at Junction with river road in the village of Shongo at lot no (?)."

No. 18

"Crossing river near Waldens in east river road . . . terminating on West side of river near Walden's Mills."

No. 19

"Shongo to Pa. on west side of the river . . . and passing Walden . . . Commencing at Pa. line . . . and terminating in river road near the village of Shongo."

No. 20

". . . from Pa. and terminating above described road at Walden's Mills."

No. 21

"Cryder Creek & river road on east line of Lot no 123 . . . terminating at the north line of town of Willing near Stannards Inn."

No. 22

. . . across Witter bridge, commencing in road of river . . . terminating in main or leading road on west side of river. Whole distance, 164 rods."

No. 23

"Champlin road . . . commencing in center West river road on lines between Champlin and Asa Champlin . . . south."

No. 24

"Ford Creek road, commencing at the cross road at Witter Bridge. Not completed."

No. 25

"Commencing 1½ rods west N W cor. Lot 184

and terminating at junction with road on west line of lot 139, 3 rods south N E cor 634 rods."

No. 26

"River Road, west side, commencing on north line of Willing, north line . . . lot 48 south and terminating with road leading south from Hunter Bridge."

No. 27

"Hunter Bridge Road commencing near south line of lot 12 at its juction with river road, east side . . . and terminating with road from Graves Bridge to G. Arnold's."

The roads from this point to No. 43 are in the present Town of Alma, although it was Willing at that time. These were given on Pages 39 and 40 of The Alma Story.

No. 43

". . . commencing in old road near Jaspar Whites . . . ending in north line of Willing."

No. 44

"Peleg Clark road, commencing east line of Willing . . . township line, n e cor lot 226 . . . terminating in Hallsport road."

No. 45

"Met at the house of Joel Ware, 13 th of Feb. 1851 . . . to center road leading from Augustus Beaches to Simeon Willcox's, 259 rods. Feb 13, 1851. Signed by Joel Ware as Surveyor, Jno. Richardson and E. Livermore, commissioners of highways, L. D. Brown, town Clerk of Independence, O. Yale, town clerk of Willing and Asa Parks, George M. Arnold and Oliver Ackerman."

In 1865 the townshop was divided into road dis-

tricts but until that time they remained basically as they had developed from the days of settlement until the setting off of Town of Willing from Scio and Independence. Although the account from the Highway Book is dated 1852 it will serve to show how rapidly our road system developed from the time of the first settler in 1819 to the beginning of the township. It also serves to establish the locations of several of the early settlers.

Highway Troubles

All was not smooth sailing for those in charge of highways in the bygone days. It would be interesting to know in detail the story behind the summons issued to three men who refused to serve as highway commissioners. The summonses were found among the papers of George Washington Cates, an early constable. They were from the portion of Willing taken from Independence and the three men who refused to act were all residents of Willing after the town was formed.

Allegany County, ss: To any constable of said County, Greetings: You are hereby commanded in the name of the People of the State of New York to SUMMON William A. Sherwood.... if he shall be found in said county, to appear before me the undernamed Justice of the Peace at Calvin Hall's in the town of Independence in said county on the 6th day of April 1848 at 1 o'clock in the after noon, to answer unto Quincy J. Smyth, James T. Holmes & Suel Goodridge, Commissioners of Highways of the town of Independence in said County in a plea of trespass on the case to their damage of one hundred dollars... and have then there this precept, with your return thereupon, as by law required. Given

under my hand at Independence this 27th day of March 1848. Signed by H. Darling, J. P.

But on the outside of the summons is written:

the within suit is commenced under the statute for recovery of penalty for refusal to serve as commissioners of highways having been duly elected to such office on the 7th of March 1848. H. Darling, J. P.

This is a copy of the original in substance, Geo. W. Cate, Constb.

Another interesting document in the Cate papers relating to roads:

To Thomas Green one of the commissioners of Highways in the Town of Independence:

Sir: Take notice that Mr. Smith Dexter, or some other person or persons has obstructed the Highway in Road District No 43 in the town aforesaid by felling trees across the same at a point or place of the road distant about half a mile from the north end of said District—and that he the said Dexter, or Calvin Hall, or other person or persons has likewise otherwise obstructed the said road by putting up a log pole, rail or brush fence across the same—

You are therefore hereby required to cause the said obstructions to be forthwith removed.

Independence June 25, 1841. George W. Cate.

The two other men who received summons identical to William A. Sherwood's were David Robbins and Jose Butler. This was not Joseph, as members of the family have been writing it in recent years. His name on all early records appears as Jose and he was no doubt the Seventh Day Baptist minister of that name, although that remains to be conclusively proven.

Bridges

The "river bridge near Jared Stillman" must necessarily have been at or near the present Mapes bridge. The Stillman farm was the present Hilligas farm. Witter bridge was at the approximate site of the Jack bridge south of Stannards, and Hunter bridge which may be located easily on the 1856 map of Allegany County is shown going almost directly north and south at the bend of the river between Lots 13 and 36. To bring it down to recent times it was said to have been on the Elias Harris farm, which really belonged to his wife Fanny Rogers Harris, but was known as the Rogers farm to the older generation. It is owned by Hugh Chilson in 1959.

Truax bridge crossed Cryder Creek at the foot of the very steep Truax Hill, site of an early mill. It was torn out by a flood probably about the time of the Civil War but possibly later. The Hawkes family, in particular, tried for many years to get the bridge replaced but the road was relocated to avoid a bridge at that point. This was in the southeastern part of the town.

A bridge not mentioned in the highway survey was that west of Hallsport, crossing Chenundah Creek and leading to Fulmer Valley. By legend this was the first bridge in the town and was built by Hall and Cline in the very early days of the settlement of Hallsport. There seems to be no written proof.

The record of these bridges, built prior to 1852, seems to disprove a story given much local cred-

ence that Hunter bridge was the only bridge across the Genesee between the State line and Transit until after the Civil War. This story, definitely not true, is quite generally believed.

The First Settler

All our printed sources give John Ford as the first settler in the Town of Willing. There is a considerable amount of evidence which will eventually prove that there were others before him but, until we are able to present the evidence, we must accept Ford as our first settler.

Page 542 of Allegany and Its People (the 1895 History) has this to say:

> As near as can be ascertained the wilderness was first broken by one John Ford, an Irishman from Connecticut, who came to Friendship in 1818 and the next year to lot 43 and also took up lot 44 in Willing. He was a Revolutionary hero and was said to be in every way qualified to battle with the forest and its denizens. After remaining until 1830 he sold his betterments to his son-in-law Asa Parks and moved to Ohio. In 1842 he returned to Willing and resided with Mr. Parks until his death in 1855 at the advanced age of 88 years.

We do not know why O. T. Perkins, who wrote the chapter on Willing in the 1895 History classified Ford as "an Irishman." There is nothing to prove this statement other than to generalize that the name Ford in itself may originally have been of Irish derivation. Miss Edna Perry, former town historian of Belfast, said that he definitely belonged to the Ford family of Belfast. They also came from Woodbridge, Conn., in 1818 and 1819, one source says 1816.

The Parks family had a musket and other relics of Ford's Revolutionary service which they gave to Milton Loring along with his discharge papers. It has been believed that Nancy Ford Parks was the only child of John Ford. However, his great-granddaughter Eunice Dickinson Green Windsor found the family Bible which contained a record of thirteen children and proved John to have been 104 years old when he died in 1854. The 1850 census of the Town of Scio gave his age as 97, birthplace Connecticut. He was then living in the home of Asa Parks. When the Beach Hill Cemetery was renovated a subscription was taken up and a monument set for John Ford who is buried on the Parks lot. The date, taken from our county histories and directory, is in error. Mrs. Windsor gave also the original Ford Bible to Milton Loring. He had intended to write a book about the Town of Willing and never let anyone see the Bible or the Revolutionary relics although he was usually very generous about these things. He died in April, 1959.

It is hoped that we will be able to prove his Revolutionary service in the next few weeks for the D.A.R. There is a John Ford who served from July 1, 1780, to Dec. 6, 1780, in the 2d Regiment of the Connecticut line. (Reference, p 165 Connecticut in the Revolution). This may be "our" John Ford. There were a number of other references.

In various old diaries, letters and account books and in some of the papers of Augustus Beach as sub agent there are several references to members of the Ford family who were, no doubt, chil-

dren of John. Those known who may later be checked were Levi, John Jr., Henry and Quincy. There is a Quincy Ford buried in the Andover Cemetery, who died Feb. 26, 1847, aged 77, and who could have been a son of John.

Asa Parks

Asa Parks was born in Greene County, N. Y., Sept. 8, 1800, not in Hartford, Conn., as given in the Allegany County Directory of 1875. All census records agree that he was born in New York State and the Greene location is from the family Bible which also was owned by Milton Loring. He was said to have come to Willing via Steuben County as a skilled trapper and hunter. However, our reference sources all agree that he came first to Independence where he worked on a farm until 1829 when he married Nancy Ford, daughter of John. He then took up Lot 43 "which was the first taken from the land office for this town." (p 132-D, 1875 Directory). However, other references and the 1878 History say that John Ford's was the first articled and the 1895 History (quoted) said that he purchased Ford's "betterments."

He acquired Lot 82 on the Honeoye Road in 1831, Lot 70 in 1833 and Lot 181 in 1836. This was the farm on Beach Hill which remained in the family until 1949, when Gayeta Douglass Parks, The farm doubtless seemed to be in a good location at that time for the Independence Road along the town line had been laid out. It was probably nothing more than a path in 1836. Re-read the story of Nancy's experience with the Indians!

There are many descendants of the pioneer through the Parks family alone. Their children were Orin (or Oren), born in Willing Nov. 12, 1830; wife's name not certain. They had Charlie (1861-1915) who married (1) Emma Chestnut and had a daughter who married Robert Clark, and a son Charlie. He married (2) Mary Dolley, daughter of Charlie Dolley of Steuben County, and had Rosey who married Willard Williams and lived near Painted Post. They had several children. Rosey was struck by lightning and killed in the kitchen door of her home. They had also Archie who married (1) Ida Lewis, (2) Gayeta Douglass; there were no children. Asa married Rosey ——. They lived on Beach Hill for a time, then moved to Woodhull, N. Y. They had three sons, one aged 12 died of measles; one moved West; and a third married and lives on a farm in the Town of Rathbone.

Almyra, second child of Asa and Nancy, was born in Willing March 14, 1834, and died there February 17, 1910. She is buried in Beach Hill Cemetery on Parks lot. She married Azariah Beach, son of Augustus Beach and Lovina Skinner Beach. Their children were Euphemia who married Frank Burrows. They had one child who died young; no record of others. Asa, second child of Almyra and Azariah, married Theo Wilson; they had twins, Lena and Leon, and Mabel who died young; they separated, Asa married a second time and may have had other children. Amanda, third child, married Willard Goodridge and had a daughter Gladys who married (1) ——— Barney and

(2) A. W. Huseby; she lives in Brazil. Herman, the fourth child, died young.

Emily, third child of Asa and Nancy, married first Ira Brundage who was killed April 24, 1863, in the Civil War. She married (2) ——— Reesher and had several children, among them Otto of Wellsville. Harriet, fourth and last child of the family, married (1) Isaac Dickinson and had Eunice b. July 19, 1864, who married (1) Oliver Montrose Green and had Lottie, Edward, Earl, Nellie, Clarence and Elmer; married (2) the Rev. Windsor in 1927; George, b. Sept. 4, 1867, married ——— and had Leon, Virgil, Eldyn and Reba, who married a Warfield.

Isaac Dickinson, son of Zebina and Adelsia Smith Dickinson, was born in Steuben County in 1837. He died when his daughter Eunice was nearly 5 years old. Harriet married (2) John Rogers, son of Stillman and Susan Graves Rogers. They had one daughter, Oretta, called Ettie, who died of typhoid fever. She was 18 years old and was to have married Archie Knox on the day that she died. Harriet married (3) Samuel Green when both were very old.

Under these names, briefly given, is a large number of persons who may justly call themselves First Citizens of the Town of Willing. There was also a Seymour Parks who belongs in this group of whom Mrs. Windsor spoke of as living with his Parks grandparents, but we do not know how he fits into the picture.

Articles

"... he came in with his article and located his

lot of land." This is something that we read concerning nearly all the first settlers. The article was procured from the land office offering lots in its surveyed tract for sale. These articles could be obtained also after arrival and after inspection of the tracts if a sub land agent was located in the area. These sub land agents usually were given their own lands or certain commissions toward paying for the lands from the sales to settlers.

The agent was supposed to have education enough to be able to read the maps showing the plats and to be able to locate the lot with reasonable accuracy. Trees, boulders and creeks were landmarks and surveying points. Many a settler came with his article and "located his lot." He carried a small identifying map, often of the crudest kind.

This writer found two original Articles, one given to Wellington Hayes and one to Calvin Hall. Photostatic copies of these were made in Belmont and used during the Wellsville Centennial where they became lost. The owner of the Hall contract is not willing to reloan it but the Hayes Article or contract is owned by the Shear family to whom it came through the Phillips family.

Wellington Hayes' Contract

A CONTRACT, made the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and forty eight between James Maitland, survivor of his wife late Emma Willing and Charles Willing, his attorney by his substitute John W. Fowler of the First Part and Wellington Hayes of Allegany County of the Second Part, as follows to wit:

First—The party of the first part hereby agrees to

sell to the said party of the second part, who has agreed to purchase ALL that certain piece or parcel of LAND situated in Township one, Range first, Morris Reserve, in the county of Allegany, State of New York, being the South half of Lot Number 155 in the Willing & Francis Tract containing fifty acres...

Secondly: The said party of the second part hereby agree to pay for the said piece or parcel of Land to the party of the first part, his heirs or assigns, the sum of Two Hundred dollars.... And the said purchase money shall be paid in the manner following, that is to say: The sum of Twenty dollars to be paid down and the remainder in Five equal annual instalments, with lawful interest from the 1 day of January 1849...and the said interest shall be paid annually on the whole principal moneys or such part thereof as shall from time to time remain due. And in case default shall be made in any of the payments of the above principal or interest, at any of the annual periods above stipulated for the payment thereof, this agreement shall be absolutely null and void. And the said party of the second part hereby agree to pay all taxes ordinary and extraordinary that may be assessed or levied on the land hereby contracted for after 1 day of January 1849.

Thirdly, the party of the first part, his executors and administrators, shall execute and deliver to the said party of the second part, or to his heirs or assigns, a good and sufficient warranty deed for the said land, immediately after the payment of the whole of the purchase money and interest, as aforesaid, and not before.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, the said party of the first part and the said party of the second part have hereunto set their hands and seals.

James Maitland & John W. Fowler, Wellington Hayes.

Sealed & Delivered in The Presence of Augustus Beach.

On the back of the folded document is written:

Rec. of Wellington Haze on this Contract Twenty dol-

lars the payment down mentioned within. John W. Fowler.

For value received I hereby assign and convey to Clark J. Phillips all my right title and interest to the within Article. Willington Hayes. Willing Aug. 11, 1855.

Some Steuben County Records

There is a most interesting old book in the office of the Steuben County Clerk that pertains to Allegany County. When Reuben Oldfield was County Clerk he assisted me in going through the portion of this book that applied in particular to a section of Independence that later became Willing. There was no article recorded in Bath in any of the land agents' books for John Ford or Asa Parks. This is a very fertile and promising field for research in the old land contracts and early deeds.

We found that day the purchaser was called a "contractor" and that there were several contracts being given, apparently by various agents. "Old Conover" contracts were frequently mentioned and were apparently a source of trouble. It would seem that some persons had received contracts which were of no value. The stigma of the word "squatter" might be lessened if we realized that an improper contract was often the trouble. We found after the names of some very prominent men, "occupies as squatter." Coss contracts were another cause of grief but the Cameron contracts seemed to be quite valid. There was considerable reselling.

Of Alfred Harris' land it was said. "This land sold in 1850 at 6 dollars per acre. A resale from the

Old Conover Contract. 20 acres improved, $15 per acre." This was probably the old Harris farm on Cruyder Creek.

There is much interesting history included in the listings, as:

1838—John Gee. This land occupied by Peter B. Teeter, has occupied 7 yrs, 12 acres chopped and cleared, good saw mill. Improvements worth 900 d. Rough land, worth 14½ per acre.

1838—Contractor, Ephraim Slade. A. & B. F. Wood have occupied 6 yrs; partly improved. Rough land fit only for pasture land... Woods are merchants at Whitesville. Good men, can pay.

184 (?) 7—Contractor Daniel M. Coss. In possession of Jeremiah Graves, Jr., who holds adverse possession to Coss... says Coss lives near Bath, contracted from under him.

The record of the land of Edward Foster is especially interesting; it was of January, 1852—"Edward Foster, contractor 1837. This lot claimed by widow Foster. She has no contract. The buildings are all said to be on 5 acres from the South with corners of Lot No. 22. Contracted to Coss. 8 acres improved. Improvements worth 100 dollars, rough land in poor condition, worth $9 per acre."

These few records from Steuben County were all from the Pultney Estate but show the difficulties encountered by those first on the soil. They were in Independence but closely connected with the portion of Independence lying in the Morris Reserve which was taken off November 19, 1851, to form the Town of Willing. It is easy to

understand how in heavily forested territory troubles arose over not only lot lines but those of different large tracts.

Augustus Beach as Land Agent

Augustus Beach was born in Connecticut February 27, 1797, the son of Azariah and Phileta Young Beach. He came to Willing in 1835. He had his article for Lot 163 from John W. Fowler of Bath, agent and attorney for the Willings. He worked under Fowler for the first few years of his residence and after Fowler for Robert Campbell, when he became the owner of the "remaining wild lands of the Willing and Francis Tract." He worked with John J. S. Lee, the surveyor of Wellsville, in surveying the lands. His name appears on most of the early records of the Beach Hill area of Willing and on that of Wellington Hayes.

Two of his letters, found in the Phillips papers, are of general interest. The John Fowler, early settler in Willing, must not be confused with John W. Fowler of Bath, the attorney.

Clark Phillips, Esq. Fairview P. O. Cattaraugus Co., N. Y.

Mr. Phillips, Sir:

John Fowler has come to the conclusion to sell his Lot. He has got fince for the west end and I have bantered him down to 100 dollars. There has been $66 paid on the article and Interest on $56 for three years whitch amounts to 172 there is 200 feet of fine Lumber on the Lot whitch included in the $100 the Land at $4.50 per acre you can come out yourself or write Just as you thinke Best. If you come or write doo it soon as he is in a hurry to know if you write send to Inde-

pendence Center Yours and &c. Augustus Beach.
Independence August 11, 1842

* * * *

Mr. Clarke J. Phillips, Farmers Ville March 9, 1849
Mr. Phillips Sir:

Benjamin Fowler has got back and wants the west half of that Lot I have told him I had sold it to you if he finds out how it stands he will go to Bath and as there is nothing paid he will get it he has gott the monney to pay for a contract. If our traid should leek out he wood get the start of us I have thought propper to write to you on this subject if you have the monney that you can spaire I can hed him if he finds how it stands or send me your note of $20 till the first of June if you have the taxes to pay next winter I can save that amount in intrest on the Lot by the Date of the contract It may be that I can get a long without but if we have the tooles by us it will do us no hurt our traid is not known yet by any Body yet Pleas to write by Ethlin When he comes back and tell us about the momps.

Your Src. Augustus Beach

Clark J. Phillips

The date 1849 in this second letter proves that the affairs of the Willings were handled from Bath after 1834 when their family division of property was recorded in Belmont.

The Willings

The Willing family was socially, politically and financially one of the most important families in the country's early history. The Town of Willing, Town 1, Range 1, of the Morris Reserve in Allegany County, N. Y., is probably the only place in our country where the once-famous name in perpetuated, except for a short street known as

Willing's Alley in the city of Philadelphia. Very few persons in the Town of Willing know anything about the family except that their deeds go back to the Willings who were early owners of the land. The name is often confused with that of the Dutch name, Willink, one of the owners of the Holland Purchase in the western side of the county.

The earliest known ancestor of the Willing line is Joseph of Gloucestershire, England. His second wife, a Saxon heiress, Ava Lowle, was mother of Thomas who married Anne Harrison. Their son Charles was founder of the famous Willing counting house in Philadelphia, known as Charles Willing & Sons. It was to this establishment that Robert Morris came soon after his entry to this country as a boy of 13. Charles Willing married Anne Shippen of a very noted family. Her brother "Dr. William Shippen, the elder," was one of the founders of the College of New Jersey at Princeton. Anne was born August 5, 1710, and died at the age of 80. Her descendants are the families of Willing, Bingham, Clymer, Francis, Powell, Morris, Burd and Hare.

Several books consulted in the State Library at Harrisburg mention both Shippen and Willing families as "having made many advantageous marriages." They seem to have married into all the most prominent families of the day and were themselves leaders in every field of public activity. Some of the families to which they were allied by marriage were Francis, Tench, Owen, Blackwell, Peters, Tilghman, Coxe, and Harrison.

Probably all the Willings descend from the Shippens. William Shippen, gentleman, was born in Yorkshire, England. His son Edward, born in 1639, came to Boston in 1668. He married Elizabeth Lybrand, a Quakeress, "was persecuted therefor" (included two severe public whippings), and removed to Philadelphia at the invitation of William Penn. He was the first mayor of Philadelphia, taking office October 25, 1701. His son Joseph was the father of Anne who married Charles Willing. His son Edward married Margaret Francis and their daughter Margaret (Peggy) Shippen married Benedict Arnold.

Smull's Legislative Handbook of Pennsylvania reads like a roll of the Willing family. Some one of them held the position of secretary of the Land Office for over one hundred and fifty years. They were as prominent in national affairs as in those in the State of Pennsylvania. They were closely associated with George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and Robert Troup. Robert Morris, financier of the Revolution, began his business career in the Willing firm.

Thomas Willing was born in Philadelphia Dec. 19, 1731, the eldest of the eleven children of Charles and Anne Shippen Willing. His father, Charles, died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1754. Thomas then assumed control of the business and formed the famous mercantile firm of Willing and Morris with Robert Morris. During the Revolution this firm supplied naval and military stores to the government. Thomas became mayor of Philadelphia in 1763, associate justice of the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court, 1767-1774, was a member of the Pennsylvania committee of correspondence and a delegate to the assembly in 1775, a member of the Continental Congress, 1775-1776. He organized the Pennsylvania bank in 1780 "with several associates" for the purpose of procuring supplies for the Continental Army. He himself subscribed five thousand pounds. He was president of the Bank of North America, 1781-1792, and the first president of the Bank of the United States which was organized in 1791.

Jeremiah Wadsworth, who purchased the lands of the Morris Reserve in Livingston County, directly north of Allegany County, and John Barker Church, who purchased a 100,000-acre tract which comprised nearly a third of the Morris Reserve in Allegany County, were also associated with the wide-flung Willing clan. They had charge of the commissary for the French army during the Revolution. John B. Minard in his Sketch of Judge Philip Church in the back of the Life of Van Campen by Hubbard, quoted from a source that he did not name: "John B. Church must have brought quite a handsome sum into this county, which was largely increased by his business partnership with Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth, of Hartford, Conn., they having charge of the subsistence of the French army." Minard then went on to say that "His (John Barker Church's) duties made it necessary for him to be in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Albany and other places."

After the war Wadsworth and Church found it necessary to go to Paris and London to finish up

their financial affairs. Church had a "country place" called Down Place and Wadsworth lived at "The Albany" on Sackville St., London. Church entertained refugees from the French Revolution at his home and he with Fox, Wadsworth and a few others planned the escape of LaFayette from the prison at Olmutz, a plan which failed completely. Most of the refugees who were with the Church family in London later appeared in Philadelphia and it was through this family that so many of the French families found their way to Angelica, in Allegany County. Among them were DuPonts (Victor DePont was the first county clerk of Allegany County), de Noailles, d'Autremonts and others.

John Barker Church married Angelica, daughter of Gen. Philip Schuyler. He had entered the country under the name of Carter and the name was used for some time after his marriage. Baroness de Riedesel, in her account of her travels in America, wrote about being entertained by Mme. Carter. Their son Philip Church met his wife, Matilda Stewart, daughter of Gen. Walter Stewart, while visiting in Philadelphia. Philip Church named the village that he founded on his tract Angelica in honor of his mother. It was for many years the county seat.

John Stearns Minard wrote a treatise on the lives of John Barker Church, Philip Church and Mary Jemison, which was published in the Journal of American History in 1908. He was given permission to bring it out in booklet form in 1915. In the booklet there is a picture of a miniature of

George Washington which further ties our area in with the Philadelphia government circles. He found the miniature among papers at Ville Belvidere when working on the article for the Journal. Minard's words were:

Ancient Miniature of Washington—Found at the Villa Belvidere during the Church Regime—The writer was disposed to ascribe this rare miniature to Madame de Brehan but after some corresponding with Mr. Charles Henry Hart of Philadelphia, was forced to the conclusion that it is not one of the de Brehan pictures. It was painted by a Miss Willing of Philadelphia on some metal, probably steel. It certainly is not a monochrome; there is too much coloring for that, neither is it an engraving from the ivory miniature presented to Mrs. Morris or Mrs. Jay. It is an original painting and this is its history. When the seat of Government was in Philadelphia the residence of Washington was in the aristocratic section. Among the society leaders at the time in Philadelphia was a family of Willings. There were several daughters of this family, and the family were socially intimate with the president, and the daughters were particularly devoted to President Washington. One of the young ladies excelled in painting miniatures and intimated to the president the desire that he should sit for her to sketch his profile. He very graciously consented and a few days later she sent it to Washington who valued it very highly.

Two of our leading magazines had claimed to have unearthed and brought to light all the pictures that had ever been painted of Washington, but this one they did not get, I found it in old Allegany.

Two of our leading magazines had claimed to have unearthed and brought to light all the pictures that had ever been painted of Washington but this one they did not get, I found it in old Allegany.

Philip Church of Angelica was the only pur-

chaser of a section of the Morris Reserve to live on his lands. Others, all of them with the exception of McEvers of Bayard & McEvers and Cazenove of Cazenove & LeRoy, were related to the Willing family. Nearly all of the absentee owners lived in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Portions of some of the tracts in the northern part of Wellsville and in Ward were sold to Schermerhorn. This man at one time owned or operated the hotel at Stannards but he was not one of the original large owners.

The Three Willing Deeds

There are three deeds that serve to show the divisions of the Willing lands and allow our imaginations to picture the lands of the Morris Reserve as tracts of virgin forest out of which the Willing heirs hoped to realize some quick cash. Their terms of sale were said to be more generous than those of the Holland Purchase or the Pultney Estate (Phelps and Gorham). The first one in the 5th Book of Deeds, p 233, County of Ontario at Canandaigua:

George Harrison and wife, by indenture 10th day of Jan. 1798 recorded in Clerk's office county of Ontario ... said Thomas Willing Francis having sold a part of said lands departed this life some time in the year 1815, seized of about 9,500 acres thereof, intestate ... leaving several children, among whom were his two sons, John Francis and Willing Francis to and in whom the said lands descended and vested in fee in common with the other thereof and whereas the said John Francis and Catharine his wife by indenture dated May AD 1825, recorded in Allegany county did grant and convey to

said Willing Francis . . . all the undivided estates R. T. and I, whatsoever of the said John Francis and Catharine his wife of and in the aforesaid lands situate in the counties of Allegany and Delaware . . . and whereas the said Willing Francis became indebted to Robert Blackwell of the city of Philadelphia for the sum of $10,000 which he was unable to pay did by indenture dated the 25th day of Oct. 1825 in Allegany county book of deeds, D. p 373, grant and convey all his lands . . . in Allegany and Delaware counties to . . . then held in common with others including the share of John Francis his brother conveyed to him by above recorded deed unto said Robert Blackwell . . . in trust among other things that the said Robert Blackwell . . . should sell and reimburse himself from said sales . . . indenture will more fully appear . . . proceedings in equity in Court of Chancery of New York in which Richard Willing and others were complainants to the said John Francis, defendants for the purpose of having a partition and division of aforesaid tract of 34,500 acres 17th day Nov. 1827, directed a commission to Phillip Church, Wm. Higgins and John Thatcher Hyde to make partition of said lands and said commissioners, Dec. 5, 1827 made return to said court with a map annexed whereby a division and allotment of said lands was duly made . . . duly made to all the parties entitled thereto and certain portions thereof were apiqued and awarded the afore said John Francis and Willing Francis in severalty.

And said Willing Francis and Maria his wife by indenture 28 Dec. 1827 recorded in Book E deeds, p 271 (Allegany) conveyed all their lands in . . . allotment to said Willing Francis in the said division unto the said Robert Blackwell in . . . and the said John Francis and wife Catharine by indenture dated July 5, 1828, recorded in Allegany Co. . . . said two deeds not acknowledged by Catharine Francis and Maria W. Francis in accordance with state of New York . . . but said Catharine long deceased and Maria Willing Francis now Maria H. Hammersley has lived and become a party to . . . for the

purpose of conveying and releasing and said Robert Blackwell departed this life some time in the year 1831 without having disposed of said lands and said Willing Francis also died without having in any way paid or discharged said debt... and whereas said Joseph Swift was appointed by court of common pleas, City of Philadelphia in the state of Pennsylvania as Apique and trustee of the estate of Willing Francis deceased to succeed Robert Blackwell... did constitute Walter S. Church his attorney to make such sales of such lands...

The first deed to a settler found by the Willing historian after this deed was that of Hercules Darling for Lot 11, which was later the property of Hiram York and in recent years that of Milton Loring. We quote from that deed (Liber P, p 320):

Joseph Swift, trustee, to Hercules Darling; This indenture made the 21st September 1836; Joseph Swift, sole trustee of estate of Willing Francis by his attorney, W. L. Church and Hercules Darling of Scio... 119 & 25/100 acres, the whole of lot 11 Willing and Francis Tract.

Deed confirmation; Joseph Swift to John B. Church and others Maria W. Hammersley, widow of said Willing Francis, deceased; John B. Church, Hercules Darling, Barnard Hawkes, Clark Witter, William M. Champlin, The Bank of Steuben, Martin Grover, John C. Riddle, Samuel Gage.

Of these, it was most unusual for the name of John Barker Church to appear on connection with Willing deeds. Darling, Hawkes, Witter and Champlin were early settlers in Willing, then in the Town of Scio. Martin Grover was a lawyer residing in Angelica, Riddle and Gage lived in Scio village. The lawyer, Walter Church, was the son of Philip. It should have been Bernard instead of Barnard as appears on many records of Hawkes.

The second deed seems most personal to those having Willing deeds. It is found in Liber 34, Book of Deeds, p 506, Allegany County:

April 17, 1852, given by Rebecca M. Willing & Edwin Swift and Rebecca Harrison Willing. Rebecca Harrison Willing, widow of George Willing of Philadelphia; Maria Hammersley; Henry Ralston, Gentleman, Harriet his wife; George A. Thomson and Rebecca his wife: Joseph Swift, Gentleman; Rebecca his wife; Dorothy Francis Willing, singlewoman; Charles Willing and Selina his wife and Edwin Swift, stockholder of the second part.

Whereas George Harrison and Sophia his wife by indenture dated Jan. 10, 1798 in the Clerk's office of the County of Ontario in the 5th Book of Deeds, p 233 did grant & convey to Thomas Willing Francis of Philadelphia, his heirs and assigns all that tract of land...beginning at the s w corner of Phelps and Gorhams Purchase, west on the Pennsylvania line 6 m., n 9 mi., e to Phelps and Gorhams purchase to said place containing 34,500 acres. Thomas and Dorothy Willing Francis by another indenture dated the 20th Dec. 1808, recorded in Book 23, Ontario County... Thomas Willing Francis being seized in fee of remainder of said tract, departed this life intestate leaving following named children: Willing Francis, John Francis, Elizabeth Harrison (widow of Henry) Anna Bayard, James A Bayard, Marie Page, Dorothy W. Page and Ann Page, only children of Mary Page, wife of Robert Powel Page, formerly Mary Francis, daughter of Thomas Willing Francis. The will of Thomas Willing dated Dec. 2, 1820, willed his land equally to four sons, Thomas Mayne Willing, George Willing, Richard Willing and William S. Willing. Later "whereas Thomas M. Willing, being seized and possessed of ¼ part of his father's share or portion of said large tract, died 1823"... he made a will dated July 27, 1818, in which the "testator devised residue of estate as follows to his sons... since duly proved and

remaining filed in the aforesaid office for Registering of Wills and in the City of Philadelphia, whereby he does empower his executor to make partition with the representatives of the above named Thomas Willing, Esquire, or his representatives of the said land lying on the Genesee River in the said State of New York and to execute all and any deeds or Releases for carrying such partition into effect. And the said testator therefore devised the residue of his Estate including said lands as follows, to wit: to his son Charles Willing four equal undivided tenth parts thereof in fee. To his daughter Nancy Willing, two undivided tenth parts thereof in fee. To his daughter Emma Willing two undivided parts thereof in fee and the remaining two undivided tenth parts thereof did devise to his executors named therein and the survivors of them and their heirs and assigns of the Survivor in trust for the use of this daughter Elizabeth, the wife of John Sterling and of his will did appoint his wife Jane Willing and his brother Richard Willing as executors.

And whereas the above named William S. Willing being seized of the one undivided fourth part of the share of his father Thomas Willing, Esquire, in the said lands under this will died intestate some time in the year 1821 leaving her three children to wit, Thomas Willing, Jr., Richard Peters Willing and Sarah Peters Willing to and in whom interest of the said William S. Willing in the said premises . . . and tested in fee according to Law. And whereas the said George Willing another of the sons of the said Thomas Willing Esquire deceased and Rebecca H. his wife (party hereto) by Indenture dated the second day of October, anno Domini 1821, recorded at Philadelphia in the office for recording deeds or in Deed Book I. W. No 10, page 650 and intended shortly to be recorded in the Clerk's office in the County of Allegany . . . in consideration of one dollar, and for the purpose of settling and assuring the Estate real and

lands . . . etc. . . . Liber K. page 396. Deeds in Allegany County Clerk's Office.

Joshua Whitney, Sequestrator to Charles Willing. On the 27th day of May 1834, between Joshua Whitney of Binghampton, Broome County and Charles Willing, Physician, of the city of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, under the seal of the Court of Chancery of New York State . . . $6,148, due to Charles Willing and Henry Hollingsworth, "complainants together," with the interest thereon from the 4th day of May, A D 1833 . . . said defendants, Thomas Willing, Richard Willing and Sarah P. Willing, heirs of real estate descending to them from the estate of William S. Willing. Joshua Whitney . . . and he was thereupon authorized, directed to sequestor and seize all and singular . . . the neat estate so descending to the said defendants as such heirs . . . all the right title and interest of the said William Willing . . . in township No. 1 and No 2 MR, Lots No's 1, 19, 173, 174, 181, 182, 183, 185, 186 in twnshp 1, in twnshp 2 , 92, 93 . . . all of which were set off and allotted to Thomas Willing in a petition among the said heirs. Lots set off to Richard in Twship 1, Lots 175, 184, 193, 192, 204, 205, 206, 207, all of 100 acres each, Lot 2, containing 128 a., 37, con. 85; 61/100, 47/100, 47/123 a.; and 40/100 a. In Township 2, (Alma) to Sarah Willing, 17/100; 76/177; 178, 179, 180, 195, 196, 197, 212, 213 of 100 acres each, 16/106 and 25/100; 23 and 83/100. Twship 2, lots No. 94, 95, 96, 100 acres each.

Whitney was authorized to sell as much as needed to pay the debt. Charles Willing was the highest bidder. It must be sold for sums of money to aggregate $4065.

6/7/46—and whereas due notice of the time and place of sale of the said above described premises having been duly given according to the counsel and practice of the said court of chancery in relation to the sale of mortgaged premises, the said premises were thereupon duly offered to sale at public auction on the 7th day of May 1834 the said lots being put up separately and in

separate parcels at the court house in Angelica... and were struck off to the said Charles Willing as the said highest bidder, etc....

Signed by: Joshua Whitney, Sequestrator; John A. Collins, Witness for State of New York, Broome County; Wm. M. Waterman, Sup/Court Commissioner; M. E. Sherman (?) Clerk.

John and Elizabeth Sterling, Henry Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Harrison, widow, Robert Powell Page, Marie Page, Dorothy Page, Ann Francis Page, Thomas Willing Francis, Charles Francis, Jr., and Alfred Francis, complainants against Willing Francis and John Francis defendants for the purpose of having a petition and division to Philip Church, William Higgins and John Thatcher Hyde. George Willing afterwards died intestate leaving to survive him a widow, Rebecca H. Willing and seven children to wit, Maria Francis, wife of Willing Francis, Robert Blackwell Willing, Harriet Ralston, wife of Henry Ralston aforesaid (party hereto), Rebecca Harrison Willing, Jr., Eliza Moore Willing, Dorothy Willing and Charles Willing.

Thomas Mitchell. Willing Francis died... and the said Maria Francis afterward intermarried with Sylvanus I Hammersly... Ester Willing widow of George Willing since married Frederick Helmbold. Rebecca Harrison Willing Junior daughter of George Willing married George H. Thomson. Eliza Moore Willing married Joseph Swift. Two daughters, Emily and Mary Swift.

In witness whereof the said parties have hereunto interchangeably set their names and seals of the day and the year first above written. Sealed and delivered to the preserver of ms. Note. The word "Allegany" in the 25th and also in the 32 line of the first page. The words, —— "acres of Land"... etc. Signed by Edward Shippen and M. Biles and all the foregoing names.

Some Early Deeds from Willing

1838 Ozias Yale from Thos. Willing Lot 43
(same lot for which John Ford was supposed to have had title)
1851 Ozias Yale from Charles Willing Lot 57
1856 Henry O. Yale from Ozias Yale and wife Lot 43
1845 William Cobb from Charles Willing Lot 194
1842 John Cline from Charles Willing Lot 207
1845 Ichabod Hiram York from Justin M. Smith Lot 11
(refers to deed to Hercules Darling from estate of Willing Francis; sold to Carpenter; to Smith).
1844 Lucy Sherwood from Charles Willing Lot 185
1849 Sarah Green from Charles Willing Lot 126
1849 Calvin Hall from Charles Willing Lot 206
1850 John Graves from Charles Willing & wife Lot 15
1850 Nathan Woodcock from Jacob Bailey and wife (Willing family) Lot 189
1853 Oliver Ackerman from Charles Willing Lot 8
1854 William Judson from Joseph Swift Lot several
1843 (Dec.) A. A. Adams from Richard Willing ?
1843 (Sept.) A. A. Adams from Chas. Willing M.D. ?

Rush of Settlers in 1830's

The Willing heirs seemed to be in almost urgent haste to dispose of their lands. By legend only, we have it that there were attractive posters and handbills at places where people were congregating to move west. Perhaps some day, in a trunk in someone's attic, one of these old handbills may come to light. It has been said that this was supposed to be a very healthful country. The older generation often told about the disappointment of their grandparents at encountering all the old diseases plus Genesee fever. So some of us believe

that health, mentioned in whatever form of advertising, led so many to come as soon as the Willing lands were opened up with the certainty of getting clear titles.

The county histories and the 1875 Directory give long lists of settlers coming in the latter part of the 1830's and early 1840's. Mention is always made of one man's name alone but this was seldom the case. Sometimes the man had come in the year or the fall before and "located his lot," perhaps put up a rude shelter to house his family temporarily in the spring. The family came along as a rule. A hired man often came, also, and very often brothers or cousins. The 1850 census gives the names of many brothers and uncles. Sometimes a single man or woman is listed as a "border" but usually a knowledge of the family defines him or her as a close relative.

Lot Harris settled on Lot 17 and Henry Hagadorn on Lot 18 in 1830. It is believed that they were brothers-in-law. They seemed to be associated with the families coming from Dutchess and Delaware Counties via Tompkins County, families of Winn, Burrows (Burroughs), Yaple, Delamater and Briggs. Henry Winn, born at Fishkill, Dutchess County in 1828; possibly, the books say, he came first to Wellsville and in 1832 to Willing. The Winn name has died out but there are innumerable descendants in the area. Although Winn is mentioned alone, family records and letters in the Burroughs and Woodcock families indicate that Winn, Yaple, Close, Delamater and Lenix (probably Lennox) came together. Winn settled on Lot

42, south of John Ford and on the "Dike's Settlement Road."

John Graves, born in Harpersfield, Delaware County, N. Y., came to Lot 33 in September 1828 and took up Lot 15 the following year. He remained on Lot 15 until his death in 1862. Seth and Jeremiah Graves settled on Lot 32 in 1830. John, Jeremiah and Seth were brothers, the three eldest sons of Bela, the Revolutionary soldier who is buried in the Graves Cemetery on Lot 31. His grave has been marked by the D.A.R. This family has always maintained its place in the town and there are hundreds of descendants of Bela and Sarah Griswold Graves, many of them carrying the Graves name.

Jacob Truax settled on Lot 23 in 1835. He was a native of Albany County, N. Y. Truax Hill on the Hawkes Road was named for them. He was a successful wagon maker and had a shop in which blacksmithing also was carried on at the foot of what was once the very steep hill. This farm, known as the Tullar farm, is now owned by Forrest Allen. There was quite a settlement here by 1840. Names that have never been mentioned in our histories are Hawkes, Lancaster, Santee and Henyon.

Elijah Robinson was said to have been the second settler in the town. Quoting the 1875 Directory: "Elijah Robinson, from Brookfield, Madison County, located on the Genesee adjacent to the Pennsylvania line in 1825. He built a sawmill some fifteen feet or more south of the line and made other improvements during a period of four

or five years, when he became deranged and left the town." Robinson would be an interesting person on whom to do some research. It is obvious that if he built his "betterments" over the Pennsylvania line he must have lost them through mistaken title. That happened in many cases. One of the other county histories, possibly Cattaraugus, has an Elijah Robinson, a successful miller who had lost heavily elsewhere "through loss of title." No doubt his bitterness at the loss of "four or five years' work" would have made him seem "deranged" to some people.

Davis Parks, brother of Asa who became a permanent settler in 1829, came from Genesee Forks in Potter County, Pa., in 1827 and settled on Lot 38 (Mapes farm). He moved to Andover four years later and eventually to the West.

Clark Witter came to Lot 45 in 1836. He was born in Rhode Island in 1787 and came to Willing by way of Almond where he had lived for several years. Those settling near him were I. D. Mills, D. R. Fanton, Asa, John and William Champlin and Arunah Farrand. Lot 43 was taken up by Ozias Yale, who was born at Oxford, Chenango County. His first and second wives were both daughters of Gen. Benjamin Jones of Revolutionary fame who came with them. General Jones is buried in the private Yale Cemetery on this original farm which is also on a mound. Ozias was Willing's first town clerk.

John and Joseph Walden, brothers, from Otsego County, settled on Lot 134. John, listed as a day laborer in the 1850, and 1855 censuses, was called

Rev. John; he preached in the Shongo area. He married twice and had fifteen children; Joseph also had a large family. There are many descendants and the name goes on. John was probably a miller or millwright.

Oliver Ackerman, son of Elisha and Betsey Brundage Ackerman, was born in Saratoga County February 3, 1814. He married Angeline, daughter of Josiah and Hannah Whipple Rogers who was born in Chenango County. This closely allied two prominent early families and there are many descendants of both, not only in Willing but over the entire county. Oliver settled on Lot 8 in 1839. A descendant still lives on this lot although most of the original farm has been sold.

Charles Rogers, brother-in-law of Ackerman, settled on Lot 38 in 1834. His wife was Lucy Chandler. They have occupied an important place in the life of the town, have many descendants and the name continues.

John Cline is said to have been the first settler at Hallsport. His first deed is listed in Liber 12, p 365, for Lot 207, dated 1828 from Charles Willing. The 1855 census said that he had been a resident for 29 years and that Calvin Hall had been a resident 31 years. The hamlet was named Hallsport after Calvin Hall. He built the first hotel there in 1838 which was a log structure. Two years later he built a framed building. The hotel was operated for about thirty years and was a center for the surrounding countryside; it boasted an upstairs ballroom.

John Stannard, for whom Stannard's Corners

was named, came soon after 1830 to Lot 1, Willing, and Lot 12, Wellsville. The hotel was built exactly on the town line with the bar extending clear across the back. The bar was maintained in whichever one of the towns had a license and was built for that purpose. The hotel was operated at least until 1840 by Stannard.

Yorks Corners was named for Ichabod Hiram York, who was born in Brookfield, Madison County, N. Y., April 29, 1818, son of Ichabod Hiram and Freelove Gardner York. He came to Lot 11 in 1844, built the house which has been much changed and is now known as Loring's Store. It was the site of the first town meeting of the Town of Willing. There is an historical marker in front of the house.

Briefly, some of the others who came in the '30's were:

Uriah Skinner from Genesee Co.	1838	Lot ?
John Lindsley	1839	Lot 2
Joseph Bennett	1839	Lot 2
Warren Gibbs	1839	Lot 7
T. J. Burdick (son-in-law of York)	1839	Lot 11
Samuel F. Bryant	1839	Lot 37
Hiram Gibbs	1839	Lot 178

"Trials and Tribulations"

Willing, being a newer town, escaped the dreadful famine of 1816 and the financial crisis of 1818 and had no direct experiences to relate of the War of 1812. However, it was a struggle to acquire and keep property.

One of the greatest hardships was the constant

loss of sheep and cattle to wolves and bears, and poultry to foxes, snakes and miscellaneous rodents. When a cabin was "run up" and a shelter provided for the family, the work of paying for the homestead had just begun. The forest was pushed back first from the dwelling, not only because this was the simplest procedure but to discourage animal visitors. There was good reason for groups of settlers to take out lots near each other and to locate the cabins near the corners of the lots for mutual aid. This is the simple reason why we find the little groups of houses huddled together throughout the old sections of the countryside.

There was always work to be done. Felling trees was the most difficult task and also the most dangerous. Trees were disposed of in several ways. Most of them found their way to the ashery and became salable black salts. The kinds preferred for building materials and for furniture were taken to the sawmills; many logs were used in building corduroy roads. Pine was nearly always used for the "corduroys." The roads were made by laying the logs side by side through swamps in particular. They lasted better in wet locations than other kinds of wood. Some of the old corduroy roads are still in existence but few people driving over them are aware of it, for they have been covered with gravel periodically for a number of years. One such road is the first town road going westward, north of Shongo, known as the Graves Road, and also to older people at least, just "the corduroy road." Many logs were merely put into

the river and allowed to drift downstream where they would finally be picked up at some mill.

Neighbors joined together for "raisings" at which barns or houses were run up in a hurry and women furnished a bountiful meal. There were "bees" of numerous kinds, taking turns around the neighborhood until the seasonal work was done. Running the town was a new and interesting job and every man took a real and personal interest in the management of its affairs. Churches were founded and lodges and fraternal organizations organized. Slavery was one of the big problems of the day from the time of the first settler to the Civil War. The men must congregate in stores, blacksmith shops and mills where many weighty problems were solved, at least to the satisfaction of those taking part in the discussions. One's ability to perform much hard, physical labor became an ideal and a verse of much-quoted poetry was:

"Knitting and sewing, and reaping and mowing,
And all kinds of work for people to do,
To keep themselves busy, both Abram and Lizzie,
Begin, then, ye idle, there is plenty for you."

Woman's Work

Pioneer women more than matched the men in hours of labor. Most women milked the cows unless there were boys old enough to do the milking. This may not have been too arduous a task for up to 1850 few farmers had more than three or four cows. It was always the work of women and children to care for poultry, sheep and hogs. But there was an endless caring for the products of these

animals. Butter and cheese to be made from the cows, eggs "put down" for the winter months, wool from the sheep to be carded, spun, dyed and woven, then made into clothing; pork from the hogs to be salted down, lard tried out, and candles made! And soap!

Gardens as we know them seem to have been nonexistent. Accounts in diaries tell of raising turnips, squashes and pumpkins in fields where fallow had been freshly "chopped." Potatoes did not seem to be used to any extent until the 1850's, a fact borne out by the Rogers' Diaries. Turnips and cabbages were stored in pits; pumpkins were preserved in maple sugar after a method taught by the Indians; pumpkins and squashes both were dried, usually strung like dried apples and hung from rafters. Wild plums were common through the 1880's but none can now be found. They were dried as were berries. The entire Genesee Valley was noted for the enormous size of the wild blackberries. A delicious variety of wild grapes also is native to the area. It was combined with the blackberries to make a "cordial," said to be of great medicinal value, but its chief use was of course as a beverage. Dandelion wine also was made in quantity and cider from the apples which grew wild at the time of settlement but were "escapes" from the Indian orchards.

Not everyone could afford tea but even those who could kept it jealously guarded for special occasions. A substitute for coffee was made by roasting and grinding whole wheat and corn; there

was much maple sugar but seldom any other. The much quoted lines,

> "Man works from sun to sun
> But woman's work is never done."

must have applied especially well to this period. So skillful were they at the various tasks that they could even knit in the dark. Every little girl made her sampler on which she painstakingly learned her stitches. They had to be taken out and put in all over should she dare to make a mistake. Every little girl must also make a quilt before she attained a certain age. Every tiny scrap of any kind of material was saved, nothing was ever wasted. Odd bits of new materials were pieced into quilts. No garments were ever thrown away when they were worn past repair or remodeling: they were crocheted, braided or hooked into rugs, or sewn into carpet rags and woven into carpets. Those who are lucky enough to have inherited some of the handiwork of that early day cannot help but marvel at how these women who did so much work by the most laborious methods found time to add such bits of beauty to their work-a-day world.

Abundance of Game

Every account of the Town of Willing that has ever been written told of George Graves who "says he has known his father to kill five bears in a day's hunt and at other times six or eight deer." So telling it once more can do no harm. His father's name has always been omitted. This would have been Seth, son of Bela, the Seth who came in

via Potter County, Pa., and settled on Lot 32 with his brother Jeremiah. Seth and Jeremiah were both noted hunters.

This hunting was not done for the pleasure of killing as in our times. Bearskins were valuable and deer hides found a ready sale. Also, they were cured and used in the homes, the bearskins for rugs on the cold floors and hung on the walls for warmth. Deerskins were soft and made into blankets, vests, gloves and leggings. Bear grease was in demand for protection of leather, much used for saddles, holsters, harnesses. [It was used in place of butter, and for making fried cakes it was much preferred to lard as it did not turn rancid. A fat bear slain just before hiberating produced twelve to fifteen gallons of grease that was worth $5 to $6 at the stores where it was traded. The merchants sent it to city dealers who sold it to manufacturers of hair tonics and the base of medicinal products. The meat was consumed in the home; the bones reached manufacturers and were used in making buttons, knife handles and similiar products. Small bones and scrap from these processes were turned into fertilizer by burning and pulverizing. Editor.]

It takes a real oldtimer to remember the stories told by his grandfather of the flocks of passenger pigeons which were so thick that when they flew over the flocks darkened the skies. This pigeon, so common all over Western New York was virtually exterminated by the 1880's. [Last survivor died in the Cincinnati Zoological Gardens in 1914. Besides the terrible slaughter another cause for

their extinction is believed to have been disappearance of the beechwoods. Beech mast was the passengers pigeon's mainstay food during the nesting season in the North. Nearly all breast, the bird was a tasty viand. There were wild turkeys, wild geese and ducks, and every stream supplied fish in profusion. Hunting and fishing were a means of feeding the family, not a sport. Editor.]

School Days

Histories of the early days of the county give us the date of our first school as 1836, taught at Beanville, now Shongo, by Betsey Lovell. This is the only occurrence of the Lovell name in the town, however some connection may yet be proved with one Lyman Lovell who taught the first school in Centerville the same year.

There are probably no records to tell us accurately if this is the first date on which school was taught formally in a schoolhouse or, quite possibly, if Betsey taught her first school in someone's home. Legend says that the first schoolhouse in the Town of Willing was a log structure across the river on the corduroy road on the left corner, its side turned to the road going toward the Ore Bed and its front door facing the "Buzzard's Roost Road." Mrs. Olin Woodcock (Mary Kemp), who died in 1948, remembered the building.

There was much dissatisfaction when it was decided to build a new schoolhouse across the river in the village of Beanville. The main road at that time followed the river around on the western side,

fording it directly opposite the main part of the village which was farther up the river than at present, approximately at the place where the Hawkes service station stands. In spite of opposition, the schoolhouse was built. Three stories are told about what happened to the first building: one that it burned down, another that it rotted down, but the third, told by Frank Cornelius, we believe to be correct. He said that it was used for many years as a blacksmith shop, probably operated by one of the Graves family.

Mrs. Maria (Nobles) Covel, born in 1841, died in 1943, began her school days in what was then called the Ernie Fortner District School, later Ludden (probably on or near Lot 138, which was "down over the hill toward the Peet farm from the later location." She was five when she started school and the schoolhouse had been in use at least ten years at that time, which would mean by 1836, at least.

The first school in Hallsport was nearly opposite the road coming out from Fulmer Valley. It burned and was followed by two other log schools, one near the present Seaver home, the other near the home of Mrs. Hiram Parker. The present building, which was the last school, was built in 1880.

The first Stannards school was about where the Sekol barn now stands, on Route 19, on the right just above the Murphy Road. It burned twice. There is an interesting account in the diary of Joel Rogers for the year 1856 in which he writes of the burning of the schoolhouse in which the children had left extra coats and books on the night before

the fire because it was so warm that they had not wanted to carry them home. The loss of the contents was considered to be greater than the loss of the building. The men and older boys soon had a bee and a new building was up in record time. The frame schoolhouse was built about 1876 in the Town of Wellsville and became a joint district, No. 3, with Wellsville. It is now a two-family house.

The first school on Beach Hill was opposite the present schoolhouse site (building torn down in 1958) and was, of course, built of logs. The spot where the building stood may still be seen in wet weather. A large schoolhouse that burned later was built in 1850 where the building was torn down but much closer to the road.

The first schoolhouse at Yorks was near the present town highway sheds. It was a log schoolhouse, large enough to accommodate 93 pupils, but so crowded that benches were built entirely around the sides of the room. It was later moved across the road, about 1848, to the location it retained until torn down after consolidation of schools in Wellsville.

The Stone Dam schoolhouse, now a dwelling owned by Bert Currier, was of logs, built on that site to combine two districts, all of the area being in the beginning in the Town of Scio, later combined in Alma and Willing.

The Yale school, sometimes called Ford's Brook School, was not built until well after 1850. It came into existence after the forming of the joint school district with Wellsville by those in the Stannards district who opposed the joint district and those

in the Ford's Brook area to whom it seemed a hardship to have to go so far to school.

We are inclined to think of the country district school as limiting itself to the "three R's" and being rather backward. This was seldom true and many a student of that day who never got to a high school had been instructed in Latin, algebra, bookkeeping, philosophy, physiology and other subjects not today thought of as adapted to the elementary mind. Letters and diaries show the great importance of "Elocution" and "Declaiming and Debating," and it would seem that some very serious-minded students finally "finished the eighth grade."

School Book, District No. 5

"A meeting of the freeholders of District 5, Scio, 2 Oct. 1837. Peleg Palmer was chosen moderator, Lucius Mallory was present as clerk. Enoch Brown, Peleg Palmer, Anson A. Adams, trustees; Joseph Bennett, Jr., collector.

"Voted each man shall get half a cord of wood to a schollar, if failing . . . after 3 days notice to pay $1.00 a cord & trustees to get the wood." (Signed by Palmer and Mallory).

* * * *

"Meeting at the school house, Feb. 1838. Samuel Mallory, moderator, Lucius Mallory, clerk.

"For removing site of schoolhouse and for building schoolhouse:

Enoch Brown, Richard L. Townshend, Asa Foster, Samuel Mallory, Jr., Asa Champlin, Ozias Yale, Arunah Farrand, Miles Potter, William Foster, Job Strait, James

Strait, Joshua Strait, John Champlin, William Champlin, Joseph Bennett, Lucius Mallory, Joseph Bennett, Jr.

"Subject of removing school house being subject to meeting . . . 2/3 voted for removal, (names, 12 ayes, 6 nos) Resolved that site be moved to north side of lot owned by Joseph Bennett at corner old road running to river. Resolved—Frame school house to be built on this site 'aforesaid this present year.' Signed by Samuel Mallory and Lucius Mallory."

* * * *

"Annual meeting freeholders and inhabitants school district 5, 7th Oct. 1839. Josiah Rogers chosen moderator, Joseph Bennett, dist. clerk. Ozias Yale, Enoch Brown, Aaron Burrows, trustees, John Champlin, collector.

"Voted $6.34 for library; 3/4 for winter school, 1/4 summer Public money . . . adjourned to Oct. 1840."

* * * *

"At a special meeting by order of trustees, 14 Oct. 1839, sight on Joseph Bennett's lane . . . 30 rods west of road running up and down Genesee River on south side of road. Only two opposed. Voted $125 to build school house. Only two opposed were Anson A. Adams and Edward Green. Besides the two those voting were:

Enoch Brown, Ozias Yale, Aaron Burrows, Clark Witter, Asa Foster, Anthony M. Monger, Miles Potter, Joseph Bennett, Josiah Rogers, Aaron Hale, Arunah Farrand, Asa Champlin, Oliver Ackerman, Ira S. Witter, Burrell Avery, James Strait, George Wafle, Perry Witter, Abner A. Ames, John Champlin.

"Nov. 1, 1839. Met to choose collector in place of John Champlin; appointed at annual meeting and refused to give bonds for the Safety of Money. Aaron Hale appointed. Enoch Brown, Aaron Burrows and Ozias Yale, trustees. Joseph Bennett's lease of school property for $5.00 as long as used for school purposes.

Money appropriated for support of schools	$42.70
Money appropriated for library	6.34
Money paid to teachers	42.70

"5 Oct. 1840. Joseph Bennett, moderator; John B. Wood, clerk; Charles Putnam, Edwin Green, Asa Champlin, trustees; Abner Ames, collector.

"Names of parents of children:

Jesse Smith	4	Abner Ames	1
Amos Smith	2	Alvah Torrey	2
Josiah Hackett	1	Edwin Green	4
Arunah Farrand	2	Aaron Burrows	2
Anthony N. Monger	2	Asa Foster	4
Asa Champlin	4	Anson Adams	1
Clark Witter	4	Ebenezer Foster	1
Ozias Yale	3	Bela Holeday	4
Josiah Rogers	1	Widow Palmer	2
Joseph Bennett	3	Daniel D. Tuttle	3

"School visited by town inspectors once during year.

"History of the U. S., New Inglish Reader, The General Class Book, Farmer's School Book, Inglish Reader Colo (or Cols?) Juvenile, No. 2, 8, 3; Testament, Witter's Elementary Spelling Book."

"Scio, 1 Jan. 1842—voted . . . school shall comence 1st Mon. Dec. We had 2 months of school taught by E. Green since 1 day Jan. 1842. $25.07 paid Green. School visited by deputy Supt. A Report to the commissioner of common schools of Scio by trustees, had rec'd $5.78

from ... (same) sum applied to purchase of library. Names of parents the same except that of Albert Post added.

"1845—Charles Palmer, Collector and Librarian.

"Nov. 5, 1846—C. N. Munger, Clerk; Anthony N. Munger, Dist. Clerk; Charles Palmer, Trustee; Sheldon Fanton, Collector; Luke G. Witter, Librarian.

"Oct. 1847—Ozias Yale, moderator; Arunah Farrand, Dist. Clerk; Reuben C. Kent, trustee; Sheldon Fanton, coll; Ira Witter, Lib.

"16 Jan. 1850—voted to see if free school; 12 ayes, 7 noes."

Some Other Districts

Dist. No. 4—Strait District, in Scio, Lot 136, west corner Lawrence tract east to n.e. cor. no. 63, Willing & Francis. 30 June 1852.

Dist. No. 9—n.w. corner Lot 144, east on line to 136, etc. to Bolivar town line.

Dist. No. 6—met at home of Edmond C. Howe, Scio, 6 July 1852.

Dist. No. 12—Steam Mill Joint District. Nathaniel Hammond and David Wilcox.

Dec. 9, 1852—Town Superintendents of Bolivar, Scio, Wirt and Willing. Since Willing and Wirt not present resolved to attach district ... to Bolivar ... etc.

Blacksmith Shops

It is almost impossible to know which was actually the first of anything in settlements where many seemed to arrive at about the same time. Miss Lena Mae Graves of Buffalo believes that her great-grandfather, George Graves, had the first blacksmith shop in the Shongo (Beanville) area. He built his own little shop there to shoe the oxen

"of his mile-square farm." Miss Graves says, "This shop soon became the meeting place for the whole new settlement and people came from miles around to have their horses, but more often their oxen, shod."

Elsa Hawkes claimed that the first one in the town was one other than that of Truax combined with his wagon shop, and that it was near the Truax shops. It may have been run by a Henyon.

There was a shop near the present Galusha store which was in operation continuously from about 1835 to about 1910. It seems to have changed hands many times over the years and was the shop owned by ~~Leonard~~ James Higgins. After his death his young widow took over the management of the shop and, as far as is known, was the only local woman blacksmith on record.

James Fosbury came to Wellsville some time between 1827 and 1832 (p. 332 History of Allegany Co. 1895). He was born in Bainbridge, N. Y., the son of Stephen Fosbury. He established the first blacksmith shop in Wellsville but soon after 1840 moved to the Town of Willing. His was one of the large shops, and was located on the present Lambert Higgins farm.

There was a blacksmith shop close to the Pennsylvania line on Lot 25, "opposite O'Donnell mills." This may have been operated by Joseph Walden.

Thomas Straight, born in Renssalaer County in 1802 (census records, 1850-55), was the son of Job Straight, Jr., and Patty ———. He was a grandson of Job Straight, Sr., first settler in Wellsville. He is listed in the census as a blacksmith, and has

probably been confused with a blacksmith of the same name who was of another family.

Joseph Merrick (1830-1908), son of John, for whom Merrick Hill south of Stannards was named, ran a blacksmith shop near the top of the hill from 1857 to 1907. He was said to have "taken over" a shop that had been run since the time of settlement.

There was a large shop in conjunction with the barns (sheds) at the Stannards Hotel from 1830 to around 1900. It was run by Michael Maxwell from about 1845. Prior to that time it was probably operated by members of the Stannards and Axtell families.

Hall built the first hotel or tavern in Hallsport in 1838 and the first framed hotel in 1840. We are told that the first road through Hallsport was that from a farm previously taken up by Hall in Independence which is now owned by Albert McClean. It was joined near this farm by the Independence Road, the abandoned road past what is still called the "Kate Clark Farm." When Hall selected his site for the hotel he placed it as near the center of the village as possible and on this road. As people began coming in there was an ever-growing demand for all kinds of supplies and a wagon trade developed as the bridle paths grew into roads. The wagons were called "tote wagons" and men who owned them would have a whole string of wagons and teams. Hall, therefore, built a large enough barn to accommodate this trade; later when the stage routes were opened he accommodated them also. It was necessary to have a good blacksmith

shop in conjunction with such a barn, and this one was known as Hall's blacksmith shop. One of the Halls was a blacksmith.

George Washington Cate was proprietor of a shop on the present Harold Stout farm; there was one on Christian Hill, one or two in Fulmer Valley, one or two at Gravestown, and one probably on the old Burrows farm that would be near what is now Will Graves's sugar house. It was said that there were four in operation at Yorks by 1850.

One of the most unusual shops was that of George Bennett on the present William Shear farm on Beach Hill. This shop was located where an old house has been converted into a tool shed. Bennett made "edged cutting tools" and was the first person in the town, if not in the entire county, to use coal in his forge. Blacksmiths came from all around to observe whether or not it would be successful.

Milton Loring of Yorks was author of the statement that "you couldn't go more than two or three miles without finding a good blacksmith, and they were always busy."

One of the oldest blacksmith shops in the town was said to be that of "Hank" Miller on Route 19, about half a mile south of Yorks Corners. William Rogers, who is now in his nineties, said that "the old man Miller" was an old man when he was a small boy.

James Wood, called "Pappy Wood," ran a blacksmith shop in Shongo. He ran the first store in the old Bernard Hawkes house on the "back road" (towards Cruyder Creek) so no doubt the black-

smith shop was also in that general area. George W. Fraser was one of the most skilled smithies "anywhere around." Either Fraser or his wife Maggie was closely connected with the Gifford and Billings families. The Frasers moved to Keating Township in McKean County, Pa., as did several other families who followed the lumbering business.

The 1850 census lists Nicholas Faulkner (Fortner) as a blacksmith with a valuation of $800. This was on Lot 166, Beach Hill, and is still owned by the Fortner family. Another listed on Beach Hill was Calvin Hancock. In Hallsport William Babcock and Thomas Perkins had shops but Joshua Palmer, born in Massachusetts in 1785, and his step-son, John Wheeler, born in 1830, were best known. Palmer probably managed the shop at the hotel for his brother-in-law, Calvin Hall.

Robert A. Crittendon had a large shop on the road towards Whitesville in what is known as the Crittendon District. It was in the Town of Independence but patronized well by those living east of Hallsport. The blacksmith's account book of George Washington Cate is now owned by William Graves of Beach Hill.

Mills and Sawmills

It is very difficult to find what kind of mill some pioneer "established" since it was seldom mentioned in our histories other than mill. Occasionally it is possible to find the word "sawmill" in the census records. Usually, we have to decide which

kind of mill was built according to our knowledge of the family, the locality and the stage of development. Most of the first mills were sawmills for it took some time to clear enough land to produce wheat or corn for a gristmill. However, as soon as land was even partly cleared they seem to have raised a great deal of corn on land that would not now be considered tillable. According to the Rogers' diaries, as late as the mid-fifties corn was being raised "among the stumps" and pumpkins were grown between the hills of corn. The rich, black virgin soil produced corn which gave a heavy yield and which was also the staple pioneer food. There was thus a need for a gristmill.

Occasionally we find that one of the sawmills put in a "stone" to accommodate the settlers. This was true in at least one case in Willing when the Santees put in a millstone and made "fine flour" at Shongo. Isaac and John Santee purchased part of Lot 18 from Allen W. Gifford, et al, in 1845; Isaac purchased part of Lot 19 from John Santee and wife in 1846; William from Isaac and wife in 1849; Joseph purchased Lot 17 from Charles Willing in 1855 (known as the Gordon Stout farm) and from Joseph Swift in 1855, Lot 18. (Sarah Amelia Santee purchased Lot 4 from Lyman Brooks in 1855.)

This family was very interesting in itself. They go back to Captain John, born at Easton, Pa., in 1740 and died in 1807. They were given in Steuben County histories as being "an old Pennsylvania family."

John was captain of militia in the American

Revolution (see vol. II Abridged Compendium American Genealogy). Joseph Santee, son of Isaac, was born in Steuben County in 1819; his wife Eliza E. (Stephens?) also was born in that county in 1828. Children in the 1855 census were James V., 7 years, and Permelia, 4. John, brother of Joseph, was born in Pennsylvania Februry 6, 1817. He taught school in the village of Scio, 1847-49. It is said that the family operated a gristmill in Scio village, the foundations of which could still be seen in 1895; however, the records of deeds show the Shongo location. It would have been called Scio at that date.

There was an important factory at Hughesville, Pa., owned and operated by the Santee family, manufacturers of shingle machines. The Santee mill at Shongo was the first to make shingles and they hired expert "shingle-sawers" and also taught the craft there to men who later owned their own mills. The Shongo mills were said to have been the foundation of the Santee fortune. Since the shingle machines which came in "from Pennsylvany way" were purchased rapidly by other mills, we believe that they may have been distributed from this point. John Santee "located in Hornell" in 1864 where he founded the Citizen's National Bank. His wife, two whom he was married in 1840, was Rachel Stevens (Stephens), daughter of Phineas of Greenwood.

There was a mill on the Yale farm which was operated from an early date to at least 1865. A. C. Snow established a mill on Lot 44 on the river and D. Fanton on Lot 45.

Of course, the very first mill was that of Robinson which he had to abandon because it was over the Pennsylvania line. The date for this mill was 1825. Jared and Silas Stillman, sons of Silas and Rebekah Peckham Stillman of Alfred, came to Willing and bought farms and with Enos Hoard, who purchased a great deal of land for the lumber, established a mill on Ford's Brook in 1842. Some people believe that the mill had a much earlier beginning. It was famous for having the first "up-and-down saw" in the area. The Stillmans later had mills on the road south of Yorks Corners.

There was a large mill at Stone Dam. The dam was built on the town line. When Alma was taken from Willing the mill was in the Town of Alma. The old "Tom Perkin's mill" at Hallsport is said to have been a busy place most of the year but there was not water enough to run the mill during normal summer months. There was also a mill at the confluence of Rabbit and Hemlock Creeks and the Clines, who did much of the early building, are believed to have had their own mill. The Wilcox mill was on the present Ross Bledsoe farm.

The kind of stone used for millstones was not native to this section. Some were obtained from Auburn and there was some place from which they could be obtained near Nunda. Information on where and how millstones were brought in is much desired. Experts in chiseling the stones were available. It has been suggested that the same men who did engraving on tombstones were the men who "cut" millstones. When the stones became

worn it was necessary to call for the services of this person. Two-run stones were 24 inches in diameter, four-run stones 48 inches.

Houses

There are many houses in Willing that were built before 1850. Those in the Hallsport area reflect the taste of the builder, John Cline, and his son John. The houses are of Cape Cod type, rather small but well designed. It has been much regretted by some that the perfectly proportioned Hall house has been remodeled, even to picture windows. It is not recognizable as one of the really oldest houses in the town.

Many houses in Shongo were destroyed by the cyclone of 1884. The ones not demolished were so damaged that they required extensive repairs. In the process, quite naturally, they were transformed into what was fashionable at that time. We are told that the old houses, built mostly by the Giffords, were very much the type of the houses at Yorks.

The York house was built by the Stillmans for Ichabod Hiram York in 1844. It is the present Loring Store. Like all the houses built by the Stillmans, it is of a colonial type and much larger than the Hallsport houses. These were sheeted up with pine boards on the inside and plastered over, which made difficult wiring when electricity came into use. The water from a spring some distance from the house on the hillside opposite and across the road was brought down to the house in wooden pipes. The water was brought into the cellar where

the well that was dug to hold it may still be seen. A pine sink built for the kitchen is believed to have been the first one used for miles around. There was a wooden pump which pumped the water into the kitchen.

The crowning glory of this house is its fireplace which is still in use. The opening in the front is 4 feet, 2 inches wide, 3 feet high in the back, 18 inches deep on the hearth and 12 inches deep at the top. Firestone used for this fireplace has never cracked. It came from an outcropping across the road to the left at the top of the hill on Lot 177. This stone supply was exhausted in local fireplaces and sugar arches.

The Stillman home was the large house now owned by Fred Hillegas. It is of perfect proportions. It contained fireplaces similar to the York's but they have been taken out. The Withey house, now the home of Bernard Fanton, also was built in 1844. The fireplace in this house had been boarded up but Fanton opened it and had it repaired several years ago. Although he has modernized the house, he has retained the old proportions. The Ackerman house is built along the same lines but it is not quite such a large house as the others; it was erected about 1845. This home has been owned and occupied for more than a century by the Ackerman family. The present owner and occupant is Manley Ackerman, clerk of the Allegany County Board of Supervisors.

The Yale house on the west side of the river, south of Stannards, was built by Ozias Yale in 1842 or 1843. It is of the same type of construc-

tion as the Stillman houses; it may have been built by them. It is now owned by Paul Regan and used as a tenant house. The Sawyer house, now owned by Graves, is the last house on the right before the Murphy Road when going south from Stannards. It has been claimed by some that this is the oldest of the large, framed houses in the town, dating from about 1838. It is now an apartment house and has been so changed in modernization that it is hard to believe it to be well over a hundred years old. The first house on the right going towards Hallsport on Route 248 is probably the only other house in Stannards built before 1850.

An articles of agreement made this 4th day of March 1835 between Joseph Fulmer and John Cline Jr., the Said John Cline Jr. agrees to frame and enclose for the Said Joseph Fulmer a house and wood shed 15 feet by 13 feet plus a kitchen and wood shed adjoining 15 by 31,

The Said Joseph Fulmer agrees to furnish the materials for (Building) for the same to be delivered on or near the spot in season that the Said Cline shall not be delayed in his work in consequence of the same.

The Said house to contain 14 feet windows and 4 half windows two front Doors and two Back Doors.

The Said Joseph Fulmer agrees to pay the Said John Cline Jr., Seventy Dollars and half when said house is enclosed and the remainder on the first of December next.

The Said John Cline Jr. agrees to take one cow at above price for first payment.

In witness where of we have hereunto subscribed our names this 4th day of March 1839.

John Cline Jr.
Joseph Fullmer

Calvin Hall.

Sheep

Sheep are not considered to have played an important part in the agricultural economy of our town and there are bound to be many who will disagree with the statement that sheep literally formed the "warp and woof" of our background. It has been impossible to find anything of practical value about sheep in printed records but there are the written records in a number of diaries and account books to bear out much of the story that I shall attempt to tell, which, because of its nature, goes beyond the 1850 dateline of this booklet.

In the "olden day" no thought was given to the ancestry of the sheep or of its pedigree—it was just a sheep, a most necessary part of pioneer existence. It came bleating and protesting its lot, which was often enough to be caught by some wild animal, but nevertheless, fitting in its niche. It furnished meat, light and clothing and some part of it was ever as good as ready cash. Mutton tallow was especially desirable in making candles and it was a necessary lubricant. For a long time the wool was made up into cloth in the home, from the time it was sheared from the sheep until it was transferred to the back of its owner. By 1830, however, or perhaps a bit earlier, carding mills and woolen mills began to appear and they saved many tedious hours at the spinning wheel and loom when wool could be made up outside the home. One of the earliest carding mills in this vicinity was in the village of Whitesville in Inde-

pendence, erected in 1828, owned and operated by Nathaniel Covel and Towner Stetson.

Later, David Wilson had a carding mill on Lot 189 in Willing, removed for several years to Shongo (appears on 1869 Atlas), returned to Beach Hill and finally to Wellsville.

Frank Shear told the manner in which wool was taken care of in the home of his parents, Frederick and Loesa Shear, and probably the same process followed in every home. The wool was washed and combed at home, taken to Wellsville (in the 1870's and '90's) to David Wilson's carding mill, located on South Main St. in the old house, now torn down, that was long occupied by Abie Grossman. After carding, the wool was taken to Perryville, now Hickox, in Potter County, Pa., to the mills owned by H. O. Perry, where it was made up into cloth. At one time they had seven coverlets woven, one for each of their children. They were woven in red, blue or green with the natural cream background. At least two of these are still beautiful.

Clarence Johnston had a very lovely large woolen blanket which was woven by a member of the family. In many homes there are still to be found interesting hand-loomed articles as well as some from the Perry Mills.

After it became possible to have wool made into cloth outside of the home, it was but a step to being able to buy it in the stores. As is always the case, it was soon thought to be as economical to purchase it outright as to raise the required number of sheep to have a home supply. Soon the rais-

ing of sheep became more specialized and those who continued to keep them raised more and it became a profitable sideline.

Postoffices

William Barney had the first contract to deliver mail between Bath and Angelica after Allegany County was formed in 1806. Mail brought into Angelica was distributed to other parts of the county from Angelica. William Barney's son, who was blind, made the trip between Angelica and Bath for many years until he was killed by a fall from his horse. Mail was carried to Phillipsburg, from there to Wellsville and south towards Stannards but at the Foster farm the route followed around the hill to Chenunda Creek and thence along the creek banks to Hallsport and probably to Independence over Christian Hill. It has been said, and is probably correct, that the first place in Willing where mail was delivered was on Christian Hill and that Miss Thankful Hall, sister of Calvin, was postmistress.

The first postmaster in Hallsport was John Cline, Sr.; his home in which he kept the office was that now owned and occupied by Harold Barney. This was in the 1830's. Mail was taken from Bath through Almond and Elm Valley to Alma (Honeoye post office) during the time that it was being delivered via the Phillipsburg route to Independence. There was a post office at Elmwood, a settlement mostly on Lots 74 and 76 in Willing, that was very early, earlier than the Ore Bed post

office which was opened in 1841 with Matthew Moran as postmaster. This served quite a large section of Southwestern Willing. Mail to Shongo was addressed to "Beanville, Independence, Allegany County."

A Few of the Craftsmen

Hugh O. Drake—b. 1806 in N.Y. State; was shoemaker in Shongo. He located on Lot 23, near the Waldens and Dugald Cameron. This was as given in the 1850 census of Independence and shown in the 1869 Atlas. Horatio Miles Drake was a son of Hugh.

Silas Giddings—native of Pennsylvania; shoemaker in Shongo.

James Van Keuren—Shongo, custom shoemaker.

Richard B. Rhodes—b. 1810; a carpenter in Shongo area; listed in 1850 census.

Gordon Stout—harnessmaker; b. New Jersey, 1786; wife Margaret b. Pa:. 1787; son Isaac b. N.Y. 1823. 1850 census, Independence.

William Cantine—b. July 4, 1827, Rennsalaersville, Albany Co.; m. Apr. 7, 1853, Mary Emmerett Webster, b. Mch. 30, 1836; dau. Jerus and Susan McAllister Webster. Shoemaker in Hallsport; in Whitesville for some time. Buried in Hallsport Cemetery. Father probably first storekeeper in Hallsport. (Foster family records). These Websters and McAllisters had first deeds from Willings of lands on Stannards-Hallsport Road.

Cabinet-maker—Russell Wood; b. in Herkimer County in 1805 (yet some people insist that he was a Revolutionary soldier.) He was the son of Isaac Wood. He and Allen Wood of Whitesville made much of the really good furniture to be found in homes in the area. He made the famous "pulpit chair" of Rev. Nathaniel Perkins.

Harness-maker—James "Pappy" Wood, mentioned

with the blacksmiths and as a storekeeper. He was a native of Oneida Co., his wife Elizabeth from New Jersey; daughters Mary and Amanda; the latter married James R. Robbins.

The Card Ashery

The Card Ashery in Hallsport was begun in 1841 and followed the usual pattern of combining a store with an ashery. Jabez Card, the proprietor, was born in Rhode Island in 1790, his wife Ellen was born in New York State. The 1850 census of Independence lists Card as a "merchant." The Cate papers show that the store in Hallsport at that time went by the name of Card & Crittendon. Martha Crittendon, who died in 1891 at the age of 75, was probably the daughter of the Cards. Among the several children of Aaron and Martha Crittendon buried in the Hallsport Cemetery is Jabez C. Crittendon, died aged 3. They were associated closely with the Babcock and Holloway families from Rhode Island, and the Wheeler family.

Knowledge of how an ashery was run is obtained from the simple process of collecting bits of information from asheries around the county as described in the 1895 History of the County and the 1875 Directory.

Products of an ashery (Birdsall, Directory) acid (acetate of lime) alcohol, charcoal; 2,000 cords of wood were used annually there.

John Middaugh's ashery on Middaugh Hill, Scio, "converted the ashes of the clearing into black salts and potash which, with peltry obtained by

hunts in the woods, was the only source of procuring ready cash." (p. 681, History).

Sparrow Smith manufactured pearl ash, 1825-1844, in Centerville. "Ashes were a great article of commerce, helped defray the expense of clearing land, paying for provision and clothing. An ashery almost invariably was connected with a store and the ash gatherer with his big team and capacious wagon or sleigh box was a very familiar sight. He carried a trunk or box containing pins, needles, hooks and eyes, tape, calico, tea, coffee, spice, etc., to pay for the ashes." (p. 782, History 1895).

"The ash gatherer would go all over the country, trading calico, etc., for ashes which, converted into pot and pearl ashes would be sent to market and exchanged for cash or more goods. (Ibid, p. 742).

There have been so many questions about asheries that these few facts from other towns are given in the hope of clearing up a few points. Was it from the ash gatherer that the "tin peddler" developed?

The Botanic Distillery

We need to know something of Dr. Quincy Job Smythe to appreciate the importance of the botanic distillery in Hallsport to the local people and the surrounding countryside. The distillery was operated from 1843 or 1844 until the 1870's. Maria Nobles Covel, born 1842, said that it had been running before she was born; her father John

Nobles, worked in the distillery occasionally. Members of the Hall family say that Smythe married Seraphana Hall, daughter of Calvin, about a year after his arrival here. They were married in 1845. Smythe, whose real name was David Beecher Marx, was born in Waterbury, Conn., Nov. 19, 1819. His monument in Hallsport Cemetery carries his real name although he lived his life here as Dr. Smythe and his legal papers in Belmont are recorded under the name of Smythe; a puzzler for future historians and genealogists.

Dr. Smythe was without a doubt the most brilliant person ever to live in our town. He was a doctor of medicine, surgeon, dentist, phrenologist, botanist and inventor of the Marx artificial limb, the first successful one ever to be made. The original of this "limb" is owned by a member of the Hall family and was exhibited in the Hallsport Grange booth at Angelica Fair in our Centennial year.

Not only was Dr. Smythe a capable person himself, but he inspired others in the community to study a great variety of subjects and procured books for them about which otherwise they would not have known. He subscribed to magazines and city newspapers that he loaned freely and in general was, as described by an admirer, "an educational center for the whole country."

The botanic distillery was established on a portion of Lot 206 that he did not purchase from Calvin Hall until 1849 (Liber 26, p. 115). The building was said to have been left of the road going south

from Hallsport. Mrs. Covel said that she remembered it well and it was "not much of a building" but just a lot of sheds with one substantial but small building at the front. It has always been hoped that someone would find a picture of the distillery.

There was of necessity a great knowledge of all kinds of herbs among our early people. There were no doctors available and the family had to know how to take care of itself to survive. Smythe capitalized on this knowledge in having the native medicinal plants brought into his place of business. So much wintergreen was brought in that only very recently is there any to be found growing for miles around. The Smythe distillery was noted especially for a fine grade of wintergreen oil that was produced here. Peppermint and spearmint were close seconds but perhaps because they seed so profusely, they were not destroyed. A high-grade birch oil also was made.

Ginseng and golden seal are among the native plants and they were also used by Smythe. In addition to the distilling of oils and essences he dried leaves and roots of a great variety of plants. Austin Hunt told me, about 1940, that his father Jackson Hunt took "greens" to Hallsport to be "made into medicines." It seems that a list was furnished to farmers, telling what kind of plant was needed and exactly the time and manner for harvesting and the procedure for bringing it in.

We know from some of the old stories that medicine of a number of kinds was made here and

sold locally. But from all that we have been able to glean of facts in regard to it we know that most of the products of the distillery were sold elsewhere. There was a great variety of salves, lotions, ointments and "plasters" sold and used here. Smythe used also a great deal of pine pitch.

The Smythes had twelve children, five of whom died very young and are buried in Hallsport Cemetery. Their daughter Mary E. married Mark Gates; was a noted landscape artist. She was living in Hallsport in 1875 but died at Spirit Lake, Iowa, at the age of 95.

The Gifford Family

Enos Gifford was born April 10, 1769, at Little Compton, R. I., and died in Willing township in 1854. Since the family was known to have been in Madison County, we believe that he is the same Enos Gifford who settled in 1801 in the Town of Hamilton, Madison County (pp. 56, 57, Our County [Madison] and Its People, Smith, 1899).

Enos Gifford came first to the Town of Independence in 1822 where he settled about half a mile east of the village of Whitesville and remained until 1834 when he removed to Lot 38 in the Town of Willing, which was then in the portion that was Independence. (p 132 E, 1875 Directory, Allegany Co.). The same reference says that Pardon Gifford came to Lot 1 in Willing in 1837 and "after four years moved up the River . . ." The 1850 census of Independence gives Enos, 81, born Rhode Island; Hannah, 74, born Rhode Island; Pardon, 55, also born Rhode Island. Willing was

formed in 1852 and we find in the census for 1855 that Pardon, 57, had his mother, Hannah, 78, living with him. The children of Enos were Sylvester, Pardon, Allen W., Henry, John B., and Hannah R. B., who married Philander Hoard. The Mariah Gifford who married Joseph Walden and, as second husband, Lute Jennison, may belong to this family.

We are chiefly interested in the Gifford family for being prime builders. Allen W. and John B. built the first sawmill in Shongo which they ran for several years, and Allen W. kept the first inn in Shongo, which was of course called Beanville, as given in French's Gazetteer. Ebenezer Stephens came to Shongo about 1830, settled on Lot 28 and assisted the Giffords in their building program. The Gifford homestead on Lot 18 in Shongo was said to have been of very fine proportions. This was located about where the Horton Fennimore house now stands. A street was cut through at this point straight to the main road and the Giffords had it staked out into lots. It was called Gifford Street and is shown on the village map of Shongo in the 1869 Atlas. They were among the best of carpenters and built houses in Wellsville and in Genesee. They built the Congregational Church in Wellsville in 1857. Pardon Gifford's house was the first framed one in Shongo.

There was another Gifford family represented in Willing. William Gifford, also a native of Madison County, came with the Yale and Jones family. He married Clarissa Nellissa Jones, daughter of

Benjamin and Sally Miles Jones and granddaughter of Gen. Benjamin Jones.

Hawkes

The Hawkes family was another of those arriving in the 1830's. Bernard's signature was on the first deed of Hercules Darling in 1836, which affords the only date we have for fixing the time of his arrival. The family has been said to have possessed more than the average amount of money when it came in, and for a good many years everything that its members did prospered. Bernard and Prudence both were natives of Massachusetts. They lived for a time in Otsego County and were among the numerous settlers who came here via Butternuts in that county. Their daughter Maria was born there; she married Josiah Phillips, also a native of Otsego County.

William and Wallace were sons of Bernard. We are told that William always wore fine clothes, always a stiff, white shirt and a tie when it made him conspicuous. He wore good hats, boots and jewelry and an impressive gold watch and chain. These are the little things told us by the older generation that make our early settlers seem very real. William was a cattle buyer and for many years held a monopoly in the early days of the business. He married a widow, Lucina ——— Lord. She had three children before she married Hawkes.

Elza Hawkes told some interesting stories of the early days that were recorded in notes taken Nov. 6, 1945. He gave his mother's first husband's

name as Wellington Lord and said that it was he who built the first church in the Town of Willing, thought to be a Methodist. (It will be noticed later that much of the story about the church which has been disbelieved in recent years was true). It was located across the river from O'Donnell's mill and the river was forded at that point. The road came down from the hill directly opposite by the Campbell farm. The river was forded at this point, but farther up near the Truax farm there was a bridge that led to Genesee Forks. There was also a schoolhouse built of logs by the church but this was built somewhat later than the church. Hawkes thought that the Rev. Mr. Walden was the first pastor.

The town built an embankment near the foot of Truax Hill to turn the water toward the mill and to keep it from flooding the flat land. There is still a group of balm of Gilead trees close to where the old bridge was built. The old Bernard Hawkes house was the first store, which was run by James Wood.

Religion

Legend handed down for generations has said that Willing as well as Independence was originally a Seventh Day Baptist town and that it was intended to be kept that way as nearly as possible. The finding of actual records and the adding up of some accepted and known facts sometimes presents a picture different than what we have been more or less taught to believe.

We do not know what religion, if any, John Ford possessed. His Parks descendants have been mostly M.E. and M.P. Groups of families came here at about the same time from Brookfield and DeRuyter in Madison County. Others came later by way of Alfred, Independence, Phillipsburg (now Belmont), Troupsburg in Steuben County and Hebron and Ulysses in Potter County, Pa. It is most interesting to read the rolls of the names of the founders of the churches encircling our town and to note the similarity of names: Stillman, Burdick, Rogers, Green, Crandall, Wells, Kenyon, Noble(s), Babcock, Clark, Bliven, Oviatt, Livermore and many others known to us today. They came to this newly opened area intending to establish the Seventh Day Baptist Church, and are said to have intended settling in sufficient numbers to ensure its remaining a "stronghold" of their beliefs.

From the church records we find that "it appears that the membership of the First Alfred Church in its early days extended over a very large territory, including persons living in the Genesee Valley, where Stannards, Wellsville, Scio and Angelica are located. To the members in these remote sections the church gave a diligent watch-care, disciplining them whenever the occasion required. Though the church had no pastor for nearly twenty-five years, it was blessed with a number of laymen who acceptably and efficiently served it as leaders and preachers of the Word, both at home and in surrounding counties. Independent of other churches it sent its best workers to Independence, Troupsburg, Cowanesque, Angel-

ica, Scio, Pembroke and other places. The men who did the most of this work were Dea. Daniel Babcock and Richard Hull, both men being called by the church in 1817. Eld. Amos Saterlee, who was the first ordained minister in the Association and who became a member of the church in 1821, also went forth occasionally to the needy sections, preaching the Gospel."

And again from the record: "Of the twenty-one churches recognizing Alfred as the mother church and within a day's drive of Alfred . . ." Those of interest to us are Scio (Willing) Church, Stannard's Corners Church, Wellsville Church, Amity (now Scio) Church, Independence Church and what was known at the Scio Branch.

Scio (Willing) Church was organized May 16, 1834, at the house of Dea. Jesse Rowley in what is now the village of Wellsville. Several of the members named, Stephen Tanner, John D. Green, Sally Straite and Lydia Amadown, were from Willing.

"An ecclesiastical council was held" in 1834 and a Baptist Church of Christ organized. This was in the village of Wellsville but most of the members were from what is now Alma and Willing. Ozias Yale and wife, J. C. Fosbury and wife, Jeremiah Graves and Louisa Richardson were from Willing. ——— Munger, probably one of those mentioned in the school notes, was licensed and preached occasionally. The first minister of the church was the Rev. H. H. Whipple.

All of our histories say that the first religious service in the town was a sermon preached by the Rev. Seneca Fish at the home of Daniel Baker in

Shongo. The date of the service is given in all accounts as 1834. Mrs. Harry Seaver (Lytie Perkins) of Hallsport thinks it possible that her great-grandfather, the Rev. Nathaniel Perkins, may have been preaching in the homes around Hallsport at an earlier date. The pulpit chair of the Rev. Mr. Perkins was made by Russell Wood and it was carried to the home in which the services were held. A spindle fits into the back of the chair and supports a rack on which the minister could put his Bible, hymn books and notes. It is owned by Mrs. Seaver.

Miscellaneous Book A in the Allegany County Courthouse contains some most interesting records. One of them, surprisingly, gives the earliest date of the organization of a church as 1824. This home of David Wilson was on Lot 71 and there would have been members from the part of Independence that became Willing as well as the related families.

Independence Congregational Society at home of David Wilson. Enos Gifford and James Dyer chosen to preside; by Ballot, David Wilson, Asa Goodridge and Nathaniel Crandall as trustees and Matthew Wilson, Clerk. Independence, 3 May 1824. Signed by Enos Gifford & James Myer, Matthew Wilson, Clerk. Signed before .. Samuel Livermore 11 Aug. 1825. Filed to record Oct. 4, 1825—John Renwick, Dept. Clerk. "Attested" ... etc.

It will no doubt come as a surprise to many to know of the existence of a Congregational Society at this early date.

The second recorded church deed was also in Independence, and was

Independence M.E. Church, 1 July 1837. Alvah Wood and Avery Rice, presided. Alvah Wood, Jesse Heselton, Samuel White trustees.

The third one copied is of much local interest although not at all connected with Willing.

Independence Calvinistic Baptist Society. At a meeting 5 Feb. 1838, at school house at Spring Mills. Eld. John B. Chase chosen moderator. Gaylord I. Colvin, Sec'y. John L. Rooks and Ephraim Slade elected to preside. Micah I. N. Haskins, Alexander Rice, Silas Crandall trustees. Signed in pres. Gaylord G. Colvin by John S. Rooks, Ephraim Slade.

The fourth record copied is several years earlier than the date accepted as the date of organization of the Hallsport Church. It also establishes definitely the fact that Willing was called Willing long before the town was set up. (p: 527, Miscellaneous Book C).

Willing Christ Church. We the undersigned ... 20 April, 1839, belonging to a congregation in which Divine worship is celebrated ... by the said Congregation in the town of Willing, elect by plurality of voices Aaron Crittenden, John Cline, Jr., and William G. Truesdale as trustees ... to be called Trustees of Christ Church. Signed by Warren Rice and William G. Truesdale before Hercules Darling, J.P. Recorded May 10, 1839, by John W. Eldredge, Clerk.

And finally, the Methodist Church at Shongo about which Elza Hawkes and other old people, now gone, talked so much. The only living person who has some of the story of the old church is Mrs. Frank Cornelious (Ida Graves) whose mother was the daughter of the Rev. John Walden, an early minister there. The finding of this record

proves that the story of the active church there was true. This was on the town road going east towards Truax Hill at what during the days of the N.Y. & P. Railroad was known as "Hawkes Station."

Independence, M. E. Church at Genesee Forks (Misc. Book B, 533). Aug. 6, 1848. Called at Genesee Forks in the Town of Independence. Z. A. Showorth, David Thrasher, moderators. Trustees, 1st class, Joseph Santee, David Thrasher; trustees, 2nd class, John Waldron, Jacob G. ———, Thomas Dixon; trustees, 3rd class, Hiram Pagdon, Joseph Waldron, Peter Drake. Annual meeting to be held first Mon. Sept. 1849. Recorded 30 Oct. 1849 at 2 PM. Martin Butts, Clerk.

It will be noticed that the name of the old Shongo family which is now spelled Walden was Waldron in the church record. It is also spelled with the "r" in the 1869 Atlas. They came from Butternuts, Otsego County, but are believed to be of the Walden family of Orange County.

Thomas Jefferson Cate's Blacksmith Book

1850

March 15, 1850: (beginning).

Jabez Card & Co.—for welding chain	.15
S. G. Hinyon—for mending Clevis	.15
James Brundage—mending kittle bale	.13
Harvey Parker—setting one shoe	.13
Harmon Vanallen—repairing mill irons	1.00
G. Sweeney—sharpening drag teeth, mending chain	1.33
Levy Sherwood—Drawing out bolts	.25
John Wells—mending bolts	.25
A. Sherwood	
R. Mettcalf—chain link	.13
Ruel Fisher, cr. by Elder Sawyer setting 2 shoes	.25

Davied Willcox—for making turning gouge	.50
Card & Crittenden—mending kettle	.50
Levi Skinner	
Aimes Spicer	
Joseph Fullmer	
Peleg Hinyon	
A. Skinner	
Estelle Dates—sharpening drag teeth	.30
Joel Ware—sharpening 8 drag teeth	
John Hiles—Slip & ring & hooks	.50
N. Covel—paid by butter and barrel	.88
John Herick	
John B. Fowler—makeing hooks & links	.75
Benjamin Fowler	
Amissa Sherwood—makeing cradle hook	.25
N. Fortner	
Joel Ware—for setting two shoes	.25
Joel Ware—for making tongue iron	.13
Augustus Beach	
Erastus Green	
Joseph Coats	
Uriah Stephens—for making staple & ring	.25

March 15, 1850. Settled
George H. Bennett

To work on axes	.45
April 10—G. H. Bennett—to work on axes	.63
17 G. Bennett—to work on axes	.27
20 G. Bennett—to work on axes	.19
21 G. Bennett—to knotch ——— for Parker	1.00
May 11 ———to work on axes	.19
June 12 ——— to work on axes	.36
Sept. to work for Willet Wilson	.31
Oct. 22 George H. Bennett—for setting shoe	.13
Jan. 12 George H. Bennett—credit by facing sledge	.79

June 19, 1850 Settled with G. H. Bennett and balanced account to date. (Signed) George H. Bennett, Cate& Wheeler.

March 16, 1850

Ruel Fisher, cr. by iron	4.38

There are several pages, a whole page to each individual and is apparently a settling up of accounts or an inventory of the interest of each person in "the shop." There is one page each for Ruel Fisher, Thomas J. Cate, John Wheeler and half a page for Aimes Spicer. Along the side of each in ink is written "Settled." The book begins anew with:

March 13, 1851.	
Edwin Hull—steel pointing his drag teeth	$1.25
Warren Rice—mending grabs and chain	.20
Wellington Kelsey—credit by five cents	5
William Tallman	
Wm. Forsyth—cr. by 22 pounds of pork	1.54
Charles Meangus—cr. by iron	.25
Nathaniel Covel—testing shoes, repairing wagon	.63
Nelson Coats	
Russell Wood—setting 2 shoes	.25
Charles Fowler—making two chain hooks	.73
Lewis Foster	
John Nobles—repairing buggy	2.25

There is nearly half a page, being the record of William Merch who worked for them by the day during 1851 and was paid 25 cents a day.

George H. Lee	
Joseph Herrick—dr. to setting shoes by B. Fowler	.25
Harrison Herrington	
Campbell A. Parker	
David Eliot—mending hoe	9
Cornelious Rosa—mending chain and setting shoe	.25
Anson Richmond—setting 2 tires	.88

Accounts of Dr. George H. Bennett

Through the courtesy of Miss Madaline Lynch of Wellsville I had the privilege of taking notes

from the old account book of Dr. Bennett. She obtained the book from Mrs. Charles Hall (Aileen Richardson Hall) also of Wellsville but a former resident of Willing.

Dr. George H. Bennett died Oct. 22, 1866, from a heart attack. He fell dead from his chair. He was born in Bath, N. Y., March 30, 1818, married Aurora Richardson March 15, 1840, at the home of M. M. Richardson. Their daughter Mianda died aged 19 years and a son also died young. The 1879 History of Allegany County says of him:

"Dr. George H. Bennett was born in Bath, N. Y., in 1818, and came to Independence with his father Joseph Bennett in 1827. From 1843 to 1847 he lived in Ohio; then returned and lived in Willing until 1857; then went back to Columbus, Ohio; and studied medicine until 1860 when he returned to Whitesville where he has since resided."

It was during his residence at Hallsport, Town of Willing, that his accounts are of interest to us.

1851

Lucius Babcock
Nathan Babcock
William Babcock—by repair of wagon, to harness and lumber
Ethlin Willey—by 39 bu oats at 25 per bu. Dec. 31, 1851
Joseph Herrach—to lay axe, by blacksmithing
Jacob Bloss—by butter
Nathaniel Covel—by acct. of axe and helve
Luther Parker—by butter
Aris Moore—by cash
Q. I. Smythe & Hall—a large act. balanced to Sept. 5, 1851
Oliver Perry—by shoe mending, 1 pr. boots, 1 pr. shoes, by note given by Dexter to pay Delight. .38

Joshua Palmer—April 8, 1851
Clark Burlingame, Aug. 13, 1851
Valorous Forsyth—to call and medicine 50
John Graves—Apr. to visit for Maria 25
I. Norton—to visit & pr for wife from Beanville 50; 1 oz. ointment 25
Peter Teater, Apr. 4—to call & pr for girl 25; and vaccinate her 25; by use of buggy to Beanville 25
Took cow of Ellery White for one year 5.00
I. Norton, Apr. 7—by 7 lbs shugar 10 (or 70)
Peter Perry—1 bu oats at 20; 1 bu wheat 1.00
Thomas Higgins—to lung syrup 75
Samuel Beebe—to visit & pr for child from Beanville
B. M. Phillips—to pr for self 25
A. Comstock, May 6—to visit and pr for Frederick 1.00
A. Comstock, May 7—to visit and pr for Frederick 1.00
A. Comstock, May 8—to visit and pr for Frederick 1.00
A. Comstock, May 9—to visit and pr for Frederick 1.00
A. Comstock, May 10—to visit and pr for Frederick 1.00
A. Comstock, May 10—to visit and pr for Frederick 1.00
A. Comstock, May 11—to visit and pr for Frederick 1.00

Stannards Cemetery

The Stannards Cemetery is one of the few for which fairly accurate records still exist. Milton Loring, who died in April, 1959, had the deed for the cemetery which came to him from his Green ancestors. He had also the first constitution and by-laws. It was first called The Burying Ground and when the constitution was adopted, Nov. 8, 1838, it was renamed the North Willing and South Wellsville Cemetery.

The first burial in the cemetery was that of the daughter of Edward and Sally Green. She was also the first suicide in the town. Her father was said

to have given the plot of land for a cemetery but the deed, recorded in 1853, shows that his wife Sally received $10 for the land.

The signers of the constitution were I. A. Kruzen, C. D. Mills, Moses Miller, N. Dickinson, Chas. Fanton, Horace Fanton, P. H. Fanton, Erastus Smith, Reuben Cornell, Parley Guinnup, Charles Bierman, Jack Fanton, Ernest Fanton, Chas. C. Smith, Frank Tompkins, Eli Fanton, Dan Cornell, Wm. Shay, and L. D. Witter.

The deed, made the 24th day of February, 1853, was between Sally, the wife of Edward Green of the Town of Willing, and William Gates, Ira S. Witter and Sheldon Fanton, "the three trustees in trust" of the same place. The land was described as being on Lot 126, Francis and Willing tract in township 1 of Willing, being "the South township of the old town of Scio."

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