

HISTORICAL SKETCHES  
OF  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
AND  
ITS SEVERAL TOWNS  
WITH MANY  
SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

BY  
FREDERICK J. SEAVER  
MALONE, NEW YORK

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## FOREWORD

The suggestion has been urgently made to me now and again by various parties that the information acquired concerning Malone and Franklin county affairs during newspaper work here covering a period of forty years, together with the data at my command contained in the files of the Malone *Palladium*, make it a sort of public duty that I prepare and publish a history of Franklin county. But such a work is too formidable to be undertaken with the time that could be spared for continuous application in examination and compilation of records, even if capacity and aptitude for so ambitious an effort were not also lacking.

Yet I am by no means insensible to the desirability and importance of assembling and arranging in narrative form such personal recollections of our older residents as may still be obtainable, as well as more authoritative information which, if not put together soon, may be lost forever, or at least become daily more and more difficult to collect and shape for the benefit of those who in later days may care to know the past of our several towns and of the county. The work ought, indeed, to have been done fifty years or more ago if it were to possess the charm and value that men of the time of Asa Hascall, Joseph H. Jackson, Sidney Lawrence, William A. Wheeler, Ashbel B. Parmelee, Dr. Theodore Gay, Dr. Sidney P. Bates, Joel J. Seaver, Francis T. Heath or others who might be named could have given to it. But the obligation to prepare and leave accessible such a record and recital was perhaps not then realized, as certainly it was not discharged. In the spirit and with the purpose of now supplying, at least in part, what it is regrettable that others did not do long ago, a series of sketches will be prepared by me along the lines indicated, though, of course, without claim or pretense that they should be dignified as "history." Rather, they will be in the main biographical and desultory, with reproduction of parts of some of the papers in my possession which were written by men of prominence of an earlier generation. If the effort shall serve to interest or entertain any considerable number of Franklin county people in the present, and be found of value in later years for reference, I shall be sufficiently recompensed for the time and labor that I shall have expended.

There are doubtless many omissions, and the sole merit which it is ventured to claim for the work is that it has been wrought with painstaking care in prosecuting inquiries and in searching records, and that,

so far as it has been possible to make it, it is accurate. The files of the Franklin *Telegraph* from 1820 to 1829, of the *Spectator* for 1833 and 1834, and of the Malone *Palladium* from 1835 to 1909 have been examined week by week, and records in the surrogate's, county clerk's and the several town clerks' offices, as well as many church records and some in the office of the Secretary of State, have been consulted diligently for facts; and it has been my purpose that no unqualified statement of importance should be made that has not been authenticated.

FREDERICK J. SEAVER.

MALONE, N. Y., *July 1, 1918.*

## CHAPTER I

### FRANKLIN COUNTY

The discovery of America having been due to the dream of a westward passage to the Indies, the localities not on the seaboard which were first settled were logically the important river valleys, for the early voyagers were prone to mistake any large stream for an arm of the sea, and to ascend it in expectation that it must lead to a western ocean. The valleys of the Hudson and St. Lawrence were thus the regions in and about the State of New York to be earliest opened and occupied. Accordingly we find the sites of Quebec, Montreal and New York each becoming a military and trading post almost within a century of the discovery by Columbus, and in less than another hundred years there were forts at Oswego and Niagara, and for France and the Church Jesuit missionaries were assiduously cultivating the friendship of the Indians through Central New York, in the remote parts of Canada, and even in the territory which we now call our Middle West. That other localities to which natural thoroughfares or important Indian trails did not lead waited yet another century before being occupied is easily understandable. It is, indeed, occasion rather for surprise that a country of the characteristics which were popularly imputed to Northern New York, except possibly to the shores of Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence, should have attracted settlement even then. Surveys of State lands to the line of the present boundary of St. Lawrence county had sent the report broadcast that the entire region was rugged, mountainous and inhospitable, if not uninhabitable. A map in the Documentary History of New York, published in that period, actually carried the note that the mountains here "show their tops always covered with snow," and many years later Senator Young stigmatized Franklin county as "the Siberia of New York." So unfavorably, in fact, was this section regarded that notwithstanding the State set apart in it hundreds of thousands of acres, still called "the Old Military Tract," from which revolutionary soldiers might choose homesteads under the war land-bounty acts, not a single acre here was ever entered by any claimant — which is to say that only a little more than a century ago lands in our county could not even be given away. No natural highway pierced it, or even touched it except at a single point, nor is there evidence that the Indians inhabited any part of it until within comparatively modern times. True, the

Adirondack Mountains\* take their name from a tribe of the Algonquins, whom the French called "Montagnais," and the woods and waters which in after years afforded so rare sport to white lovers of the rod and gun, and later still became a resort of pleasure and fashion for troops of summer idlers, and a sanatorium of blessed potency for the sick, were aforetime the deer-hunting and beaver-trapping grounds of the Algonquins and the Iroquois. But that seems to have been all, for the permanent lodges of these peoples were elsewhere, save for the possible exception of some very remote occupation by them or their predecessors of the vicinity of St. Regis. Here, on the east bank of the river of the same name, near its confluence with the St. Lawrence, may still be distinguished what some antiquarians believe to be an ancient Indian burial mound — probably made (if made at all except by nature) by Indians antedating the discovery by Columbus. As a matter of fact there are few burial mounds east of Ohio.

The first white person known to have set foot within the present limits of Franklin county came to St. Regis from Caughnawaga about 1750. The Indians at the latter place were a remnant of the Mohawks, formerly settled near Schenectady, and known as the "praying Indians." They were persuaded by French missionaries to remove to Canada about 1667. The story, briefly, as told by Franklin B. Hough, who was pains-

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\*An old gazetteer refers to one range of the Adirondacks as the "Peru Mountains," which naturally suggests treasure and precious metals, but in fact the name is understood to have been taken from the town, which, in turn, is supposed to have been so called because of its mountainous character. This particular range is described as extending from about ten miles west of Lake Champlain southwestwardly through Essex and Hamilton counties for a distance of one hundred and thirty miles.

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NOTE.—Though the matter does not pertain particularly, or hardly at all, to Franklin county, it may nevertheless not be uninteresting to emphasize here the error of what has been, I think, the general school-boy impression, that America was once densely populated by aborigines. My own school history's recital of wars and massacres certainly suggested to the childish mind that the Indians, if not as numerous as the leaves of the forest, were surely almost as many as the trees. But the best authorities place their probable aggregate, of both sexes and all ages, east of the Rockies, in the territory of the United States, at the time of the discovery, at not more than 300,000, or only about as many souls as the cities of Rochester and Utica combined now contain. The same territory had in 1910 a population of 85,000,000, or more than 260 times that of the Indians four centuries previous. The Indians now surviving in the United States, when the idea is more or less prevalent that they have been all but exterminated, number almost as many as they did in 1500. Lossing and other more accurate historians estimate the number of Indians belonging to the "Long House" or the League of the Iroquois, at not to exceed 13,000 at their strongest, and there are half as many now living in New York. Yet, unless we may be near a reservation we rarely see one, or, unless something directs the matter particularly to attention, realize that there are any in the State. Fisk gives the Hurons, who occupied the country to the east of the lake that bears their name, only 20,000 souls in all, and a somewhat careful examination of authorities discloses that with the exception of King Philip's forces in the terrible war that he waged, and which at their maximum numbered between 3,000

taking and usually accurate, is that two boys named Tarbell were kidnapped at Groton, Mass., about 1723, taken to Caughnawaga, and there adopted — growing up in the habits, manners and language of their captors, and in the course of time marrying daughters of two of the chiefs. Superior in mind and enterprise to the genuine Indian youths, and so outclassing them at many points, jealousy was provoked against the Tarbells and their immediate families, aligning the village into factions and creating general friction and disturbance. These differences proving irreconcilable, the missionary priest at Caughnawaga advised the Tarbells to withdraw and establish themselves elsewhere. They and their families, together with their wives' parents, proceeded to St. Regis, which they called Ak-sis-sas-ne, said to signify "where the partridge drums," though the name is claimed by some writers not to have been applied because of such drumming, but from the fact that the grinding of ice in the St. Lawrence in that vicinity, floating through the rapids and lodging in the calmer waters, produces a noise which at a distance resembles the drumming of the partridge. Here the Tarbells made small clearings for corn fields, and founded their homes. Fronting on the St. Lawrence, and bordered by the Raquette on the west and by the St. Regis on the east, the location is one of great natural attractiveness, and the soil is generally rich and fertile. In 1760 they were joined by a colony from Caughnawaga which is believed to have numbered several hundred, marshaled and led by Father Anthony Gordon, a Jesuit missionary, who, arriving on the day whose patron saint is St. Regis, gave that name to the place. The motive for this movement from Caughnawaga is understood to have been the withdrawal of the Indians from the close vicinity of Montreal,

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and 4,000 warriors, the largest Indian war party prior to or during the Revolutionary War of which record has been made was one of 1,500, led by Montcalm at Ticonderoga in 1758; and this included savages recruited all the way from Quebec to Iowa. The next largest, of 1,000, was mustered by Sir William Johnston in an expedition against Oswego. In other campaigns and marauding forays the maximum appears to have been 600 until about 1800, when a much larger force was all but exterminated in Ohio, and again at the Custer massacre of the Little Big Horn. Most of the colonial Indian horrors were perpetrated by bands usually numbering only 30 or 40, though occasionally they were participated in by from 100 to 200. The entire fighting strength of the Iroquois in 1700 is rated by Parkman at only 1,200, disease and war having cut it in half. The same authority gives the total number of Algonquin warriors in Canada at the same date as scarcely 1,000, and this inclusive of all who were scattered from Ottawa to the Atlantic. As still further demonstration of the point that is sought here to be made, Parkman, in referring to the flight of a party of raiders from Massachusetts to Canada, declares that in the entire distance of 200 miles there was not a house or even one Indian wigwam. Thus any idea that in pioneer times the country was thickly populated by savages must be revised and rejected. Indeed, the slightest careful reflection proves that in the nature of then existing conditions any considerable population was impossible, for the country was so much a wilderness, and the Indian clearings and fields so few and scant, that it could not have supported large numbers of people.

where corrupting and degrading influences, particularly the ease with which liquor could be obtained, made the work of the missionaries doubly arduous and discouragingly barren of results. Absolute prohibition and suppression of the rum evil characterized the new village for a time, but has not been a distinguishing condition of the locality in late years. Unless the tribe is to degenerate utterly, measures must be enforced to restore the state of affairs in this regard which Father Gordon instituted. Intemperance and tuberculosis are the scourges of this people.

Another white person besides the Tarbells, an Indian captive and a woman, is naturally recalled in connection with St. Regis, though never herself a resident there. In 1704 the village of Deerfield, Mass., was sacked and partly burned, many of the inhabitants massacred, and many others carried into captivity. Among the latter was Eunice, aged seven years, the daughter of Rev. John Williams. She was taken to Caughnawaga, grew up in the tribe, and in time mated with an Indian, the husband taking the wife's name. She visited Deerfield upon two occasions after reaching womanhood, but could not be persuaded to desert the people with whom her life had been cast, nor to discard even temporarily her Indian dress and resume the garb of the whites. Eleazer Williams (sometimes called "Lazarre"), who is believed by many to have been the lost dauphin of France, and who was educated at Long Meadow, Mass., and at other schools in New England, and served for many years as a missionary to the Indians in Central New York and in Wisconsin, afterward becoming an Episcopal clergyman at Hogansburgh, is held by Parkman, and probably with truth, to have been Eunice Williams's grandson. But the story of Eleazer Williams will be a chapter by itself.

Though the Tarbells and Father Gordon are the first whites indubitably *known* to have set foot within the limits of our county, the impression persisted among the early settlers here that others must have antedated them; and, indeed, that assumption may be well founded notwithstanding it is not susceptible of positive proof. Almost a hundred and fifty years before St. Regis was founded it is known with certainty that French fur traders were pushing west and north from Montreal, and establishing trading stations at all advantageous points. Thus it is far from improbable that territory in the vicinity of Fort Covington and St. Regis may have been occupied by adventurers of this class long before the migration of the Tarbells, and that they even penetrated to locations a number of miles south of the St. Lawrence. Various incidents arose

from time to time three-quarters of a century ago which gave support to that idea. In 1851 Wing Merritt, a wheelwright of Malone, while dressing out wagon spokes from an oak tree eighteen inches in diameter that had been cut in Brasher, found a leaden bullet within an inch of the heart of the tree, and by counting the concentric rings within which the bullet lay, and making what was deemed proper allowance for the ball's penetration, it was believed that the shot must have been fired close upon two hundred years before. The incident is unquestionably authentic. Then, too, within a few years of the same time a knife or dirk thrust into a log or tree trunk was found in the heart of the wilderness in the town of Belmont under conditions which were held by those who looked into the matter to point unmistakably to its having been left there by a European a great many years previously. But these and other similar incidents, however interesting and suggestive, are of course not proof that the county was visited by whites prior to 1750, and I have not been able to find any authentic record that confirms the conjecture or assumption.

#### SIR JOHN JOHNSTON'S FLIGHT THROUGH THE ADIRONDACKS

The story of Sir John Johnston of Johnstown is well known in a general way, but that he journeyed through parts of Franklin county, and almost perished here from exposure and starvation, will, I think, be news to most people. He was an ardent supporter of George III. and a strong royalist, with a considerable number of Scottish retainers and an unbounded influence with the Mohawk Indians. In the winter of 1775 General Schuyler met Sir John by appointment in the vicinity of his home, and compelled him to surrender two or three hundred stand of arms, with ammunition for them, and exacted his parole not to engage in hostilities against the Colonists. In May, 1776, reports having reached General Schuyler to the effect that Sir John was about to violate his parole, a large force of Colonists was sent from Albany to apprehend him; but Tory or Indian friends having warned him of the approach of these, he fled with his retainers to Canada. Mr. James Croil, in his history of Dundas county, Ont., says that, being apprehensive that if he should pursue the Lake Champlain route he might come into collision with the Colonist army that was operating in that region, he directed his flight through the Adirondacks, descending the valley of the Raquette river to its confluence with the St. Lawrence, where he was met by Indians from Caughnawaga, and taken thence by boat to Montreal. The hardships

endured in the wilderness are said to have been extreme, and food in sufficient quantities for so large a party impossible of procurement. Many of Sir John's followers were given land grants in Dundas county, and Mr. Croil having had opportunity to gather data from these or their descendants, his statement is to be presumed authentic. Moreover, a work compiled and published by one of Sir John's descendants corroborates it, though not routing the flight quite as definitely as Mr. Croil does. Sir John marshaled later a host of his Indian followers under the redoubtable Brandt, and also organized a force of regular soldiers known as the Royal Greens, and was a terrible scourge throughout the Mohawk valley.

#### THE OLD MILITARY TRACT AND THE MACOMB PURCHASE

Every wilderness tract, every farm and even every village lot and garden plot in Franklin county is a part either of the so-called Old Military Tract or of the so-called Macomb's Purchase. The former comprehended all of the towns Burke, Chateaugay, Belmont and Franklin, and the latter all of the fifteen other towns. A brief statement concerning these tracts should, therefore, be of popular interest.

The Old Military Tract was set apart by act of the Legislature in 1786 for satisfying out of the same the claims of persons entitled to bounty lands promised by a prior act for enlistment and three years' service in the Revolutionary army. Each private and non-commissioned officer was entitled under this latter act to five hundred acres of State lands, and commissioned officers from one thousand acres to five thousand five hundred acres each, dependent upon their rank. To meet such claims something like three-quarters of a million acres in the northern part of the State were appropriated, comprising the four towns named in Franklin county and also five towns in Essex and Clinton counties. But the Legislature had created other military tracts also for the like purpose, lying in the central part of the State and in Ohio, and, these latter being deemed more desirable, all land-bounty claims were filed against them, so that not a single acre of the tract in this region was ever pre-empted by a soldier. All of it was subsequently sold by the State to land speculators at about nine pence per acre. The names of those who became early owners in this tract which are now at all familiar here are William Bailey, Gerrit Smith, Guy Meigs, Samuel Wead and William Bell. The town of Belmont (then including Franklin) takes its name from the latter, and Gerrit Smith's investment was largely with the idea

of providing homes for freed and fugitive slaves — Mr. Smith having been one of the most zealous and best known abolitionists in the period antedating the Civil War, and an ardent member of the society for colonizing the western coast of Africa with emancipated blacks. Not a few colored people were in fact settled upon a part of Mr. Smith's purchase, and some of their descendants are still residents of Franklin and Essex counties, though the severity of the climate, the inhospitable character of the soil and the agricultural ignorance of the negroes combined to make the attempted colonization a failure.

The Macomb Purchase, effected in 1791, included parts of Franklin, Lewis, Jefferson and Oswego counties, and all of St. Lawrence, together with most of the American islands in the St. Lawrence river, comprehending nearly four million acres. The contract price made with the State was eight pence per acre, one-sixth part to be paid in cash, and the remainder in five equal annual payments, without interest, but with a discount of six per cent. per year to be allowed to Macomb if he should anticipate any of the agreed payments. And, even at this price, the State benefited only by one-half of the amount, the other half having been allowed for services to the commissioners who made the sale. A condition of the grant or patent that was never met required that within seven years from its date there be one family actually settled on the tract for every six hundred and forty acres thereof; otherwise, the estate to "cease, determine and be void." Also the letters patent reserved to the State "all gold and silver mines, and five acres of every hundred acres" for highways. The contract of purchase provided further that there be deducted from the acreage to be paid for "all lakes whose area exceeds one thousand acres" and a "tract equal to six miles square in the vicinity of the village of St. Regis," which last exception was intended to provide for an Indian reservation.

Macomb became financially involved before the transaction with the State was fully consummated, and by a series of transfers various sections of the tract for which he had bargained became vested in a number of people — some of whom had been from the start silent partners with him in the deal. Included among these early owners were Daniel McCormick, William Constable, John McVickar, Hezekiah B. Pierrepont and Richard Harison. The Constable holdings in Franklin county as partitioned were mainly in the central northern parts, the Pierrepont in the western, the Harison in the central, and the McCormick in the central and southern. Afterward Ray de la Chaumont, Michael Hogan,

Luther Bradish and others came into ownership of considerable tracts through purchase from one or another of those named.

These early land owners in the Old Military Tract and in Macomb's Purchase constituted so remarkable a group of men, both as regards character and abilities and their relation to the government of the State and to the business enterprises of their day, that it would be unpardonable to omit brief sketches of them.

Alexander Macomb was born in Ireland in 1748; came to America with his parents in 1755; located at Detroit, Mich., in 1772, where in thirteen years he amassed a fortune in the fur trade; removed to New York in 1785; married as a second wife a daughter of a partner of William Constable. His residence was on Broadway, below Trinity church, and at one time it was rented and occupied by Washington when he was President. Mr. Macomb served several terms in the Assembly of New York, and mingled in the highest social circles, counting among his intimate friends many of the foremost men of the nation. He failed in 1792 for a million dollars; was arrested and confined in jail for a time at the instance of some of his creditors; re-established himself financially; and failed again in 1812. General Alexander Macomb, who commanded the land forces at the battle of Plattsburgh, was his son. Mr. Macomb died at Georgetown, D. C., in 1831.

Daniel McCormick also was an Irishman, and among his closest friends and almost constant companions at his stately home on Wall street were William Constable, Richard Harison, William Bell and Michael Hogan, some of whom were to be seen with him almost every afternoon on the porch of his house. His establishment was continually the scene of friendly dinner parties, at which the number of guests was always odd. Mr. McCormick was one of the most polished gentlemen in the city, and had the entree to the most exclusive social circles, as is shown by the fact that he was a guest at a dinner given by Mrs. John Jay to President Washington. He would not move from his Wall street home even when every other residence in the locality had disappeared, and the district had been given over wholly to business establishments. He was president of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, grand treasurer of the grand lodge of Masons of the State of New York, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and an alderman. A biographer says of him that he was old-fashioned, and clung tenaciously to accustomed habits and style of dress. He wore short breeches to the last, with white stockings and buckles, and powdered his hair. He was without a stain on his character. He died in 1834, possessed of great wealth.

Michael Hogan, owner of Bombay, another Irishman, who had been a ship captain, sailing to every part of the globe, and speaking a number of languages, brought with him to New York in 1804 four hundred thousand English sovereigns, equivalent to two million dollars — an almost unheard of fortune in this country at that time. The money is understood to have been the dowry of Mrs. Hogan, who was a princess of India, and whom Mr. Hogan had married in the city of Bombay. Mr. Hogan established a store on the site afterward occupied by the old Astor House, and filled it with such a stock of costly merchandise as the city had then never seen. Afterward he became a ship-owner and importer, doing an immense business. He gave the grandest dinners known in New York, and a biographer says that he was the perfect Irish host and gentleman, commanding universal respect. He was a contributor to standard publications of his day. A number of his ships were captured by Great Britain in the war of 1812, involving him in financial embarrassment. A monument was erected to him in old Trinity churchyard, and afterward removed to Grace church.

William Bell had been supercargo for William Constable in the latter's trading enterprises with China, and was deemed an authority of ultimate appeal in all matters relating to commercial business with Asia.

A sketch of Luther Bradish, an up-standing figure in the politics and government of the State of New York three-quarters of a century ago, forms a separate chapter of this work.

Robert Watts, a partner with Mr. Bradish in Moira holdings, and long a resident there, was of the New York family of that name, a number of whom were large merchants, and was related by marriage to General Philip Kearney. An elder Watts married the daughter of the Earl of Sterling.

William Bailey, once owner of the greater part of Burke and Chateaugay, and also the local agent for William Constable, was originally from New York city, possessed considerable means, and located in Chateaugay in 1800. There he conducted a large farm, and built and operated an iron forge — the first in the county with the possible exception of the one in Westville. In 1810 three slaves were owned in Franklin county, and Mr. Bailey was one of the two owners — the other being Mr. Harison of Malone. Though I am not sure, it is my impression that Mr. Bailey had two slaves, and Mr. Harison one. In 1820 there was not a negro, bond or free, in the county. Mr. Bailey was the father

of Admiral Theodorus Bailey, the hero of the capture of New Orleans in our civil war. The admiral was born in Chateaugay in 1805. Mr. Bailey was also the grandfather of the late Mrs. C. C. Whittelsey, of Malone. He represented Clinton county, a part of which Chateaugay then was, in the Assembly in 1802 and 1806, and in the latter year was also a judge of the court of common pleas for Clinton county. He removed from Chateaugay to Plattsburgh in 1811, and died at the latter place in 1840.

Gerrit Smith, the radical abolitionist, and one of the operators of the famous "underground railroad," was said by Thurlow Weed to be "the handsomest, the most attractive and the most intellectual man I have ever met." Mr. Smith is suspected of having quartered on his lands at or near North Elba, Essex county, some of the escaped slaves whom he guided to points of safety against recapture, and it is believed that a number of these were transported secretly through Franklin county to "stations" in Malone, and thence into Canada, via Fort Covington.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, Hezekiah B. Pierrepont had no particular distinction except as a business man of large interests and varied experiences. He is said to have been always lenient and liberal with those who purchased lands from him in cases where they were unable to meet payments as provided in their contracts.

John McVickar, born in Ireland, came to New York as a youth, and was under the guardianship of Daniel McCormick until of an age to rely upon himself. He entered the mercantile business in 1786, and in the course of a few years became one of the largest merchants and ship-owners in the city. The volume of his business was enormous, and a large part of it was the importation and sale of Irish linens and other Irish manufactures. So important to Irish industries were his purchases that upon the occasion of a visit that he made to the island it was a subject of general remark, and it was jokingly suggested that the lord lieutenant confer upon him the order of knighthood. Mr. McVickar also traded largely with China through his own ships. He was one of the founders of the Society of Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a vestryman of Trinity Church, a director in a number of banks and insurance companies, and a member of the boards of managers of several benevolent and philanthropic institutions to be connected with which was deemed a great honor, as the appointments were invariably restricted to the very best men to be found in the city. Barrett's "Old

Merchants of New York" says that Mr. McVickar was possessed of a sound judgment and a nice sense of the highest commercial honor, and was proverbially generous in extending aid to merchants who were weaker than himself. A son married a daughter (Euretta) of William Constable, and a daughter married William Constable, Jr. William McVickar, deceased, of Malone, who was the father of Mrs. C. W. Breed and Mrs. Ralph, was a descendant of John.

James Donatianus de la Ray de Chaumont, owner of a third of a million acres in the Macomb Purchase, in which was included the township of Harrietstown which contains the village of Saranac Lake, was born in France in 1760, the son of Count de Chaumont, who was the zealous friend and helper of the United States during our war for independence. When Benjamin Franklin went to France as a commissioner for the Colonies to enlist a French alliance, the French government, though friendly, was not yet ready for an open break with Great Britain, and consequently denied Franklin's appeals and entreaties. Nevertheless it secretly encouraged Frenchmen of means and military capacity to act individually in our interest, and Count de Chaumont needed no urging to serve in this direction. He at once placed his hotel or chateau in the suburbs of Paris at the disposal of Franklin, stipulating only that no rent should be paid or obligation be regarded as incurred until the Colonies should win their independence; and upon these terms Franklin made the establishment his office and home for years. Moreover, the count declined to accept an appointment as one of the ministers of France in order that he might remain free to assist America individually. He gave outright to Franklin in 1776 a thousand barrels of gunpowder and other military stores, and thereafter was untiringly active in buying ships, uniforms, arms, etc., for this country. His transactions along these lines ran into the millions of dollars, for much of which Franklin paid him at the time, or he found reimbursement through the sale of the prizes which John Paul Jones or others captured. Nevertheless the operations embarrassed him sorely, and it was nearly twenty years later that Congress made a settlement with him. The son was in full accord with the father in this work, and it was to effect a settlement that the former came to the United States, where he remained for many years, became an American citizen, and formed intimate friendships with Gouverneur Morris, William Constable and other eminent men of the time. Constable having sold the Chasanis tract in Lewis and Jefferson counties to a French syndicate, which planned to build cities on it and establish

manufacturing industries to compete with England's, Le Ray de Chaumont was put in charge of the proposition after it was seen that the original expectations regarding it could not be realized. He also made large purchases of lands himself from Constable, and brought thousands of mechanics and other operatives from France to settle on the tracts. For almost forty years he resided in Jefferson county, seeking to develop his lands, and engaging in various enterprises designed to be of public benefit. It was a corporation organized by him that built the first decent road into Franklin county, the old St. Lawrence turnpike, from Black River to Bangor. He died in France in 1840.

William Constable, born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1752, was left by his father in that city to be educated when the latter came to this country in 1762. The son followed a few years later, and joined the father near Schenectady, where he soon entered into business. There he and Alexander Ellice became friends, but the latter, being imbued with Tory proclivities, returned to England at the outbreak of war. It was doubtless from this association that Mr. Ellice came afterward into ownership of the Constable lands in Constable and Westville. Mr. Constable himself entered the Colonial army, and became aide to General Lafayette. Soon after the restoration of peace Mr. Constable again interested himself in mercantile affairs, opening an establishment in Philadelphia, which had a branch in Charleston, and thereafter his business ventures covered a wide range and were large and important. He traded extensively with the West Indies; built, owned and sailed ships to Havana and Asiatic ports; became a partner in New York city with Robert Morris and Gouverneur Morris; built and operated a large flouring mill at Yonkers; speculated heavily in lands not only in New York, but also in Kentucky, Virginia and Georgia, and also in public funds. His fortune was large until heavy losses were incurred while he was in Europe, due to reckless indorsements by his brother, James, who had become a partner with him. Ogden Edwards eulogized Mr. Constable after his death in 1803 as a master spirit in every circle, even among the magnates of this and European countries, and declared that as a conversationalist he was unsurpassed. His mansion in New York is said to have been that of a prince, at which his friends always received princely treatment. After Richard Harison, he was intellectually probably the greatest of those who were owners in the so-called Macomb's Purchase, and apparently it was principally through association and friendship with him and Daniel McCormick that the others of

whom sketches have been given in preceding pages were drawn into investing in lands in this section.

Francis Harison (never spelled with two rs) queen's counsel, and direct descendant of Richard Harison, lord of Hurst, and the grandfather of Richard, the proprietor of the township of Malone, came to New York in 1708 with Lord Lovelace, the then recently appointed Governor of the province, and two years later sheriff, afterward becoming a judge of the admiralty court and also recorder. The Harisons were thus one of the earliest English families in New York, and the descendants are disposed to emphasize the fact that they are in no way related to the Round Head General Harrison, but are of cavalier ancestry. The Malone Richard Harison was born in New York in 1747, and at the age of thirteen entered King's College (now Columbia University) in a class of which he and John Jay, the eminent jurist and statesman, twice Governor of New York, were the only members. The two remained friends and associates throughout their lives. Mr. Harison studied law after graduation from college, and was admitted to the bar as soon as he attained his majority. Almost immediately he won success and distinction, which not only placed him in the front rank in his profession, but brought him wealth also. He was at one time the law partner of Alexander Hamilton. In a work by the then president of Columbia College, in 1847, he is named with Mr. Hamilton, Aaron Burr, Brockholst Livingston and two or three others as having given to the bar of his time an eminence of character and talent comparing favorably with the high standing of the bench, and as one of "its brightest ornaments." to which was added: "Richard Harison was the most accomplished scholar of the group," and "he was, moreover, a sound lawyer." Historians generally of New York city, covering the period of Mr. Harison's activities, refer to him as "that great lawyer" or "that great man." He succeeded James Kent as recorder, "and his refinement and urbanity were as conspicuous on the bench as in private life." As bearing upon his scholarship, it is told that, naturally a student, he was a thorough master of Greek, Latin and French, and a reader of widest range: even after reaching his seventy-second year, he took up the study of Hebrew, and mastered that language. Besides having been recorder of New York, he was secretary of the board of regents of the University of New York from 1787 to 1790: member of Assembly in 1787 and 1789: a member in 1788 with Hamilton, Jay and others of the convention which adopted

the federal constitution; and from 1789 to 1801 United States attorney for the district of New York. Through the kindness of his great-grandson, William Beverley Harison, I am privileged to have before me as I write a photographic copy of his commission as United States attorney, signed by George Washington, and also a photographic copy of a personal letter from President Washington, transmitting the commission, from which I quote: "The high importance of the judicial system in our national government makes it an indispensable duty to select such characters to fill the several offices in it as would discharge their respective duties with honor to themselves and advantage to the country." Mr. Harison was nominated to the Senate by President Washington to be judge of the United States district court, but declined the office. He died in New York December 7, 1829.

Bearing in mind the conditions in Franklin county as set forth in previous pages, and considering that, though Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence river were principal avenues along which the forces of England and France moved and fought almost continuously in the half century of conflict which those powers waged for dominion in America, Clinton county had not a permanent settler until 1763, and St. Lawrence none until 1792 with the exception of the mission at Fort La Presentacion (now Ogdensburg), the fact that it was more than three centuries after the voyage of Columbus before there was a single white home within the present limits of Franklin county is less occasion for remark than the fact that one was established even then. It certainly was not expectation or hope of finding here gold and silver loot and mines, such as had enriched Spain from Mexico and Peru, nor yet a search for adventure or the dream that the climate was mild or the soil especially fertile, that induced our first immigration. The impelling motive, then, could hardly have been other than the spirit of restlessness which in all countries and in all ages has kept the tide of migration and the course of empire and civilization moving westward — now in prosecution of war, now for attainment of freedom of worship, and again merely in the search and striving for cheaper lands and for larger opportunities in life. The latter must have been the impulse in this case, for the men who came knew in advance that for a time at least conditions here must make for dire privation, for arduous labor, and for only a bare living at the best. Nevertheless, they came, the sturdy manhood of New England, with devotion to home, with belief in the church and the school, and with fidelity to conscience. While probably none of them quite so phrased it, they believed, too, "in the sovereign

fatherhood of God and the equal brotherhood of man;" and for that some of them had fought at Bennington, Quebec, Ticonderoga, Saratoga or Yorktown.

#### CHARACTER OF THE PIONEERS

We who enjoy to-day the fruits of the labors and the traits of character of Franklin county's pioneers can not too highly estimate their worth, nor too greatly venerate their memories. Unlettered though some of them were, lacking the refinements which association and attrition with others induce, and environed but rudely in all respects, they yet possessed great natural intelligence, were endowed with shrewd judgment which hard experience made practical and far-seeing, and were enterprising to a degree. To these qualities and to the sacrifices and privations which our ancestors voluntarily imposed upon themselves beyond those which necessity compelled had they chosen to consider only the then present and themselves, instead of having looked to the future, Franklin county owes much in the line of material development, beneficent institutions, and rank in enterprise, intelligence and character. As a boy it was my privilege to know some of those who had converted Franklin county's forests into farms, established our churches and founded our schools: and, though of course there were exceptions, their simple and correct habits and walk in life, their virtues, their intense convictions and inflexible loyalty to principle gave them a rugged and sterling worth that commands unbounded respect: and I should feel that a duty had been undischarged if this brief tribute were not here paid to them.

#### ERECTION OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

The lands comprising Franklin county were originally a part of Albany county, which once embraced a portion of the State of Maine, all of the State of Vermont, and nearly all of that part of New York which lies west of the Hudson and north of the Mohawk. Clinton county was erected from Washington, one of Albany's offshoots, in 1788, and then, and by subsequent extensions, included all of its present self, and substantially all of Essex and Franklin and a part of St. Lawrence. What is now Franklin county consisted at that time of parts of the towns Champlain, Peru and Plattsburgh. Chateaugay (spelled in the act creating it, "Chatenaga") was taken from Plattsburgh and Champlain in 1799, and in 1801 and again in 1802 and 1808 there were annexations to it, so that with Malone it was coextensive with Franklin county, comprising an area of almost seventeen hundred square miles. For twelve years after the first settlement

here we were one with Clinton as a county. All real estate records were kept at Plattsburgh, and all court business had to be transacted there. Even yet not a few of the records of early conveyances of lands in Franklin county are to be found solely in the office of the clerk of Clinton county, only some of the more important having been certified to the clerk's office in Malone, and so made easily accessible here. For a time the arrangement as indicated occasioned little inconvenience or annoyance, as the population was scant and its interests so slight that public records and litigation concerned the inhabitants but seldom and insignificantly. Immigration continuing at an increasing rate, however, the condition became irksome and insupportable, developing a demand for separation from Clinton and for the erection of a new county, particularly because jury duty and attendance at court as witnesses were onerous and costly. At that time fees for jurors in courts of sessions and common pleas were but one shilling in each case in which they were sworn, and in the supreme court and circuit court the same when sworn, with an allowance of six shillings per day for time spent in going to and returning from the place of service. Witnesses received two shillings per day. This meant that a juror drawn or a witness summoned from any part of what is now Franklin county had to travel to and from Plattsburgh, usually on foot, pay all of his expenses, and receive perhaps a dollar and a half at the minimum or possibly three or four dollars as a maximum for his week's time and outlay. Now a juror from, say, Tupper Lake, serving at Malone, would be paid for a week's attendance something over twenty dollars, and a witness in a criminal case about eight dollars.

In 1808 the Legislature was petitioned to erect this county, with Norfolk suggested for its name. Barely a month later (March 11th) the prayer of the petition was granted by the enactment of an act to divide Clinton county, but with the name of the county set off therefrom to be Franklin instead of Norfolk. Four other counties were erected the same day, all but one by chapters earlier than that creating Franklin; and the latter became the forty-first county of New York. The act of erection provided, in brief, that there be established the county of Franklin, with boundaries the same as those now existing, except that in 1822 one township was detached from Franklin and added to Essex, and in 1913 a tract of five square miles was taken from St. Lawrence at its southeastern part and annexed to Franklin, so that the latter might complete a highway, in which St. Lawrence is not especially interested, to connect Tupper Lake with roads leading straight through the wilderness to Utica and Albany. The act erecting our

county further provided that there be created here "a court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace," the terms of which should be in April and October in each year at the academy in Malone. (This court was equivalent in most respects to the county court as created by the constitution of 1846, and as before the "side judges" or justices of sessions were abolished, though its jurisdiction was somewhat broader, and the "first judge" was not required to be a lawyer.) The act authorized the supervisors of the county to raise by tax on the freeholders and inhabitants of the county the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, "to be applied and appropriated by them to strengthen and secure one room in the said academy as a gaol for said county," and empowered the sheriff and other officers to confine their prisoners there or in the jail of the county of Clinton as they might elect; and thus the academy building became at once an institution for instruction, a temple of justice, and a place of detention for debtors and for punishment and correction of evil doers, as well as serving for a few years as a house of worship. This so-called academy building (the institution was never chartered as an academy) was a two-story frame structure, and stood a little to the north and west of the present academy building. It was known as "the Harison Academy," and at one time went into disuse for school purposes, when it was converted into a tenement house, and was so occupied at least as late as 1844. One of the rooms in it was rented by a tenant to the village band for a meeting place for practising, and for a time the Odd Fellows had their lodge room on the second floor of the building. Later it was again converted into a school building, moved a short distance to the west, and used for the higher grades of our village schools until about 1870. Some of the teachers who were in charge there were Cyrus Bates, Cyrus Thomas, Sidney Sayles and Marcus Johnson. Fifty-odd years ago students there would drop waste paper between the studding, where the plaster was broken, and then throw a lighted match into the cavity. Thus every few weeks school would have to be dismissed because the building was on fire.

The act of erection further changed the boundaries of Chateaugay as well as those of Malone, detaching from the former certain townships which were to remain a part of Clinton county, and annexing to both Chateaugay and Malone (then called Harison) those parts of the towns Plattsburgh and Peru which extended to the present St. Lawrence county eastern boundary. It also provided that Franklin county should be considered a part of the eastern district of the State, and that returns

of elections for State officers, members of both Houses of the Legislature and representatives in Congress be made to the clerk of Clinton county. As judges, sheriffs and county clerks were all then appointive by the Governor and Council, a consequence of this provision is that there is no record in the county clerk's office at Malone of the county's vote until 1822. The eastern district included in 1808 the counties of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Montgomery, Washington, Essex, Clinton and Franklin, and was entitled to a representation of eleven Senators. In 1815 the district was changed to exclude Albany, and to add Herkimer and Lewis, with a representation of eight Senators.

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY'S GROWTH

As illustrative of the conditions which had occasioned the movement for a separation from Clinton county, the growth of our own county may appropriately be shown at this point. Chateaugay, all uninhabited in early 1796, had come to contain a population of 443 at the date of the census in 1800, which had increased in 1810 to 625, notwithstanding its partition in the meantime to make Malone, and that of the county as a whole to 2,719, though in the ensuing four years (due to apprehension of war and to its effects when it actually occurred) there was a loss of 151. The population of the county and of its several towns in 1810 and in certain subsequent years was:

COUNTY	When formed	From what taken	1810	1820	1830	1840	1860	1900	1910	1915
Complete	1808	Clinton county	2,719	4,439	11,312	16,518	30,837	42,842	44,534	46,181
Altamont	1890	Waverly						3,045	4,691	4,480
Bangor	1812	Dickinson		370	1,076	1,289	2,520	2,221	1,946	2,179
Bellmont	1833	Chateaugay				472	1,376	2,414	2,341	2,031
Bombay *	1833	Fort Covington				1,146	2,440	2,742	2,588	1,337
Brandon	1828	Bangor			316	531	794	938	872	860
Brighton	1858	Duane					208	706	741	777
Burke	1844	Chateaugay					2,240	1,936	1,772	1,835
Chateaugay	1799	Ch a m p l a i n and Plattsburgh		625	828	2,016	2,824	3,183	2,723	2,840
Constable	1807	Malone †	916	637	693	1,122	1,680	1,266	1,323	1,331
Dickinson	1808	Malone	411	495	446	1,095	1,917	1,691	1,609	1,514
Duane	1828	Malone			247	324	279	312	300	255
Fort Covington	1817	Constable		979	2,901	2,092	2,757	2,043	2,028	2,045
Franklin	1836	Bellmont				192	1,105	1,501	1,447	1,378
Harriestown †	1841	Duane					340	3,390	4,753	4,716
Malone †	1805	Chateaugay	767	1,130	2,207	3,229	6,565	10,009	10,154	11,255
Moir	1828	Dickinson			791	962	1,798	2,484	2,346	2,413
Santa Clara	1888	Brandon						580	675	525
Waverly	1880	Dickinson						1,615	2,170	2,133
Westville	1829	Constable			619	1,028	1,635	1,237	1,121	1,128

\* Includes 1,253 Indians in 1900 and 1,249 in 1910. The number of Indians shown by the enumeration of 1915 is 1,086, but undoubtedly should be nearly 1,500. See chapter on St. Regis.

† Then Harison.

‡ Part of Brandon afterward added.

The decrease in population during the war of 1812 and in the years immediately preceding was due to these facts: There was a settlement of Indians in the county, all of whom had been at one time British wards. On contiguous territory lying in Canada were an equal or greater number belonging to the same tribe who were still British, and though this people had had no sanguinary record in three-quarters of a century then past, and, indeed, most of those dwelling within Franklin county had been American in sympathy during the war of the revolution, they were nevertheless Indians, and a hundred years ago the mere name suggested savagery, bloodthirstiness and rapine. It was known, too, that for some time preceding the declaration of war British agents had been successfully inciting Indians along the Northwestern frontier to outrages upon the American whites in that section, and rumor magnified and distorted real conditions there and everywhere adjacent to Canada. The effect was utter demoralization, and it is told that many times when false alarms were given, or even at sight of an Indian's footprints, the settlers would be seized with panic, and flee to the woods with their wives and children for hiding. Similarly, though more quietly, the Indians themselves suffered, as knowledge that their appearance away from their reservation would be certain to occasion alarm on the part of the whites, if not collision with them, and operated to restrict their movements and to prevent their customary hunting trips. But as a matter of fact not only was there no Indian outbreak here, but there was never a real indication that one was meditated. Nevertheless, so strong was the belief that one was certain to occur that some of the more timid settlers abandoned their homes, removing to localities which were thought to be safer, and undoubtedly considerable numbers who had contemplated coming here were deterred by apprehension from so doing. As indicative of the state of affairs, General Clark Williamson, a man of exceptional determination and intrepid courage, came to Malone in 1809 and purchased the farm near the Junction which was for so long a time his home, but, disquieted by the general conviction of Indian outbreaks, deemed it imprudent to remain. Returning to Vermont, it was a number of years before he felt justified in again coming and establishing his home here. The instance is probably only one among many that were similar.

Between 1860 and 1865 the county lost 2,692 in population, or nine per cent., because of a diminished birth rate during the period of the civil war, and because many of the large number of men here who entered the Union army gave their lives to the cause, or settled

elsewhere instead of returning to their homes after their terms of enlistment had expired.

In the thirty years from 1860 to 1890 the county as a whole made a net gain of only 7,273 in population, the increases having been principally in Bellmont, Harrietstown, Malone, Moira and Waverly, and actual losses having been experienced by Bombay, Chateaugay, Fort Covington and Westville — some of them considerable. Dickinson also had an apparent loss, but it was occasioned largely, if not altogether, by the town's partition for the erection of Waverly. Chateaugay's decrease was due principally to the fact that several hundred residents removed to Colorado; and it seems probable that other losses are to be explained by the fact that families are generally smaller than formerly, which is strikingly illustrated by school records and conditions. For illustration, there is one district in Burke in which the school used to be of considerable size that has not a single child of school age, and there are a number more scattered through the county where similar conditions exist, though perhaps not quite as extreme. The exact facts for the county are not in my possession, but in the State as a whole there are 15 schools which have but one pupil each, 86 in which there are but two each, 900 in which there are not more than five each, and 600 more with not over seven each. Franklin county undoubtedly has its share of these nearly 1,600 districts where the laughter of children and the sunshine of their presence have almost disappeared, and I think we may charge largely to "race suicide" the losses which the census shows for some of the towns.

The percentage of increase in the county's population from 1800 to 1810 was 518; then to 1820, 73 per cent.; then to 1830, 42 per cent.; then to 1840, 32 per cent.; and from 1860 to 1910, about 44 per cent. During the half century from 1860 to 1910 the population of most of the other distinctively rural counties of the State remained either stationary or actually decreased. It should be remarked, however, that Franklin's growth in this time was but little, if any, along agricultural lines, and was due principally to the development in Malone, to the very marked progress of Harrietstown (attributable to special and in some respects peculiar causes), and to lumbering operations in the southwestern towns.

While the contemplated scope of this sketch is to make it almost entirely narrative, with little statistical cumbering, it yet seems essential (inasmuch as not all even of our own people know our boundaries and dimensions accurately, and because an "outlander" may possibly

chance occasionally to scan these pages) that they carry just a touch geographical and climatic.

Franklin county lies in the extreme northern part of the State, bounded on the north by Canada, with the St. Lawrence river sweeping its northwestern corner for a distance of two or three miles where the St. Regis Indian reservation juts westward beyond the line marking our seemingly natural boundary there; on the west by St. Lawrence county; on the south by Hamilton and Essex; and on the east by Essex and Clinton. It has an area of 1,678 square miles, of which about 270 square miles are under State ownership. The extreme length of the county from north to south is along its western border, and, according to Tupper's survey made about 1798, is 63 1/8 miles, but Colvin questions Tupper's accuracy in this respect, and thinks that the distance is slightly less. A measurement on the east, from the southeast corner of Harrietstown, to the Canada line makes 60 1/8 miles. The county's greatest width is about thirty-three miles. At the date of its settlement it was densely wooded throughout; in the northern part with giant pine, and elsewhere with hard and soft timber generally intermingled. Clearings for farms and homes, the manufacture of potash and charcoal, vast lumbering operations, the cutting of pine for rafting to Montreal for conversion into ship masts, and the sweep of fire have denuded great tracts, though there still remain large areas that are well timbered, and which the best interests of the county demand shall be protected and forever preserved, because it can not now be thought that larger possibilities of prosperity, wealth and growth lie in destructive operations in the Adirondacks than in conservation, to the end that the region may be kept a pleasure resort and a sanatorium.

No considerable part of the county is without its surface broken by hills, though Constable, Westville, Fort Covington, Bombay, Bangor and Moira contain broader reaches of level country than are to be found elsewhere. The southern townships are thickly studded with mountains, and large parts of them must always remain uncultivated and waste lands, though even here valleys also abound which may be successfully farmed except when frosts blast and blight, as they are apt to do even in the summer months at the altitude of 1,400 to 1,700 feet, which is that of the settled parts of most of our Adirondack towns. Some of these altitudes as shown by United States surveys are: Loon Lake 1,712 feet, Mountain View 1,498 feet, Lower Saranac Lake 1,534

feet, Upper Saranac Lake 1,571 feet, Saranac Lake village about 1,600 feet, Malone at the county clerk's office 730 feet, Paul Smith's 1,640 feet, Raquette Pond 1,542 feet, Rainbow Lake 1,668 feet, and St. Regis Falls 1,235 feet.

In portions of some of the northern towns clay predominates; in too many localities the plains of considerable area on which pine once flourished are sandy and all but hopelessly barren, though generally the soil is a good loam, and when intelligently and faithfully worked produces abundantly. Only of late has intelligent and practical consideration been given to the question of the kinds of crops to which the soil and climate are best adapted, and, therefore, farmers have not always realized the best possible results. In earlier years flax was a staple because the product was required in the domestic economy of that period, when all of the cloth used in a family was manufactured in the home. But farming generally was a hit or miss business, and accurate knowledge of how to prosecute it scientifically was neither possessed nor sought. Within the past few years, however, a Farm Bureau, with a competent and expert instructor, has been maintained, and advice has been given to individual applicants when requested, experiments conducted with results accurately registered, and also in a general way information has been imparted by lectures and through the medium of circulars and newspapers. The one particular aim of the bureau instructor, besides teaching the most advantageous methods, is to establish unmistakably the lines along which farmers should especially concentrate their attention and energies with a view to economical management and the largest recompense. The single product in which Franklin outranks all other counties in New York, both as regards quantity of yield per acre and quality, is potatoes; and it is sought now to persuade farmers to make a specialty of raising these for sale as seed to other localities. The county has been found to be exceptionally adapted to oats also, and lands in proximity to villages or to summer resorts are profitably worked for the production of small fruits and early vegetables.

The principal streams are the Salmon, the Saranac, the Chateaugay, the two branches of the St. Regis for some distance from their sources, and again after they join for a few miles before uniting with the St. Lawrence. The Raquette also, near its head, has its course for a time in our county, and barely cuts a corner of the St. Regis reservation near its mouth. None of these is navigable except for light-draft launches

in their still reaches and expansions, with the exception of the St. Regis and the Salmon for a few miles above the points where they join the St. Lawrence. All are characterized by rapids throughout the greater part of their courses, with occasional falls of considerable height, and are capable of a development to afford many fine water powers.

Lakes and ponds are innumerable. Among those of first importance, because of extent of area, scenic beauty and fame as sporting and summer resorts, are Lower Chateaugay Lake, Meacham Lake, Loon Lake, the several St. Regis waters, the Saranacs, Raquette Pond and Tupper Lake. Meacham was named for a hunter and trapper of Hopkinton and Waverly, who frequented it, and whose record of deer, wolves and catamounts killed almost challenges belief, and Tupper for a surveyor whose work in the vicinity dates back more than a century.

Deposits of iron have been located at many points, and some of them partially developed, though not one, so far as I have been able to learn, ever proved profitable. A great difficulty in prosecuting such an enterprise in pioneer times was the enormous expense of transportation to market, and, as regards the one mining prospect (at Owl's Head) which was deemed for a generation to afford the best promise of any in the county, exploration with a diamond drill has demonstrated that while the ore near the surface ran sixty to eighty per cent. pure iron of a superior quality, at a greater depth the percentage decreased to less than thirty.

Hundreds of claims of discovery of gold and silver in Franklin county have been filed by prospectors with the Secretary of State at Albany, and in at least one instance, near the village of St. Regis Falls, considerable development work was done only a few years ago in a search for gold. An advertisement published in the *Palladium* about 1835 invited investment in a copperas mine known to the advertiser, but so far as I have heard the existence of such a mine was never otherwise manifested. Belief that there is lead in the vicinity has been insistent for half a century or more. The late Albon Man, a gentleman of the highest character and of scientific attainments, used to hunt before the civil war at Indian Lake and Mountain View (then known as Round Pond and State Dam), a dozen miles south of Malone, with "Old Aleck," a St. Regis Indian, for guide and camp worker, and the writer remembers distinctly having been told by him that upon more than one occasion "Old Aleck" had sneaked off from camp, and after a few hours' absence brought back quantities of pure galena, which they reduced and cast into bullets. Of course Major Man did not pretend

to know whether the galena was from a *cache* or from a mine in the neighborhood, but "Old Aleck" insisted that it was procured from the latter, that the members of his tribe had always obtained their supply of lead from it, and that they would kill him if he were to reveal the place of deposit to a white. Old settlers in the vicinity used to tell of the same Indian appearing at their homes from time to time with native lead which he claimed to have brought from a mine in the mountains; and it is certain that men who have had unquestioning faith in the existence of such a mine have spent an aggregate of months, and perhaps of years, in unavailing search for it.

Climatic conditions a hundred years ago must have corresponded closely to those of the present, for these, though varying widely from year to year, hold practically the same average over long periods. Our fathers, therefore, suffered or enjoyed virtually the same extremes of heat and cold, and the same recurrences of excess and deficiency in precipitation of rain and snow that are the portion of the present generation, which are those of the temperate zone at the forty-fourth and forty-fifth degrees of latitude. If these carry discomfort in their extremes, particularly in the low temperatures, though even then our drier atmosphere mitigates the severity, there is the compensation that but rarely does drouth or rainfall interfere with seed time and harvest, that devastating floods are almost unknown, and that the whirlwind, tornado or cyclone strikes hardly once in a generation, and then invariably over only a limited tract in length and breadth. Tested by a yearly average, or certainly with the omission of three or four winter months, it is the conviction of most of our people that nowhere in the world are there preferable climatic conditions.

#### PIONEER CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES

These the conditions and the environment of the pioneers, what were their general and individual circumstances and activities? For fifteen years immediately succeeding the first settlement no event of particular moment or of real public consequence is known to have occurred save the prompt establishment of schools and churches — which was a procedure as of course by men from New England — and save also the erection of the county and of new towns. Nor did the formation of the county count for much until later, because all county officers were appointive, and in the choice of representatives to the Legislature and to Congress we were still in effect a part of Clinton. Practically all

else was individual and domestic, and also commonplace for that time, extraordinary and even impossible as it would be in the present. Apart from an occasional saw-mill, tannery and grist-mill, industries there were none, nor were there fraternal bodies save for two Masonic lodges, or organizations of any sort other than governmental and religious to afford diversion or to promote acquaintanceship and social association. Dwellings were of logs, often little better than huts. There wasn't a stove in the county, and the conveniences in the household, the shop and on the farm that are to-day deemed indispensable had not even been shaped in the minds of inventors. Matches were unknown until 1827 or later, and fire was made by use of the flint and tinder when it had not been preserved by covering coals in the ashes on the hearth. For lights the tallow dip, or possibly a lamp fed with animal oil, was the best that any one had, and many may have had to depend upon a mere wick in a saucer of grease, or upon the pine knot or pitch-pine torch. For the most part, flour was from rye instead of from wheat, and had to be brought from Plattsburgh over execrable roads until crude mills were built, one of which is said to have been only a mortar and pestle arrangement, the mortar a bowl hollowed in a stump, and the pestle depending from the limb of a tree. Cloth was exclusively of home production, the wool or flax being spun and woven by wife, mother or daughter, and all of the family clothing was also of home manufacture; often so clumsy and ill-fitting that it used to be said that it could not be told by looking at a boy plodding along the road or path "whether he was going to or returning from school." Shoe-making and repairing, where each head of a house did not himself serve the family needs in such respect, was an itinerant occupation, the cobbler traveling from house to house, and doing his work wherever he found a customer. Building was generally accomplished by "bees," the men of an entire neighborhood, or, if the structure were very large, of practically the entire county, assembling for a "raising," and "making a day of it." Upon these occasions rum or whiskey was freely supplied, the local distilleries making it easy and inexpensive to procure. The price was perhaps twenty cents per gallon. Moreover, it was customary in general stores to have a pail of whiskey on the counter, and customers were free to partake of it at a cent or two per glass. There was then no internal revenue tax on liquors, and it is this that makes present higher prices. Malone has had five distilleries, and Fort Covington and Moira at least one each. The late Sidney P.

Bates, M. D., was working as a boy for the late Deacon Leonard Conant at the time when the latter was to have a barn raising, and was sent to "whiskey hollow," north of the village of Malone, for a supply of liquor for the occasion. He bought three gallons, which was a rather unusual quantity, and in telling of the incident in a letter to the *Paladium* in 1883 the doctor explained that the neighbors had been boasting that they were going "to drink the deacon dry," which would have disgraced him, and therefore it was thought necessary to have the quantity equal or exceed the drinking capacity of the workers. In this period of changed sentiment on the temperance question it is hardly comprehensible that only two or three generations ago it could have been regarded as not a cause of reproach to a company of staid and respectable citizens if they drank to the limit of their capacity, while a church deacon would be in actual disgrace were he to fail to provide an ample supply of whiskey to satisfy their wants. About 1835, however, temperance societies began to be formed in the county, lecturers were engaged from abroad, and a remarkable agitation for abstinence continued rather actively for a number of years. It is amusing now to read some of the reports of such meetings and the discussions had therein. At first the form of pledge proposed carried a number of conditions and times when it was not to be binding, but as sentiment became aroused and crystallized it was made stronger and called for teetotalism.

Upon the occasion of such "raisings" the stronger and more agile men, desisting for a time from their labor or when the work was finished, would engage in rough contests to determine which possessed the greatest lifting power or the greatest skill in wrestling, or there were "tugs of war" and other tests of physical prowess.

#### MONEY SCARCITY

Otherwise pioneer life was all grim earnest, almost unintermittent toil, privation, and poverty without much pauperism. In 1800 there were but nine hundred post-offices in all the United States (less than twenty times the number now to be found in Franklin county alone), postage stamps did not come into general use until after 1847, and postal rates for considerable distances were so high as to be practically prohibitive for poor people, so that even if our ancestors had had the time to spare and the facilities for engaging in correspondence they would scarcely have acquired the habit. There were no magazines or local newspapers, and but few books. Of actual money there was next

to none in circulation except during the period of the war of 1812 and for a time immediately subsequent, when the pay of the soldiers stationed at Fort Covington and Malone found its way into local distribution; and the little that the inhabitants found it possible to scrape together in the course of a year had all to be applied in the payment of taxes or for the purchase of such supplies as could be procured only from outside of the county. A striking illustration of this condition is found in the fact that in 1827 Northern Constellation Lodge, F. and A. M., of Malone, which had been chartered in 1806 with about thirty members, addressed a memorial to the grand lodge, reciting that though the quarterly dues exacted by the latter had been paid to 1824, but only by applying in part the initiation fees and the charity fund to that purpose in order to meet the obligations of members who lacked the means to pay for themselves, such dues had then become three years in arrears, and even the better circumstanced brethren would be distressed to meet the demand, while the poorer were utterly unable to respond. It was further represented in the memorial that the circulating medium here had nearly vanished, and in 1833, partly because of the anti-Masonic agitation and in part because money could not be had, the charter was forfeited for non-payment of dues. The late Michael S. Mallon confirmed this condition of money scarcity by his recollection that even as late as 1845 about all the real money that he ever saw was silver pieces which Obadiah T. Hosford, then an inn-keeper on the site of the present Howard Block, used continually to clink together. Though in some cases distilleries paid cash for grain, the manufacture and sale of potash was about the sole means whereby it could be had, other commodities being disposable only in exchange for such merchandise as comprised the primitive and scanty stocks of the few local tradesmen.

#### THE MAKING OF POTASH

The story of potash, interesting in itself, will bear recital and amplification because the product meant so much to this section in pioneer days. Its manufacture was our first industry. The name is derived from ashes, from which alone it was formerly produced, and from pot, in which the lye was boiled to dryness. Black salts is a synonym. In earliest operations each settler was himself the manufacturer through all of the stages—felling the timber so that it would lie in heaps, burning it, gathering the ashes and leaching them, boiling down the lye, and hauling the product to market. The labor must have been

prodigious, as thirty cords of wood are required for the making of a ton of ashes, which yields only about a sixth of a ton of potash. Asheries sprang up later and came to handle the business generally, though individuals continued in many cases to do the primary work themselves — usually leasing a pot from an ashery at the rental price of one dollar per month. The asheries received ashes through individual delivery at their doors, or gathered their supply with their own teams. Ashes produced in the home commanded a considerably better price (usually twelve cents per bushel) than the field product, with which a good deal of dirt was commonly mixed, and which sold at from five to eight cents per bushel. In not exceptional cases the asheries bought the potash from individual makers, and converted it into pearlsh. An ashery which continued to operate long after the industry had ceased to be general, and which many of us readily remember, was that of the late B. F. Jewett, north of North Bangor village. It kept a number of teams scouring the county continuously for house ashes.

Elm and ash give the largest yield of ashes, and an operator who cleared a heavily elm-timbered tract in Bangor used to say that he found a five-dollar bill at the roots of every tree.

The business of producing vegetable potash as a commercial proposition has practically disappeared, owing to the facts that the labor cost would be prohibitive even if timber had not become too valuable to burn, and also to mineral potash having come into general use through the discovery in 1807 of a practicable process for separating it from salt deposits in Germany. (Ninety or a hundred years ago the price for chipping was three shillings a cord, and an item in the *Palladium* in 1835 noted that a young man in Malone had chopped and piled six cords in one day.) The vegetable potash is, I believe, still produced in some of the wilder parts of Canada and in Russia, and in Michigan and Wisconsin from the refuse of sugar cane and beet sugar refineries, but only in small quantities. The extreme price for it when its production in this county was extensive was one hundred dollars per ton, except that during the embargo preceding the war of 1812 it reached three times that figure. As the usual price was sixty to eighty dollars per ton, and one hundred dollars gave a good profit, it is easily understood how great an incentive to activity the anti-war values must have been to the makers and smugglers, some account of which appears in a subsequent chapter.

The German mineral product comes exclusively from salt mines, and has become enormous. Until the outbreak in 1914 of the awful

European war, with its paralysis of industry and commerce, the United States alone was taking a million tons a year of it, paying at the rate of about eighty dollars per ton. This article is richer and purer than the vegetable potash.

Pearlash is only potash purified by heating. Saleratus, now almost displaced by bicarbonate of soda (which is derived from common salt) used to be made from pearlash, itself a carbonate of potash, by passing carbonic acid gas through a solution of it until it became a bicarbonate, and then filtering and evaporating it to crystallization. The late William Hogle, of Fort Covington, was at one time a manufacturer of saleratus on a large scale, and in my boyhood his product was used commonly in cookery in my father's household.

Potash is used principally in chemical preparations and as a fertilizer. It enters largely into the manufacture of soap and explosives, and to some extent into certain kinds of matches. Diligent and energetic exploration is at present being prosecuted in the alkali wastes of Utah, Nevada and California for discovery of deposits which would make us independent of Germany, and very recently blast furnaces and manufacturers of cement have held out a hope that they may be able to supply potash in commercial quantities as a by-product of their business.

As in these days a farmer, in arranging for a loan or a store credit, promises settlement when he draws his "butter money," or markets his hay, hops or potatoes, so our ancestors used to base their credits on the promise of "salts in June." It was the one production upon which they felt that they might count with certainty, and which tradesmen were always eager to accept. These latter strained their resources to accumulate stocks of it, and generally they converted it into pearlash. The late Sidney W. Gillett told the writer that one year when he was in trade at Trout River he had a stock of it when ready to go to market amounting to ten thousand dollars. Usually, however, the marketing was done at short intervals, and in quantities amounting to only a few hundred dollars, Fort Covington or Dundee having been the point of shipment, with Montreal the destination for export thence to Europe.

But enough of wandering for the present.

#### HOW THE PIONEERS LIVED

The conditions which prevailed in the long ago and the manner in which the people then lived have been already outlined, but mere generalizing can not possibly convey as distinct and graphic a picture as definite

description by those who were actually in and of the life, and into whose minds experience had burned unforgettable memories. While no pen picture of the county's earliest days is discoverable, the county and its conditions then could not have been materially different from those that obtained a quarter of a century later, except that originally the reaches of unbroken forests were wider, clearings for homes fewer, and the travesties of roads more horrible. Certain letters written for the *Palladium* by early settlers, all of whom have passed away, are fortunately available, and carry one back to 1815 or earlier, and two pamphlets dealing with conditions during a few years following 1823 and 1824 are invaluable for this purpose. They seem to awaken in the reader the genuine spirit of the time of which they treat, and quicken in him a sympathy with it, as they almost photograph the scenes to which they refer. Following are extracts from some of the letters in question:

By Dr. Sidney P. Bates: "Few horses were raised the first twenty-five years. Plowing and farm work could not be done by them. The stumps and roots which cumbered the ground forbade their use on the plow and harrow. Oxen were in general use, and a nice large yoke would sell for fifty dollars: a good cow in the spring of the year for seventeen to twenty dollars, and to the drover in the fall at from twelve to fourteen dollars. Beef was not much eaten. Rev. Jedediah Burchard, the evangelist, held a meeting here in the summer of 1840, and in the arrangement made with him it was expressly stipulated that he was to be supplied daily with fresh beef. Accordingly it was brought daily from Plattsburgh by stage. The dairy gave no very encouraging prospect of wealth. Butter sold from eight cents to twelve and a half cents a pound, governed generally by the season of the year." And again: "I recollect a funeral procession coming down from two miles south of the village of a Sunday. It was made up of six lumber wagons containing the mourners and some of the neighbors, a long cavalcade of gentlemen and ladies on horseback (some of whom were riding double), and quite a procession of men, women, girls and boys on foot."

By Hon. Ashbel B. Parmelee: "At an early day we used to hear of an evening from our house adjoining the cemetery on Webster street the wolves howl in the western forest, and occasionally the scream of a panther. Game of all kinds was abundant. I have seen wild deer in the old cemetery."

By former Vice-President William A. Wheeler: "I bought my first broadcloth coat at Fort Covington, or 'thereabouts.' I may now safely

say that the purchase was made just before the village, and outside of our national limit—a measure into which I was led by economical considerations and by the example of my elders. Prior to this purchase my attire in the cool months was of buffed cloth, or, in the vernacular of that day, 'full cloth'—the product of domestic looms. In summer the staple of my wear for pants was flax. In my own estimation I have never been so well dressed as when attired in tow pants of the cut and make of 'Aunt Nabby Hawley,' who semi-annually made the rounds of the hamlet, and whose coming with her 'nose' was always looked for with pleasure, as with retentive memory and ready tongue she posted us in detail in the interior affairs of our neighbors. The outward man was never more complacent than when, on Sabbath morn, attired in pants of bleached whiteness; with a pair of Andem Lincoln's 'coarse-lines,' earned by posting his wares, and polished with blacking manufactured by applying water with a little molasses to the bottom of a bottle from the crane of the open fireplace, I wended my way to the old church, where 'Father' Parmelee, perched ten feet above his hearers in a pulpit shaped like the turret of a monitor, hurled hot shot of divine law into the rebellious hosts of the 'adversary of souls,' at close range, with the fuse cut short."

Andem Lincoln came to Malone in 1815, and in 1835, when he was ninety-one years of age, I spent an afternoon with him, questioning him concerning conditions here at the time of his arrival and later—taking notes of his answers, which were afterward written out. The year 1816 is known as "the year without a summer." There was a frost in every month. The cold was not local, but was so widespread as to cause a partial failure of crops throughout the country, with results so calamitous as to cause a reference to be made thereby by the President in his annual message to Congress, and so great was the distress among the St. Regis Indians because of the destruction of their corn that the Legislature directed that their annuity, payable in August, might be paid in advance of that date. I quote from Mr. Lincoln: "The heaviest frost in Franklin county came in September, blighting such crops as had in part escaped destruction in earlier months. Wheat, rye, oats and vegetables were so badly damaged that none was worth harvesting. Potatoes were not larger than hens' eggs. Benjamin Clark and Jacob Wead had a store where the Baptist church now stands, and a part of their business was the handling of potash. Whenever a sufficient quantity had accumulated they would haul it to Fort

Covington for shipment to Montreal, and the teams would bring back merchandise for the store. In the fall of 1816 supplies of all kinds had run low in Malone, until a state of famine prevailed. A boat had been long overdue at Fort Covington with flour, and in the expectation that it must have arrived and that Clark & Wead's teams, absent on a trip with potash, would surely return with a supply of food, the store had filled with people to await them, each having his bag to be filled with flour. But the wagons came home empty. When the crowd learned that none could be had the disappointment was great and bitter. I saw strong, hardy men cry like children, sobbing that they could bear hunger themselves, but that it was hard to see their children starve. On another like occasion Colonel Holmes, a jocular character, marshaled the men who were waiting at the store, and paraded them through the street. There were fifty of them, and each carried a bag that he had brought to have filled with flour. Finally a boat-load of flour arrived at Fort Covington, a part of it was brought to Malone, and the anxiety and suffering were relieved. The same year Mr. Moody went clear to Troy, purchased a quantity of flour there, and brought it here. I paid him sixteen dollars for one barrel of it, and was glad to get it even at that price."

Lot Lincoln, a brother of Anslem, was farming in 1816, and had twenty acres sowed to wheat and ten acres planted to corn. He did not harvest a kernel of either, and his experience did not differ greatly from that of many others. However, Jonathan Lawrence's rye field in Moira escaped in some way, and he had a fairly good crop. It was told of him later that the next spring he was called upon widely for seed, and that as long as his supply held out no one went away empty handed whether he had money to pay or not.

Quoting further from Mr. Lincoln: "Though our community was composed almost wholly of poor people — many of them young, and just married — a common spirit of helpfulness seemed to pervade all hearts. If one lost a cow, his neighbors contributed to help him to buy another. If one were sick, we watched with him and took care of him. If he were unable to put in his crops, his friends put them in for him. If a road needed repairing, a bee was made to do it, or a subscription was raised to have it done. I remember that when the road from the Brewster place to Norman Wilcox's farm was a continuous stretch of corduroy, in wretched condition, all of the foremost men of the town and village celebrated the Fourth of July by turning out and fixing it.

I can not help thinking that in those early times the people were more neighborly than now, and worked together more unselfishly for the good of the community and prosperity of the town."

In an interview, also in 1885, Christopher Briggs said to me: "I used to do teaming between Fort Covington and Plattsburgh, and my employers would give me only three dollars for expenses of the round trip, which required three nights and four days on the road. I had to pay seventy-five cents for tolls, and thus would have only two dollars and a quarter for my own lodging and stabling the team. When my father came from Washington county he did not have a single dollar in money with which to pay expenses on the way. He came, however, with a Mr. Woodbury, who had fourteen dollars. There were eight in the party, and when we left Plattsburgh there was only three shillings left. Mr. Woodbury and family went on ahead with the team and the money, and we followed on foot without a penny."

One of the pamphlets referred to was written by William Read, of Fall River, Mass., in 1882, and was entitled "Life on the Border Sixty Years Ago." Mr. Read came to Bombay from New Hampshire with an uncle and aunt in 1823, and continued to live there until 1837. The uncle purchased a farm, of which seven acres had been sowed to winter wheat the previous fall, a half acre planted to corn, and a small patch to potatoes. For these so-called "betterments" one hundred dollars was paid. The living accommodations on the place are thus described by Mr. Read: "The cabin was built of medium-sized logs, some twenty-four feet long and eighteen feet in width. There was only one room. The floor consisted of loose puncheons; that is, thick, short plank made by splitting straight-grained basswood logs, and hewing them a little, so that they would lie in position on the floor sleepers. There was no hearth or fire-place; only a place for each, and a backing of rude stonework against the logs at one end. At the foot of this, on the ground, the fire was built, and the smoke gradually found its way up along this chimney — back and out of a hole in the ridge of the roof. There was no window, only a place cut through the log wall on the side opposite the door. The floor overhead was of loose unplanned boards, and the roof was covered with rough boards, and the joints battened with wide heavy slabs, nailed down firm; and this roof was always tight in the most driving storms. There was no piazza or shed or inclosed door-yard, no oven, no well, no cistern, no cellar, no outbuildings of any kind. Within the fire-place an iron crane had been securely fastened into one of the

jambs, and a half a dozen iron hooks, longer and shorter, were used with this to lower or elevate a kettle, according to the fire. As we had no oven until one was built the second year out-of-doors, all the baking was done in the baker, or on flat tin surfaces placed at an angle to the fire. In this latter way the famous johnnycake was baked. \* \* \*

The baker (or Dutch oven as generally called) was capacious — made of cast-iron, and with a movable cover that not only covered the whole oven part, but was turned up around the circular edge so as to prevent live coals from falling off. Into the baker Aunt Ann would place her batch of dough, making allowance for expansion, and, drawing out from the fire-place a lot of live burning coals, she would fix a bed on which the baker would be set. Then the cover would be put on, and piled two or three inches deep with coals, so that a severe heat would be enjoyed by the bread from above as well as from below. The coals on top or bottom could be renewed if necessary, and a right food baking secured with the requisite attention.” The description gives a graphic picture of the accommodations and shelter of most of the then inhabitants, at least of those in the more remote localities, for Mr. Read says that this cabin and its surroundings were “as good as any other settler enjoyed.” But “a revolution was soon begun within the cabin. \* \* \*

A door was constructed and hung upon wooden hinges, with a wooden latch opened from without by a leather string. Then three window sash were bought and glass to be set, and a double window was fixed in the west side of the cabin — one to slide sideways upon the other instead of being raised, as with us. Another sash was fixed on the front side, and these, with the door, made our cabin light and airy. Next a common table with crossed legs was constructed for every-day use, and it was kept for that purpose some ten or more years. Then a fire-place was built by laying down a good solid hearth of flat stones, and on this a chimney was constructed. Two jambs were built up on either side some four or five feet apart, of stone carefully laid in mortar, an iron support was fixed at the right height to hold the front of the chimney, and the stone work carried up to the attic floor. From there the chimney was constructed to the ridge, and a couple of feet above, out of straight cedar sticks some two or three inches square, laid up in a square form, and plastered within and without with clay, so as to render it completely fireproof. And this chimney stood the wear some twenty years. Next a new floor was laid of white ash planks sawed in a mill, but unplanned. Consequently Aunt Ann had a jolly good job before her

to scrub this floor smooth, which she did faithfully, so that in four years, by her exercises on washing day, with a splint broom she rendered this rough floor as smooth and white as could be wished. \* \* \* The cabin was built of rough logs, hewn only on the inside, but between the logs were numerous cracks, more or less wide, and nice openings for letting in the cold. To remedy this, straight cedar plugs or wedges—more or less triangular in shape, so as to have a sharp edge—were driven in between the logs on the inside of the house, and a large part of the difficulty removed. But to finish the improvement moss was gathered from the large old trees in the forest, and, by means of a sharpened wire-edged punch, driven into the cracks on the outside until they were completely chocked, and then clay mortar was plastered over that, rendering the walls of the cabin as secure against the frost as though they had been built of brick. \* \* \* The capacious fire-place would hold an eighth of a cord of wood without crowding. \* \* \* The blazing fire so illuminated the interior that no other light was required. Reading, sewing, spinning, knitting or talking could all go on merrily around such a blaze, and the occupants of the cabin cared not whether it was cold or not outside.” Mr. Read adds that the fire-place took fifty cords or more of wood a year to feed it, and tells of a similar fire-place in a neighbor’s house in which he had seen a quarter of a cord of wood blazing at one time, the logs used being eight feet long.

The other pamphlet to which reference has been made was written by Mary Ann Duane, eldest daughter of Major James Duane, and wife of Rev. R. T. S. Lowell, a brother of James Russell Lowell. In its way it is one of the most charming bits of literature that it has ever been my fortune to read; but it is in larger part simply a recital of the home life of the family and an affectionate tribute to a mother of exceptional graces and superior womanhood, and much of it, therefore, so intimate and private that it would be an intrusion to reproduce it for the general public—it having been written to inform the youngest sister (who afterward became the wife of Rev. C. F. Robertson) of the life in the Duane household at a period earlier than the memory of Mrs. Robertson could reach. However, the book contains some general matter that it seems permissible to quote, and because it breathes so vitally the spirit of the times which it covers these extracts are here given:

While building in Duane and opening a road there through ten miles of forest from Malone, Major Duane established his family for

three years in the Dr. Waterhouse dwelling (now occupied by S. C. Dudley) on Webster street, Malone. Mrs. Lowell thus describes the place as it was in 1824: "We had a pasture, an orchard, a barn, a garden, a front yard full of plum trees, and a wood to pick flowers in.

\* \* \* Malone was a queer little backwoods village. The people were colonists from Vermont, so cut off from all communication with seaboard cities that their manners and standards were quite their own. There was but one carpet in the place; that one Mrs. Willson had, made by her husband's first wife, a lady of extra elegance. [The lady referred to was Mrs. Abel Willson, whose husband was county clerk, and the grandfather of George Willson, superintendent of Malone's water-works.] It was made of some sort of thick white blanketing, with red and black snakes cut out and sewed on in a sort of scroll work. The people all lived with their help on terms of perfect equality. They were generally of the same stock, and had been brought up in very much the same way. When mother went to return the visit of the principal lady, the girl stood arranging her hair by the parlor mirror, addressing all sorts of visiting talk to her till the lady should come down; and this was for politeness—she would not leave her alone. \* ,\* \* There was something very pleasant, I have heard mother say, in the way the villagers regarded going on the town. There was not yet a county poorhouse; the poor of each town were looked after by the overseers. It was not thought disgraceful to have lost one's means of living. A person was under obligations to nobody; it was only availing one's self of a right which all had, and any one might be forced to accept. She spoke of one woman who had been somebody's help, and when taken sick had no wages laid up. Accordingly the overseers of the poor paid her board at the house of one of the most respectable couples in the place. Everybody was expected to call on her and carry her some little present, a fancy night cap, shawl or the like. She was waited upon and petted, the center of quite a little sociability. \* \* \*

"The people up in 'Number Twelve' without any bashfulness considered our house in Malone as the 'putting-up place' if they could get to the village, and hard work enough it was. The road could be traveled only in a sleigh or on horseback unless one walked ten miles from the town line; and many lived back of that. \* \* \* Either at the time of the hanging of Videto, which everybody went to see, or perhaps on an occasion when one of the Duane people was being tried

in county court, our house was filled to overflowing with guests from 'Number Twelve.' Father was not at home, and old Deacon Esterbrooks sat at the foot of the table and 'helped.' He gave a portion to each of the numerous guests, then turned to mother and said, 'There is none left for you, Mrs. Duane.' \* \* \*

"As I remember Malone, it was the most perfect representation of the ideal puritanical village. Mr. Parmelee, the minister of the Congregational Church, had come there just at the close of the war of 1812. [He came before the war.] The place had been occupied the winter before by English soldiers, and had suffered the demoralization usual in such cases. He had gone to work on the place with a strong will and hard principles, and so carried things that it was the fashion to be a church member; no one was of any social account who was not. No *amusements* were tolerated but *prayer meetings* and singing schools. \* \* \*

"Nearly everybody in Malone was a Congregationalist. They used to have a church meeting on the Thursday before communion Sunday, where any member, young or old, could make a complaint against any other member who, he thought, had done injury to the cause. \* \* \* The people then kept the Sabbath from sundown on Saturday till sundown on Sunday. One Sunday evening mother and father walked to look at a house, and after inspecting it they said they would take it. Dr. Waterhouse was the owner; the chance was too good to bring the ungodly habits of the first representatives of the Episcopal Church to light; and Dr. Waterhouse was disciplined for making a bargain on the Sabbath day with one who would not be expected to know any better. \* \* \*

"The taverns were wholesome, rustic little things made of logs, with a kitchen and parlor and bar-room; a bed-room for the mistress of the house, off the kitchen; a best bed-room off the parlor, not intended to be used; a garret-room up stairs, slightly partitioned—one end for women, one for men."

One further illustration may be cited of the almost primitive conditions that existed at the date of the county's erection and for a few years subsequently. So few residents held their lands in fee that an act had to be passed by the Legislature in 1815, providing that those should be eligible as jurors who held land under contract and were worth one hundred and fifty dollars in personal property, or who had improved their lands in that amount.

The more important acts of the board of supervisors, which may be regarded as comprising the official history of the county, will be connectedly outlined in subsequent pages, while the incidents and events in the general development and affairs of the county that stand out largest will be given in separate chapters. The story of the war of 1812 as that conflict touched us; the particulars of the attempt in 1817 to loot the federal treasury through the presentation of fraudulent or wholly fictitious war claims, backed by perjury; the actual robbery of non-resident land-owners in 1821, 1822 and 1823 by the payment of enormous wolf bounties, many of them fraudulent because not earned; the effort in 1823 to secure the building of a canal from Ogdensburg to Lake Champlain, and the struggle through more than half a generation, from 1829 to 1850, for railroad facilities; the political history of the county; the Fenian movements in 1866 and 1870; biographical sketches; and other matters each receiving separate treatment, or being comprehended in the several town sketches, it is essential here to outline only the story of general growth and progress which the collective enterprise and individual efforts of our fathers wrought.

Until after 1820 the inhabitants were practically one in race, in religious faith, and in political and economic views, though of course this does not mean that there was no foreign element, but that it was insignificant in numbers, comprising only five and a half per cent. of the population in 1820; nor that all were adherents of a single religious denomination, or that in politics all were members of the same party; but only that the people were really united on fundamentals— one in spirit and purpose, making unity of action easier, and conducing to a prevalence of greater equality, of a closer neighborliness, and to more uniform standards of conduct. Individual material conditions were much more nearly equal than they have since come to be. While all were poor, they were thrifty spirited and progressive, and content to live frugally and humbly. Of actual paupers in 1825 there were only eight in the entire county, or one in every thousand of the people.

Yet in the early years, because of insufficiency of capital, there could of course be no large development of general business or of manufactories other than those of the simplest character: and with the exception of tanneries, distilleries, a few primitive iron works (most of which were merely blacksmith shops), and grist and saw mills, the industries were wholly domestic and agricultural. And it is significant of the former habits of the people that even as late as 1855 there was

not one music, milk, fruit or ice dealer in the county, nor any plumber, undertaker or restaurant, and only one telegraph operator, one book-seller, three barbers, and (*mirabile dictu!*) barely three servants. The farm staples were rye, wheat, corn, oats, potatoes and flax, with neat cattle and sheep comprising most of the farm stock; and the domestic manufactures, apart from potash, were principally cloth — over sixty thousand yards of it in 1835, of which 20,623 yards were from flax, and 39,276 yards from wool. This production in families increased in 1845 to 83,309 yards, with all of the work except some of the carding performed in homes. Horses in the county numbered only 1,261 in 1825, or not much more than half as many as there are now automobiles, neat cattle 7,499, and sheep 9,568. In 1845 the horses had increased to 3,878, the neat cattle to 20,069, and the sheep to 47,790. The contrast between these figures and those for 1910 is impressive. Of horses in 1910 the county had 9,260, a loss of 477 in ten years; of neat cattle 46,108, and of sheep only 5,223, a decrease of 15,674 from 1900. The last of the distilleries went out of existence about 1840, and only one tannery of any importance remains.

Churches and schools were of early origin, but something like twenty years had to elapse from the organization of the first church before any society was strong enough to erect a church edifice. The first structure of this type in the county was either the old union church at Moira or that of the Congregationalists in Malone, the latter of which is known to have been built in 1827. The late Warren L. Manning was authority for the statement that the Moira church was the first, but he fixed no date for its erection.

#### SCHOOLS

Every town had its district schools as a matter of course almost from the day when there were children to attend, but the people felt that something better and broader should also be provided, and in 1806 the Harison Academy was founded in Malone as a private institution, and a few years later there was a like so-called academy at Fort Covington. In 1831 regents' charters for real academies at both places were obtained. Fort Covington's no longer exists as an academy, but continues as a high school with equivalent courses of study. No other academies were ever chartered in the county, but Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake, St. Regis Falls, Chateaugay, Brushton and Moira have each a high school of creditable standing, which do academic work; and also there are union schools at North Bangor, Bombay and Dickinson

Center which give academic instruction, though not in full course. The cause of education has never been neglected here, nor had to depend upon a stunted support. It will nevertheless not be questioned that there is abundant room for improvement in conditions and methods. The law of 1917, providing for the township instead of the old plan of district administration and support, while a well meant attempt to assure better facilities and to equalize tax burdens, was unpopular because burdensome in cost, and public sentiment compelled its repeal in 1918. But there will be no cessation of demand for adoption of some plan that will relieve the smaller and poorer districts from onerous expense, require dilapidated school houses to be abandoned or at least kept in decent repair, lead to the employment of better qualified teachers, and enable bright and ambitious pupils to pursue their studies more advantageously. A consolidation of all of the schools in a town into two or three or four, with provision for transportation at public expense of the children from all parts of the enlarged district to a central school, is probably not now feasible, but it is practically sure to be brought about eventually, and with the accomplishment educational opportunities will be greater, and the work of the public schools become more beneficent.

#### NEWSPAPERS

Publication of the first newspaper in the county, the *Franklin Telegraph*, was begun in Malone in 1820, and of the second, the *Franklin Republican*, in Fort Covington in 1827. The story of these and of other newspapers in the county is told in the several town sketches.

#### AN EARLY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

In 1820 an agricultural society was organized with Joseph Plumb of Bangor as president, Thomas Smith of Chateaugay and Asa Wheeler of Malone as vice-presidents, and John Wood of Malone as treasurer. While its premium list included but the smallest fraction of articles for which prizes are now provided, the enterprise as a whole had great merit, and might perhaps be profitably considered and in parts adopted by the management of our present popular and progressive society, especially with respect to the offering of prizes for best fields of crops and best farming generally. The amount distributed in premiums the first year was \$106.50, wholly for animals, crops and a few manufactures. Of this total the State contributed \$87, and in 1822 and again in 1823 the county gave \$100. Committees were created to visit and

inspect the competing fields and farms. The premiums for stock were for the "likeliest bull," the "likeliest cow," etc., and for second of each. Some of the items were: Bull, \$10; second, \$7; yoke oxen, \$8; steers, three years old, \$5; two years old, \$4; one year old, \$3; milch cow, \$4; pair swine, \$4; breeding mare and colt, \$4; acre of spring wheat, \$8; of winter wheat, \$5; of oats, \$4; of peas, \$5; of Indian corn, \$8; half acre of flax and potatoes, \$4 each. In subsequent years the amounts of some of these prizes were reduced, and the number of articles and the total offerings enlarged. A premium list was published in 1826, but the *Franklin Telegraph* gives no report of any fair held that year or afterward, so that it is presumable that the society then went out of existence. Of course there were no purses in any year for trials of speed, for probably there were no fast horses in all this section, and certainly there was no race track.

#### OTHER EARLY ENTERPRISES

Notwithstanding the collapse of the organization, probably in 1826, the movement was nevertheless typical of the spirit of enterprise and the striving for betterment that appears to have been all but unceasing on the part of the pioneers, who seemingly were animated by the conviction that they must have the best of everything, and get it quickly. The Erie canal had been opened only four or five years when they sought construction of a waterway to unite the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, and the world's first steam railroad had been in operation for only a short time, and the first in New York barely opened, when they began organizing for one here — an amazingly presumptuous effort considering that the country was almost all a wilderness and very sparsely settled. Of course the canal was never obtained, though the State did make a survey for it, as told in the chapter on Transportation Development; but the railroad came after twenty years of agitation — a much shorter period than that through which a later and richer generation strove to secure a competing line.

The first woolen factory in the county was built about 1828, the second about 1834, and the third in 1842 — all at Fort Covington — and a fourth at Malone in 1844. Fort Covington's woolen mills are all out of existence, while in Malone there are two, the entire product of both of which is manufactured at the mills into garments for men — affording employment to a couple of hundred hands, and together comprising the town's most important industry. A cotton factory was

erected and equipped at Malone in 1829, and operated until 1846, when it was burned. The first of the mills for making starch from potatoes was built in 1844 or 1845, and a quarter of a century later the industry had attained to large proportions, and was still growing. There were at one time forty such factories, and all prospered until the introduction of corn starch in immense quantities compelled them to close. The shipping demand for potatoes thirty or forty years ago was not what it has since become, and shippers would accept only limited quantities of carefully assorted stock. The starch factories were, therefore, the only market in districts remote from a railroad for small potatoes and culls, and for crops in excess of shippers' requirements. The industry was thus of great benefit to the farmers for a long time, but it dwindled after 1892, and was wholly abandoned after 1905.

#### CHANGED DAIRYING CONDITIONS

The next important industry to be established was co-operative dairying, the first creamery dating from 1869. In 1882 creameries had increased to twenty or more, with seventeen of them reporting an annual aggregate production estimated to exceed half a million dollars in value. In 1894 there were forty-two creameries. The shipping of milk from this section to New York had not then been begun, and the county's output of butter must have been four million pounds or more annually. In 1902 thirty-nine creameries in the county reported to the State department of agriculture that they had made in that year 3,618,716 pounds, and approximately equal quantities were reported for 1903 and 1904. Bangor was the biggest producer with 711,395 pounds, Malone next with 543,294, Bombay third with 354,000, and Burke fourth with 321,000. Chateaugay and Dickinson stood fifth and sixth respectively, each with an output of over 250,000 pounds. But the competition by the condensaries and shippers in recent years has decreased deliveries of milk to the creameries, and compelled many of the latter to close. Two or three have been changed into cheese factories, and a few have become merely gathering or skimming stations for such creameries as continue to operate, but the larger number have gone out of existence completely. Only a dozen or fifteen in all of the county are now running. Time was when these creameries earned for their patrons only sixty to seventy cents per hundred pounds of milk, and when the return reached a dollar per hundred it seemed so good fortune as to be almost incredible. But during the later months of 1917 they paid to farmers a price nearly or quite fifty per cent. higher even for poor grades of

milk, and as much as \$2.35 per hundred for milk that was rich in butter fat. Shipping of milk and cream from this section to New York and New England cities, which only a few years before would have been thought utterly impracticable, began in November, 1908, with the traffic handled by regular trains until the following May, when a special daily milk train was scheduled, and has been operated regularly ever since. The shippers paid \$3.50 per hundred pounds for the better grades of milk in December, 1917, and in January, 1918, a still higher price, and naturally they get large quantities. This price is said to be equivalent to ninety cents or dollar butter. Of course the farmers who are patrons of the creameries get the benefit of the sour milk, which is not inconsiderable with pork selling at twenty-odd cents per pound and veal calves at fifteen dollars per head; but even at that they realize appreciably less than those who deal with the shipping stations. Some of these latter convert their milk into cheese when their receipts run large and the milk demand in the cities falls off. The station at Chateaugay is being changed into a condensary at a cost of a quarter of a million dollars or more, and expects its receipts to reach 80,000 pounds of milk per day in the flush of the season. It has a contract with the government for its entire product for three years. In Burke also large improvements are in the course of making, and this establishment is hereafter to convert most of its receipts into candy, of the kind that the children call "life preservers." Other shipping stations in the county are located at Malone, Constable, Brushton and Moira, and, besides, there is a condensary at North Bangor and one at Fort Covington.

One effect of the changed conditions thus noted is seen in the fact that, whereas the county formerly sent considerable quantities of butter to city markets, it does not now supply its own needs, and home dealers have been dependent in large measure for their supplies upon St. Lawrence county and even upon districts as remote as Oklahoma and Nebraska. Do we need to wonder that butter is scarce and costly?

Just here it is interesting to note that notwithstanding the farmers secured enactment a few years ago of a law prohibiting institutions supported by taxation from using oleomargarine, butterine or any substitute for butter other than a dairy product (which is estimated to entail an additional cost of a million dollars a year for maintenance) the farmers themselves are generally buying and using such substitutes in their own homes.

## THE HOP INDUSTRY

Ashbel B. Parmelee has told us that Rev. Stephen Paddock, Samuel Hyde and Isaac Parker were the first to raise hops in commercial quantities here, but without designating a date. It would be presumptuous to question the accuracy of any statement made by Mr. Parmelee applicable to Malone, but I am disposed to think that Alexander Walker of Westville was an earlier grower than any of the three named. Mr. Walker's first crop, raised in 1825, was 1,200 pounds, and he sold it in Montreal at fifty cents a pound. With these and possibly a few other exceptions, hop farming, at least on a large scale, began in the county about 1850. Silas A. Ferguson came here in that year from Otsego county, and was probably the first grower with considerable yards, and, as I recall statements by him, contracted his crops for several years at a shilling per pound, though his son, John J. Ferguson, thinks that the price was considerably less than that. Andrew W. Ferguson, who had the largest yards in the county at one time, entered the field later. In 1864 mould and vermin destroyed the crop utterly, and in 1886 many yards were so struck by blight and mould that not a box was set in them. In still other years there have been similar visitations and damage, but not to so great an extent. No other crop is so widely and violently fluctuating in price, of which truth the best illustration is the record of 1882, when there were sales at as high as \$1.20 per pound, while hardly more than a year later the same hops were a drug at five cents. The occasion for the wildest and highest market ever known was the destruction by blight of the larger part of the English crop, which created a strong demand for American hops for export. Franklin county's crop in that year was estimated at about 9,000 bales, and the market opened in September with offers of fifty cents per pound freely made: from that figure prices advanced by leaps and bounds until in December they reached \$1.20, though my understanding is that a dollar, or perhaps a few cents over, was the outside offer by any regular dealer. Growers sold in many instances all the way from perhaps sixty cents up to a dollar, but other growers and outsiders generally came to believe that the limit would be whatever a holder of the commodity might choose to ask, and a fever of speculation, always a curse in the business, seized upon growers, merchants, physicians and attorneys alike, who bought at or near the top for further advance. The market held strong through January, but fell off ten cents per pound or more in February. Growers and speculators

believed this break to have been brought about through a use of substitutes, while experienced dealers and the brewers, denying such practices, declared that the excessive cost of hops had compelled brewing economies and adoption of new methods. It is certainly true that dollar hops led to the discovery that half the quantity per barrel of beer that had formerly been employed would serve all requirements; and, besides this leverage for breaking the market, forced importations from Europe had effect in the same direction. In any case, prices continued to sag month by month in 1883 until June, when they tumbled to half a dollar, and thereafter continued to decline until in September they stood at only twenty cents for the new crop. By the end of the year the quotation for old hops of inferior quality was about five cents. The growers who had held their crops and the outside speculators suffered serious losses, and some of them were ruined. The business never recovered from the blow. In 1887 the county produced its record crop — estimated, with probable accuracy, at over 17,000 bales. Since that year there has been an almost continuous decrease both in the number and extent of the yards, and of course in the quantity of hops harvested. Formerly yards of twenty to thirty acres each were common in Bangor, Constable and Malone, and many were a good deal larger. Robert Schroeder, a New York city hop merchant, set out yards in Duane of two or three hundred acres, and Jones & Lester, of Richmond Hill, Long Island, buying the Andrew Ferguson yards, and adding to them, became the largest producers in the county. It used to be reckoned that, including interest on investment, depreciation of poles and kilns, labor charges, sacking, etc., the cost of hops to the grower was about a shilling a pound. More often than not there was a time in every year when the offered price was high enough to pay a good profit, but it was by no means unusual for growers to refuse to sell until the price had fallen to below cost. In a number of years quotations were forty to fifty cents or more a pound, and in others as low as three or four cents. Thus growers were almost continually in a fever of optimistic expectation or in the deeps of anxiety and gloom. Every now and then a farmer who might have placed himself on "easy street" by selling his crop when offered a good price would be wiped out for debt, while, on the other hand, a number would clean up enough on a single crop to pay the entire cost of their farms. The business was demoralizing at the best, for it induced extravagant purchases and habits of living, with expensive trading on credit: robbed parts of a farm to provide

fertilizer for the acreage in hops; and caused neglect of other lines of agriculture, which, if less remunerative in some years, were yet surer bases for success and prosperity. The quantity of hops now grown in the county is probably about a thousand bales a year, and in 1917 sales were made at eighty cents per pound or better. Owing to the fact that there were so many small yards which the neglect or lack of means of the owners made almost barren, the Franklin county yield per acre has averaged only about two-thirds of that realized in Otsego and Madison counties; and yet there have been a number of years in each of which the crop here put half a million dollars or more into the pockets of farmers.

#### CROPS TO WHICH THE COUNTY IS ESPECIALLY ADAPTED

Other principal farm products in the county are potatoes, hay, vegetables and oats, with of course some rye, wheat, corn and berries. But soil and climate are specially adapted only to the four first named, and men qualified to judge who have made a study of the problem are convinced that cultivation of these, together with dairying, should engage chiefly the attention of our farmers. Potatoes and oats in particular are adaptable to the locality, the county ranking twenty-third in the State in potato acreage and tenth in total production, while in yield per acre it stands at the head, with 197 bushels. Gratifying as this third condition is, the results of prize contests suggest that with wise selection and treatment of seed, proper fertilizing and improved methods of care and cultivation it is altogether practicable to better it. Each of four competitors secured a production in excess of 300 bushels per acre, and one of 373 bushels, or nearly twice the average, and equal at the high price in 1916-17 to \$1,100 per acre. Surely, special effort that gives such results is amply compensatory, and the figures ought to stimulate every grower to increase his acreage yield. So far as can be judged, the prize winners had no particular advantage in regard to soil over the generality of farmers, and their successes would seem, therefore, to have been attained through more intelligent and more thorough methods and more intensive cultivation. Again, it has been demonstrated that Franklin county stock is very desirable for seed in southern sections, since it produces earlier, when prices are high, and is also more productive. Thus opportunity waits only for development to afford our farmers a yet better potato return than can be realized from sales of the product for food.

As for oats, Franklin ranks about fifteenth among the State's counties in aggregate production, and eighth in yield per acre, which aver-

ages better than 30 bushels—the State's average being 26 bushels. Here also contests for prizes reveal strikingly larger possibilities, as one competitor in the county harvested 57 bushels and another 72 bushels per acre.

Vegetables generally thrive under due and intelligent attention, and with the Adirondaek hotels affording a convenient market the growing of them ought to be profitable.

Though the county is supposed commonly not to comprehend advantages for corn production, nevertheless census data show that the average yield per acre in 1909 was 33 bushels, or only two bushels under the State average, and actually in excess of the Ohio average. In contests here for prizes production ran from 54 to 85 bushels per acre, and in similar competitions in Ohio, in which 2,000 boys and girls were the participants, an average of 80 bushels was reached, with a record of 153 bushels by one of them as against the State's average of 30 bushels. It is not presumed to advise more general attention by Franklin county farmers to corn, but it certainly is permissible to emphasize that not only in respect to this crop, but also all others, there ought to be earnest effort to increase the production per acre. The growth of corn for ensilage has increased largely within a few years, and I understand with great benefit to the dairy interests.

Though it may be questioned if census data are quite accurate except in items of mere enumeration, still they probably approximate actual conditions and values, and it seems worth while to give here extracts from the census of 1910 as they relate to Franklin county:

Number of farms.....	3,675
Value of farms.....	\$8,088,515
Value of all farm property.....	17,751,227
Value of domestic animals, poultry and bees.....	2,748,589
Value of horses .....	1,137,482
Value of swine .....	112,525
Value of poultry .....	60,443
Value of all crops in 1909.....	2,964,160
Value of all cereal crops in 1909.....	544,121
Value of hay and forage crops in 1909.....	1,320,419
Value of vegetable crops in 1909.....	591,627
Value of fruit and nut crops in 1909.....	40,515
Value of all other crops in 1909.....	467,478
Value of poultry and eggs in 1909.....	199,882
Value of oat crop in 1909 (756,302 bushels).....	373,152
Value of dairy products in 1909, including milk sold.....	1,174,737
Realized from sale of animals in 1909.....	448,823
Realized from animals slaughtered in 1909.....	176,565
Production of potatoes in 1909, bushels.....	1,433,761
Production of corn in 1909, bushels.....	144,646
Production of hops in 1909, pounds.....	474,515

Production of strawberries in 1909, quarts.....	66,283
Production of raspberries and longberries in 1909, quarts.....	22,260
Number of horses in 1910 .....	9,262
Number of sheep in 1910 .....	5,223
Number of neat cattle in 1910.....	46,108
Number of dairy cows in 1910.....	28,964

#### HORSES AND OTHER STOCK

If Franklin county has fewer high-class thoroughbred cattle, relatively or actually, than some others, there has been at least a remarkable improvement in dairy herds here during the past fifty or sixty years. Grades average incomparably better than formerly, and there is considerable thoroughbred stock of pronounced excellence. Cow testing associations have been formed within recent years, and are giving valuable service in weeding out animals that do not earn their keep. It ought to be superfluous to add that only along these lines can dairying be brought to pay what ought to be expected and realized. All of the creameries and milk-shipping stations regulate their prices by butter-fat tests, and it is waste of labor and feed to keep animals that do not bring fair returns. The range in this regard is startlingly wide, one series of tests in 1917 having shown a difference of \$113.44 in profit over feed between the ten best and the ten poorest cows in all the herds tested. Here and there a farmer assumes to scoff at the value of such tests, and insists upon proceeding in the old blind way, but in so doing he unquestionably loses money.

The locality used to be famous for fine single and matched driving horses, of which the Morgans were for a long time the most numerous and the best, and then the Phil. Sheridan and the Hambletonian strains (the latter through Wilkemon) came to predominate. Buyers from New England and New York city were accustomed thirty and forty years ago to visit the county every summer, and sales of matched drivers, and now and then of a single fast roadster or one that gave indication of probable track speed, were common at from \$500 to \$1,500 per pair, with single horses fetching proportionate and occasionally even larger amounts. Items were not infrequent in the local newspapers of the period in question to the effect that this or that dealer had shipped horses during the week from Malone or Chateaugay for which he had paid local owners five, six or seven thousand dollars. But now matched drivers are to be found here hardly at all, nor is there demand for them — breeding having run during the last few years to heavy draft horses, but with every kind decreasing in numbers — doubtless because

automobiles have become so numerous. Reminiscences bearing upon some of the better known horses of old times, when a three-minute gait seemed almost as fast as 2.10 does now, are interesting. At one of the first fairs of the Franklin County Agricultural Society in the fifties a horse owned by Sidney W. Gillett trotted in 3.06, and a few years later a Black Hawk stallion, called Flying Cloud, which was owned by Gardner A. Child, and one called Farmer Boy, owned by William Lowe, raced in about 2.50 at a fair, which was thought at the time to be wonderfully fast. Flying Cloud won. He was classed as an exceptionally fine animal, and left a good deal of superior stock, some of which developed speed. In 1864 and 1865 Lady Franklin, owned by Hiram Russell of Fort Covington, proved herself a great campaigner. Her best record was 2.31. Three or four years later A. R. Flanagan's Dutch Girl came to the front with a record of 2.28 or 2.30, and because she was so good a performer and so attractive in other respects Governor Sprague of Rhode Island paid \$10,000 for her. Other horses owned locally, in the eighties, which could trot in 2.30 to 2.35, and were highly regarded, included James Law's Draco Chief, Samuel B. Skinner's White Cloud, Frank T. Ferguson's Frank, and Thomas W. Creed's Phil. Sheridan, Jr.

Quiz was bred by H. D. & R. C. Thompson about 1892, and took a record of 2.32 as a two-year-old on a half-mile track, which was then considered very fast for a colt of that age. She afterward gained a record of 2.19 $\frac{3}{4}$ , and was sold to Colonel Kip of New York for \$3,000, with \$500 to be added on certain conditions. She was one of the hand-somest horses ever bred in Northern New York, won a blue ribbon in the roadster class at the New York Horse Show, and was sold by Colonel Kip to James Gordon Bennett, who took her to France, and I think raced her in Europe. Other well known horses in this period and later include R. C. Thompson's Paul Smith (2.18 $\frac{1}{4}$ ) and Jack Harding (2.11 $\frac{1}{4}$ ); L. L. Sayles's L. L., who won several races in the grand circuit in good time; Fred O'Neil's Joe (2.19 $\frac{1}{4}$ ), who never failed to win but one race in his class; Aubreon, bred by H. D. Thompson, and owned by Julian D. Earle and Eugene E. Lowe; Fred Betters's Brescia (2.06 $\frac{1}{4}$ ); H. D. Thompson's Brione (2.08 $\frac{3}{4}$ ); and Howe Constantine (2.07 $\frac{1}{4}$ ), owned by Walter J. Mallon. The last named is of fine conformation, and always a dependable performer.

With ownership of automobiles increasing, and farm tractors coming into almost common use, what future is there for the horse?

## STRIVING FOR TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

From about 1836 or 1838 public interest was concentrated for a number of years on agitation and effort to secure the construction of a railroad. Everything else was subordinate in the minds of the people. Public meetings, attended by thousands representing not simply our own county, but Clinton and St. Lawrence, were held at Malone, and there were like meetings at Ogdensburg attended by many from Franklin county. Solicitation was energetic and earnest for subscriptions to the capital stock of the proposed company, an act was almost won through the Legislature committing the State itself to construction of the road, with operation also to be by the State on a toll basis, similar to the plan in effect on the canals, and finally, when at length a charter was obtained, to the enlistment of New England capital for prosecuting the enterprise. With success assured the tenseness of hopeful and expectant waiting was broken, a feeling of inexpressible relief and gratification succeeded, and the actual opening of the line for traffic in 1850 brought great rejoicing and the conviction that emancipation had come from the handicap of isolation that had so long fettered the section. Still, there remained a seven years' struggle to be waged for legislative authorization to bridge Lake Champlain and to establish the railroad machine shops at Malone. The fight was a brave one all through, with complete success crowning it in the end. Other railroads have followed, and the particulars relative to them, as well as to those that were sought but not gained, appear in the chapter on Transportation Development. The improvement in road-bed, bridges, rails and equipment generally that time and larger traffic demands have brought are not more striking than some of the administrative changes. From an old book of rules of the Ogdensburgh and Lake Champlain Railroad Company it is noted that conductors were permitted to pass without exacting fares from people of manifest poverty and disability; that all baggage in excess of eighty pounds was chargeable, and that "no work will be permitted in any of the stations on Sunday, nor in any of the shops where it can possibly be avoided. Persons in charge of the offices on the road will see that they are kept closed invariably on that day." Something of the spirit of the rule last quoted continued for a good many years, and as late as 1885, when excursions were run often to Lake Champlain or to the Thousand Islands, and when other lines were making a particular point of conducting Sunday excursions, the management of this line declined absolutely to do business of that sort on Sunday.

## BANKING

Though the county was still in large part a wilderness in the forties, and the people continued poor, progress was yet evidently making, and business affairs began to loom larger. For many years following the first settlement no banking facilities at all had been enjoyed, nor was there need for any. No one had money to deposit, few had credit entitling them to loans, and remittances to cover adverse city balances were of produce and livestock rather than in money. But by-and-by a merchant came to have occasion now and then to remit cash or its equivalent, and for the convenience of these the banks at Ogdensburg and Plattsburgh had a local agent at Malone for a dozen years or more before any home bank was established in the county. In 1844 Samuel C. Weed and New York city associates organized the Franklin County Bank at Malone, capitalized at \$10,000. It was a good deal more of an institution for issuing notes to circulate as money than for transacting a deposit and discount business. Under the law of that time a bank or banker could deposit State bonds or real estate mortgages with the State comptroller as security for the redemption of the bills or notes that might be issued, and as the interest on the securities so deposited continued to be payable to the owner there was no loss by the process, but, on the other hand, the bank acquired without cost a fund substantially equal to its original investment, with which to "shave" commercial paper or to loan on new mortgages. No reports are extant showing the items of this bank's business except that it had at one time \$85,100 in notes outstanding as money; but knowledge of the then general conditions in the locality, together with the absence in reports of items showing deposits, warrants the conclusion that it had no deposits, or at the best few of them and in small amounts. Undoubtedly its transactions had little resemblance to modern banking operations. Even after this private or individual enterprise had given way in 1850 to the Bank of Malone, "a really, truly" bank, there were years and years prior to the civil war when its deposits ranged only between \$20,000 and \$75,000. The State bank continued operations until 1864, when it closed for the organization of a second national bank, a first institution of that character having come into existence a few months earlier. Since 1864 other national banks have been organized at Tupper Lake, St. Regis Falls, Brushton, Chateaugay and Saranac Lake—eight in all—having a combined capital of \$575,000, a combined surplus of \$859,104, and deposits aggregating \$3,910,850. Besides, there is a small private bank at Fort Covington, capitalized at \$10,000, which

keeps its condition to itself, but whose resources are believed to be about \$100,000. The banking resources of the county have thus multiplied nearly sixtyfold in seventy years, or from a beggarly hundred thousand dollars, employed almost exclusively for the benefit of three or four persons, to almost six million dollars, which, while still advantaging stockholders, is continually accommodating the entire business public, and contributing inestimably to the vitalizing of general business and to the fostering and development of prosperity. It is a marvelous record, and reflects perhaps more impressively than any other one item the growth in county well being and wealth.

#### GRADUAL PROGRESS

There had been for a considerable number of years gradual improvement in the condition of the people generally, but with little change in their habits and manner of living until about the time of the civil war, though it is true that, having come to be somewhat better circumstanced financially, framed buildings had displaced most of the original log houses or huts; household conveniences and utilities, originally unobtainable, had improved and multiplied; and the hardships and privations endured earlier had been greatly mitigated. Puritanic strictness and intolerance abated slowly, and individuals became less amenable to the censorship of the clergy and to the harsh discipline of the churches in respect to business practices and participation in amusements. But the latter remained of the simplest, and caused no great encroachment upon one's time or purse. They consisted for the most part in afternoon gatherings of the women of a church's ladies' aid society for sewing and gossip, with the men appearing sometimes at a later hour for refreshments and perhaps a bit of a frolic to follow; lyceums or debating societies, in the exercises of which business men as well as academic students participated; lectures, usually by resident clergymen or attorneys; vocal concerts or entertainments by musical bell ringers; singing schools and the old-fashioned spelling matches; baseball (not the modern game), bowling, occasionally a dance, rarely a circus or minstrel show; and, of course, after 1851, the agricultural fair once a year. Still there was no attempt at ostentation or affectation of "style," for few families had servants, and fewer yet were of independent means. The thought of the people broadened, there was a more acute interest in public affairs, and local enterprises commanded more and more interest and attention. Manufactories sprang up, transportation facilities were provided,

banking was instituted as previously shown, and progress generally was observable.

#### THE PRESENT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Upon a call signed by a hundred farmers and others the Franklin County Agricultural Society was formed August 26, 1851, or just a quarter of a century after the death of the earlier similar organization. Sidney Lawrence of Moira was chosen president, Harry S. House of Malone, secretary, and Hiram H. Thompson of Malone, treasurer, with one vice-president from each town. The movement was too late in the season to make it practicable to hold a fair that year, and accordingly the first exhibition was given in October, 1852, on leased grounds, which were simply an open field on which grain had been raised, and the use of which William Andrus gave for five years without consideration other than that the premises be fenced and the stone removed. The work of improvement cost but little apart from \$92.35 contributed by residents of Malone and also materials and labor donated. The exhibition in 1852 continued through two days only, and, no race track having been laid out, of course there were no trials of speed. The offered list of premiums aggregated \$467, but the amount actually paid was only \$263, of which \$44 was on crops. The receipts were \$437.31 for admissions, \$250 for membership fees, \$50 from the State. The next year the offered premiums were \$621, and increases continually made since then bring the total awards now to about \$3,300. The earlier lists did not compare favorably even with those that had been offered by the first society twenty-five years before, as the amounts were smaller in almost every class, having been generally for only one or two dollars each, though three dollars was offered for some kinds of horses, and crop premiums ranged from one dollar to five dollars each. Many awards were of diplomas only. The attendance at the second fair, during which the weather was unfavorable, was estimated at between five and six thousand during the two days, and the receipts were \$871.88. By 1853 a race track a third of a mile in circumference had been built, and a trotting purse of twenty dollars was advertised, with special attractions to consist of Indian foot-races and a game of lacrosse. The railroad carried stock and other exhibits free at owners' risk, which concession was modified later to a charge for transportation one way. Special attractions in 1854 were music and a competition between lady equestrians for prizes, with two trotting events as a part of the fair proper (the purses having been \$25 and \$15 respectively), and two races to occur the day following the exhibition, but with emphasized

announcement that these were not to be deemed a part of the fair. The purses for these were \$10 and \$50 respectively; and all betting on the grounds was strictly prohibited. The offers of these purses, in so large (?) amounts, were roundly denounced as unwarrantable extravagance, and some of the pulpits thundered anathema against the fairs as a whole as "sinful amusements," and in particular as filching money from the poor. For a number of years it was a serious struggle to maintain the organization, but the earnest men of the time showed courage and resolute purpose, and conquered success. The grounds originally were seven acres in extent, but were enlarged about 1856 to ten acres, and a contract entered into for their purchase for \$1,000. They have been further enlarged from time to time until they now embrace about twenty-five acres. In 1862 the fair was omitted because of the war, but with that exception an exhibition has been held every year. There was no recognition, however, in numbering the exhibition of 1863 that none had been held in 1862, which error has continued ever since. The fairs, therefore, have been one less in number than the annual announcements of the society suggest.

The fact deserves emphasizing that the plan of the organization neither contemplates nor permits any distribution whatever of receipts in excess of expenses to the benefit of any individual. The society is distinctively and exclusively a people's enterprise, and all of the profits earned must go to the erection of buildings and improvement of the grounds, or be applied to increasing the premiums for exhibits or to extending the list of attractions. Under the operation of this policy grounds valued at many thousands of dollars have been acquired, one of the best half-mile tracks in the State provided, and a grand-stand, cattle sheds, barns and exhibition halls have been erected which, with possibly one or two exceptions, serve all needs admirably, and would be a credit to a much richer organization.

The premiums distributed annually for exhibits have mounted from paltry hundreds to between three and four thousand dollars, the purses offered for speed contests are now \$10,500 annually, and the total receipts for the four days of the fair in 1917 were \$28,352.82, while the initial attendance of 5,000 or 6,000 in two days has been multiplied — as many as 25,000 people having been on the grounds in a single day in some of the best years. Besides the benefits which the work of the society has accomplished in stimulating improvement in stock and better methods of farming, the exhibitions have grown to constitute something of an "old-home week," with former residents returning regularly even from

distant points, alike for enjoyment of the show and for the pleasure of greeting old-time friends. Men from far-away places who are strangers to the locality also attend year after year simply because our fairs are so attractive and the welcome of the people so cordial; and not a few of these make no reservation in pronouncing the Franklin county fairs to be unequalled in New York except by the State fair.

Other agricultural societies existed at one time at Fort Covington and Brushton, and later there was one at Chateaugay. But the county is not large enough for more than one prosperous organization, and the other societies had but a brief life.

#### CIVIL WAR CONDITIONS

There were great changes during the civil war. The conditions prevalent in that period are almost impossible of realization by the present generation, for the people stepped to measures not merely different from any they had ever before trod, but of cadences other than have since been known. Prices skyrocketed, but without the average touching present levels, and, though self-denial and pinching were practiced in many families, extravagance seized upon many, with a prodigality of expenditure never before approached, and speculative operations which would have amazed and shocked the staid leaders in business of an earlier age became common. As wealth was accumulated by the shrewder and more daring, these bettered their dress, many began the erection of showy and costly houses, and all except the poorer adopted more pretentious habits and living customs. Millions of men were called to arms, and, though of course there was a scarcity of many commodities, little was heard of impossibility of procuring labor, there was no governmental fixing of prices, nor did food have to be rationed as now notwithstanding nearly half of the country had not been developed or settled, so that our productive area was then comparatively small; but the making of war munitions and armaments was on no such stupendous scale as now, nor were we then obliged to feed starving people across the sea lest they perish. To-day we see only occasionally a uniformed man, whereas during the civil war recruiting was prosecuted continuously for years with driving energy, and at times hundreds of soldiers were quartered here for weeks or months, an inescapable reminder of war. Moreover, there was apprehension in 1864 and 1865 that confederates might raid our villages from Canada, as upon one occasion they did invade St. Albans, Vt. Money was in

abundant circulation, though of a depreciated value, and there was no such restraint as obtains in the present upon the individual soldier with regard to habits and practices. The consequence was a reign of immorality and vice not paralleled for half a century previously, nor equaled since. Drinking, gambling, brawling and licentiousness were common. War meetings were of frequent occurrence, and appeals and inducements were constant for volunteers to save the Union and avert drafts. Bounties to encourage enlistments were voted lavishly by the county and by each of the separate towns until in some cases men received as much as a thousand dollars each, additional to their pay, for a few months' service, and the total local payments of this character, all met by taxation, aggregated a half million dollars. Franklin comprised with St. Lawrence one draft district, and Malone was headquarters for both counties for all drafts, with General S. C. F. Thorndike provost marshal. Medical examinations for all of the two counties were made here, where claims for exemptions were heard also and determined. The procedure made the town a busy place at times. None of the drafts except that ordered in 1863 netted any Franklin county men to the army, except as they incited men who feared being drawn to find substitutes. Nevertheless a number were drawn to fill the quotas of four or five of the towns, but none of them could be held because they were physically disabled or had fled to Canada. In one of the towns only a single able-bodied man was left, and he was so recent a comer that his name had not been listed. The 1863 draft conscripted about 75 men, some of whom were released upon payment of a money commutation of \$300 each, but most of whom accepted service. Censorship of correspondence and news was unthought of, and accounts of army movements and battles were full and minute — thrilling the loyal when a victory was chronicled, and causing despondency and gloom if there were a defeat, while the fathers, mothers, wives and children of the men in service waited always in poignant anxiety for the lists of the missing, wounded and killed. And it shames me to write that in that stressful time all sentiment in our county was not patriotic and loyal, but that there was an element in comparison with which to-day's "slackers" and pacifists are eminently respectable. These persisted in villifying the President and the Union generals, exulted when there were Union reverses, and in a hundred ways sought to embarrass the government and impede its work. As the present is a war of cold but resolute purpose, that was a conflict in which the accumulated differences and

resentments developed through a generation of contention on moral issues found vent in action, with hot, fierce passion so swaying the people that business proscription, social ostracism and personal enmities, if not actual physical collisions, were engendered between neighbors who otherwise would have been associates and friends. This bitterness was intense, almost venomous in some cases; but for those who would neither volunteer nor hold themselves subject to the drafts, sneaking into Canada while the war continued, there was utter contempt. When the surrender had been made at Appomattox, and those who had worn the blue came marching home, too many with empty sleeves or with amputated legs, or with health permanently broken by hardship in camp and field or in the Confederate hells that were called prisons, then the men who had helped to save the Union were welcomed with glad acclaim and reverent honor.

Patriotic activities by civilians during the civil war bear no comparison with those now observable. True, the women worked devotedly to prepare sanitary supplies and delicacies for the soldier sick; individuals in many districts contributed Thanksgiving and Christmas remembrances to be forwarded to the men at the front; there was general and earnest importuning of men to enlist; and the towns and the county offers of bounties for volunteers were more than generous. But little of the activity and effort was systematized, and except that a fund, amounting to several thousand dollars, was pledged for the relief of needy families of soldiers, no war contributions of consequence were made by individuals, nor were government bonds bought to any extent. There were no calls by the Red Cross, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Salvation Army, or the Young Women's Christian Association to enable these or similar organizations to render a benign service to the men in the field or on the battle line. And even though there had been, the response must have been slight, for most of the people had little money that they could spare.

The record of the county in the present war will bear the most searching tests, and is highly creditable. Subscriptions running into the tens of thousands of dollars have been made for philanthropic work, especially for the Red Cross: women and children by the hundreds are knitting and sewing assiduously on Red Cross supplies; committees numbering scores of busy men and women have given of their time generously for a year to the various forms of organized war effort; and of the first and second Liberty loans the banks and individuals in the

county purchased bonds to the amount of a million and a third dollars, and of the third loan more than another million, or, say, two millions and a half in all — an amazing showing for a county that is small and not rich. Every subscription district in the county took largely in excess of its apportioned allotment, and one more than doubled it — the county as a whole oversubscribing its quota by fifty per cent. We have, besides, put into the army in a year a thousand men or more of an average intelligence and character that has never been surpassed in any war. Hundreds of these have been volunteers, and include young men who have taken courses in the training camps, and earned commissions. In other words, Franklin county's contribution of men to the army and navy in a single year has been nearly half the number that it enlisted in four years during the civil war.

#### THE COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR RECORD

It is impossible to compile a complete list and the individual records of the men from Franklin county who served in the army during the civil war, or even to ascertain their number accurately. As complete a list for New York as it has been found possible to assemble has been prepared by regiments and published by the State adjutant-general, but it does not show residences. It totals about 325,000, whereas General Phisterer, formerly adjutant-general, declared the opinion some years ago that the actual number exceeded 400,000, adding that it was "impossible to obtain any accurate figures of the number of men furnished during the war by each county, town and village." It was attempted in 1865 to have the census of that year include the names of all volunteers and of all drafted men who accepted service, but the total so obtained was only 139,481, or about one-third of what General Phisterer believed to have been the actual number. From the best information that I have been able to gather I am satisfied that, including re-enlistments, Franklin county had in the service, from first to last, well over 2,000 men. If the same proportion between the census figures and the adjutant-general's list for the entire State obtained for Franklin county, then the number would be about 3,160, or if we take the estimate of 400,000 and supply the resultant percentage it would be about 3,860; but both of these latter totals seem improbable. The town clerks were required in 1866 to prepare complete lists of those who had served in the army from their respective towns, and I have counted as many of these lists for Franklin county as I have been able to locate. The number shown by the census returns of 1865 and also

by the obtainable town clerks' reports in 1866 appear in the following table:

Towns	Census Figures	Town Clerks' Reports
Bangor.....	89	89*
Bellmont.....	82	165
Bombay.....	48	48*
Brandon.....	64	69
Brighton.....	9	18
Burke.....	65	158
Chateaugay.....	82	82*
Constable.....	77	102
Dickinson.....	124	204
Duane.....	32	37
Fort Covington.....	80	80*
Franklin.....	90	123
Harrietstown.....	17	30
Malone.....	316	410
Moira.....	64	97
Westville.....	110	110*
Totals.....	1,349	1,822

The draft ages during the civil war were between twenty and forty-five years, with the volunteer ages between eighteen and forty-five years; and yet there were hundreds of mere boys, not yet fifteen, and of men well over fifty (some of them from Franklin county) who entered the ranks—the former bearing the strain and hardships better than the latter, nearly all of whom had to be discharged for disability after a few weeks or months in the field.

The county's organized contingents included one company each in the 16th and 60th, seven in the 98th, two in the 106th and three in the 142d, and it had besides scattering representation in a considerable number of other commands, particularly in the 96th, 118th, the 14th Heavy Artillery and some cavalry units, including the company of Captain Davis, organized in 1864, largely from Franklin county, for frontier defense.

The regiments in which there were units of Franklin county men all saw strenuous service and hard fighting. Their records were fine, and their battle losses, in proportion to their total strength, were appalling. For illustration, the killed and wounded in all of the New York regiments comprised 18.4 per cent. of their strength, while the percentage for the 16th was 36.96, nearly all of which was suffered in four engagements. The losses of this regiment were the greatest of any of the

\* The town clerks' reports for Bangor, Bombay, Chateaugay, Fort Covington and Westville not having been located, the census figures are used. If the missing reports could be consulted, probably they would bring the aggregate up to about 2,000; and in a number of the towns these reports do not include re-enlistments, which would further swell the count.

State's thirty-eight two-year regiments with a single exception. Over fifty per cent. of the men in it who were taken to the firing line were killed or wounded. The following data are from a compilation made by the adjutant-general:

	16th Reg.	60th Reg.	98th Reg.	106th Reg.	142d Reg.
Killed in action .....	91	39	63	85	70
Died of wounds received in action.....	38	28	39	51	61
Wounded, but survived .....	332	191	277	324	340
Reported missing .....	19	18	72	214	23
Aggregate losses .....	480	276	451	674	494
Approximate length of service, years..	2	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Died of disease and other causes.....	84	101	136	167	162
Number of battles and skirmishes....	18	29	22	34	21

From the adjutant-general's records I have gleaned the names and data of Franklin county men who were commissioned officers in the 16th, 60th, 98th, 106th and 142d regiments. The rank first following each officer's name is that in which he was mustered, and the ranks following are those that he successively held. In many cases the records note discharges as terminating service, but as this word is susceptible of two constructions I have substituted "resigned." Where no date of retirement is stated it is to be understood that the officer was mustered out at the expiration of his term of service:

#### SIXTEENTH REGIMENT.

##### COLONEL.

Joel J. Seaver, captain, major, lieutenant-col.; colonel Sept. 28, 1862.

##### CAPTAIN.

Charles M. Hilliker, sergeant, 1st sergeant, 2d lieutenant; captain Dec. 6, 1862.

Charles H. Bentley, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain Jan. 21, 1863; wounded; re-enlisted; captain in Vermont cavalry.

##### FIRST LIEUTENANT.

Frederic F. Wead, 1st lieutenant; transferred to 98th regiment, which see.

Samuel W. Gleason, private; 1st lieutenant. Aug. 9, 1862.

##### SECOND LIEUTENANT.

Milton E. Roberts, 2d lieutenant; resigned Nov. 19, 1861.

Enos Hinman, 1st sergeant; 2d lieutenant. Dec. 6, 1862.

Charles A. Brown, private, sergeant; 2d lieutenant. Sept. 13, 1862; detailed to be in charge of printing office at Gen. McClellan's headquarters.

##### CHAPLAIN.

Andrew M. Millar, chaplain; resigned Sept. 26, 1862.

## MEDAL OF HONOR.

John H. Moffitt was given a medal of honor for great bravery at the battle of Gaines's Mill. Mr. Moffitt enlisted in Clinton county, but was a resident of Franklin for a number of years after the war, and represented this district in Congress.

## SIXTIETH REGIMENT.

## CAPTAIN.

William H. Hyde, captain; resigned Jan. 31, 1863.  
P. Shelley Sinclair, 1st lieutenant; captain Jan. 29, 1863.  
Alfred N. Skiff, sergeant, 1st sergeant, lieutenant; captain July 9, 1865.

## FIRST LIEUTENANT.

Myron D. Stanley, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant Jan. 29, 1863; died of wounds.  
Rufus R. Stanceliff, private, corporal, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant June 23, 1865.  
George G. Cornish, private, hospital steward; 1st lieutenant Feb. 21, 1863; discharged for disability April 27, 1865.

## SECOND LIEUTENANT.

Hosea C. Reynolds, 2d lieutenant; died Oct. 26, 1862.  
Edward Sinclair, private; 2d lieutenant Nov. 4, 1863.  
Gardiner Smith, corporal, sergeant; 2d lieutenant July 9, 1865.

## NINETY-EIGHTH REGIMENT.

## COLONEL.

Charles Durkee, lieutenant-colonel; colonel July 4, 1862; resigned Feb. 25, 1863.  
Frederic F. Wead, lieutenant-colonel by transfer and promotion from 16th regiment; colonel Mar. 4, 1864; killed June 3, 1864.

## MAJOR.

Albon Man, major; resigned June 4, 1862.

## ADJUTANT.

Edward H. Hobbs, adjutant; resigned June 2, 1863.  
Daniel H. Stanton, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; adjutant June 2, 1863; wounded.

## CAPTAIN.

Seymour L. Andrus, 1st lieutenant; captain Oct. 31, 1862; resigned June 1, 1863.  
Samuel J. Austin, 1st lieutenant; captain Oct. 1, 1862; resigned June 2, 1863.  
William H. Barney, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain May 8, 1862.  
Fernando C. Beaman, private, sergeant, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain Dec. 2, 1864; wounded.  
Egbert M. Copps, private, sergeant, 1st sergeant, 1st lieutenant; captain Dec. 1, 1864.  
Charles W. Cray, captain; assistant surgeon Oct. 28, 1862; resigned Nov. 15, 1862; re-enlisted and commissioned captain in 114th regiment.  
Newton H. Davis, private, 1st sergeant, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain June 2, 1863; wounded; re-enlisted as captain of a frontier defense company of cavalry.  
Lucien D. Ellsworth, captain; resigned June 24, 1862.  
Hiram P. Gile, 1st sergeant, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain Mar. 4, 1864; wounded.  
Horace D. Hickok, private, corporal, sergeant, 2d lieutenant, quartermaster; captain July 20, 1864; resigned Dec. 6, 1864.  
Edmund J. Hildreth, 1st sergeant, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain June 2, 1863; resigned Nov. 15, 1864.  
Amos S. Kimball, 1st lieutenant; captain and assistant quartermaster April 7, 1864; afterward became quartermaster-general in the regular army.  
Frederick Lewis, private, sergeant, sergeant-major; captain Nov. 8, 1862.  
Edward J. Mannix, captain; discharged for disability Oct. 1, 1862.

Orlando F. Miller, captain; resigned April 1, 1863.  
 Theodore M. Morgan, commissioned captain, but not mustered.  
 Dennis D. Mott, private, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain Nov. 27, 1864.  
 Benjamin Russell, captain; discharged for disability Sept. 29, 1862.  
 Sylvester S. Willard, 1st lieutenant; captain Sept. 24, 1862; resigned June 2, 1863.  
 Parritt B. Wolff, captain; discharged for disability Nov. 9, 1862.  
 John J. Wood, 1st lieutenant; captain Sept. 30, 1862; resigned May 2, 1863.  
 Lyman B. Sperry, private, corporal, sergeant, sergeant-major, 1st lieutenant; captain April 3, 1865.

## FIRST LIEUTENANT.

Gustine W. Adams, private, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant. April 3, 1865; wounded.  
 Oscar P. Ames, private; 1st lieutenant. Mar. 4, 1864; wounded; resigned Sept. 17, 1864.  
 Henry D. Doty, private, 1st sergeant, 2d lieutenant; 1st lieutenant. May 8, 1862.  
 William Johnson, private, corporal, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant. April 3, 1865.  
 Patrick A. Mannix, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant. Dec. 3, 1864; wounded.  
 Charles A. MacArthur, private, corporal, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant. Dec. 2, 1864; wounded.  
 Eleazer Mulholland, 1st lieutenant.  
 Silenus Washburn, 1st lieutenant; resigned Aug. 8, 1862.  
 Henry R. Thompson, private, com-sergeant, 2d lieutenant; 1st lieutenant. Nov. 26, 1864.

## SECOND LIEUTENANT.

James D. Hardy, private, corporal, sergeant; 2d lieutenant. Aug. 3, 1865.  
 John M. Haskell, private, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 2d lieutenant. June 24, 1862; resigned April 16, 1863.  
 Alvin C. Hitchcock, private; 2d lieutenant. April 3, 1865.  
 Henry B. Holbrook, private, corporal, sergeant-major; 2d lieutenant. April 3, 1865.  
 Archie Hollenbeck, private, 1st sergeant; 2d lieutenant. April 30, 1862.  
 Frank Myers, private, corporal, sergeant; 2d lieutenant. April 3, 1865; wounded.  
 Albert M. Phelps, private, sergeant; 2d lieutenant. Aug. 28, 1862; killed May 16, 1864.  
 Charles A. Powell, 2d lieutenant; died May 13, 1862.  
 Alonzo A. Rhoades, private, corporal, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 2d lieutenant. April 3, 1865.  
 Edward I. Rice, 2d lieutenant; discharged for disability Jan. 3, 1863.  
 David Storms, 2d lieutenant; died April 30, 1862.  
 Eusebe Lalime, private, sergeant; 2d lieutenant. April 3, 1865; wounded.  
 Sidney W. Langdon, 2d lieutenant; resigned April 30, 1862.  
 George P. Lyman, 2d lieutenant; died May 20, 1862.  
 Jeremiah H. M. Davis, private, corporal, sergeant; 2d lieutenant. April 3, 1865; wounded.

## ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH REGIMENT.

## CAPTAIN.

Charles J. Rider, captain; resigned April 5, 1863.  
 Patrick H. Shields, captain; resigned Mar. 7, 1863.  
 Eugene Wilber, 1st lieutenant; captain Mar. 16, 1863; discharged for disability Jan. 7, 1865.

## SURGEON.

Calvin Skinner, surgeon; resigned Dec. 31, 1863.

## ASSISTANT SURGEON.

Frederick H. Petit, assistant surgeon; died Dec. 25, 1864.

## FIRST LIEUTENANT.

James MacPherson, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant. Oct. 12, 1863.

## SECOND LIEUTENANT.

Henry P. Fields, 2d lieutenant; resigned Mar. 9, 1863.  
 Charles H. Lang, sergeant, sergeant-major; 2d lieutenant. Feb. 11, 1865.

## ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SECOND REGIMENT.

## LIEUTENANT-COLONEL.

William A. Jones, captain, major; lieutenant-col. Jan. 4, 1865.

## CAPTAIN.

William D. Brennan, 1st lieutenant; captain July 25, 1863; wounded.

Franklin F. Brown, 1st lieutenant; captain July 25, 1863; resigned Mar. 22, 1864.

Birney B. Keeler, 1st lieutenant, adjutant; captain April 8, 1864; served many years after the war on the staff of Gen. McDowell.

Frederick C. King, private, com-sergeant, quartermaster sergeant, 2d lieutenant; captain Oct. 19, 1864.

Alexander Lindsay, captain; resigned Feb. 11, 1863.

Roderick D. Morehouse, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain Feb. 17, 1865.

Marvin Potter, captain.

Horace Aldrich, 2d lieutenant, 1st lieutenant; captain July 6, 1864.

## FIRST LIEUTENANT.

DeForest Sargent, private, corporal, 1st sergeant, 2d lieutenant; 1st lieutenant Feb. 17, 1865.

James K. Thompson, 1st sergeant, 2d lieutenant; 1st lieutenant May 13, 1864; discharged for disability Oct. 19, 1864.

Horatio P. Wilson, sergeant, 1st sergeant; 1st lieutenant Oct. 24, 1863; discharged Oct. 31, 1864, account wounds received in action.

## SECOND LIEUTENANT.

Hiram T. French, 1st sergeant; 2d lieutenant Jan. 26, 1863; discharged for disability Mar. 25, 1864.

John H. Gott, private, corporal, sergeant; 2d lieutenant Feb. 17, 1865; wounded.

Henry H. Hogan, 2d lieutenant; resigned Jan. 19, 1863.

Henry A. Miller, corporal, sergeant; 2d lieutenant Feb. 17, 1865.

George K. Pond, sergeant; 2d lieutenant Feb. 11, 1863; resigned July 18, 1863.

Solon Reynolds, 2d lieutenant; discharged for disability Jan. 26, 1863.

Horace Wood, 2d lieutenant; died Jan. 17, 1863.

A disturbing and demoralizing, if not actually dangerous, aftermath of war might naturally have been expected with the release from discipline and restraint of great bodies of men who had experienced for years severe privation and become accustomed to an environment of excitement and violence. But here, as elsewhere, the survivors of the men who had been in the army were absorbed into the community so quietly as to be almost imperceptible, and, with few exceptions, resumed the habits and employments of civic life as though they had never been withdrawn from them. True, there was evidenced a spirit of unrest and inability on the part of many to accept conditions to which they had returned, but it found manifestation rarely except in decision to seek homes in a newer country, which was thought to offer larger opportunities; and the county then lost a considerable very desirable element through migration to the West. Nothing better illustrates the practicality, adaptability and respect for law and public order characteristic of the American people than the conduct of the veteran soldiers when peace left no further occasion for their employment in arms.

## LIFE AFTER THE WAR

Nevertheless the county was not long without exciting episodes and affairs—the first of which, as told in a separate chapter, was the Fenian movement upon Canada in 1866, followed by another of greater proportions four years later. Then, too, there was an eager interest, attended by no little rancor, in the political life of the period that died out long since; and business expanded and became speculative to a degree because of an inflated currency, but with depression and stringency following in 1873 in measure unknown with the lamentable exception of 1893—which latter was charged by Republicans to have been occasioned by tariff tinkering along free-trade lines, and attributed by Democrats to currency disturbances incident to excessive silver coinage. In neither period was Franklin county affected until months or years after the pinch had been severely felt in manufacturing centers, but when it did strike here it hit hard. Prices as given in local market reports in both periods were ruinously low—potatoes 35c. a bushel, butter 14c. to 21c. a pound, eggs 10c. to 16c. a dozen, and other products at corresponding figures. But employment having been impossible to obtain in many instances, and labor commanding only scant remuneration, the body of the people were unable to buy even at the low rates quoted. In the years following 1873 large numbers of farms were lost under foreclosure or sheriff's sales, and in the 1893 period business paralysis and stagnation were accompanied by enforced idleness of labor and by a reduction in the wage rate for common labor to ninety cents a day.

But with all of our vicissitudes we were yet making progress in many directions. It will not be attempted to recite in detail the changes and gains of the half century from the close of the civil war, but only to sketch some of them in barest outline.

Repeated movements were instituted for new railroad construction, with eventual success beyond the wildest hopes of the people notwithstanding failure attended most of the particular projects first agitated. There were, of course, disappointments and protracted delays, but in the end more was realized in the lines constructed than could have come through those that failed of building. The navigation facilities that had formerly been enjoyed at Fort Covington and Hogansburgh were, however, lost in the same years because of the channels of the St. Regis and the Salmon having become clogged with silt.

While the old training days of the so-called "floodwood" militia, which had been the principal holidays of the people, had gone forever,

we gained a uniformed and well armed company of the State national guard, with a sightly armory built for it by the State.

The deaf-mute school of beneficent accomplishment for afflicted children, and with its hundred pupils and corps of teachers contributing importantly to local business interests, was founded in 1884, and the State provided fine buildings for it.

Outside capital established an iron industry of large proportions at Chateaugay Lake, and operated it for nearly twenty years to the great temporary advantage and benefit of the locality, but, as we now see, with unfortunate consequences due to its great destruction of timber for burning into charcoal. The industry collapsed with the discovery of improved methods of manufacture, and the hamlet became almost a deserted village.

Similarly the southwestern part of the county, almost an unbroken wilderness until thirty-odd years ago, was developed and exploited marvelously, with a consequence that three new towns were created, and a number of busy villages or hamlets born, which thrived while the timber lasted. The melancholy fate of a number of these, now all but deserted, and in some of them scarce a trace even of their existence remaining, should not be without its lesson of the need for conservation and reforestation. St. Regis Falls and Tupper Lake alone survive as outgrowths of this movement, and are still measurably prosperous.

We were yet to learn, however, that the wilderness had other and greater value than that which its merchantable timber gave. It was only after the civil war that the Adirondack hotels began to enlarge and multiply, and the scattering sportsmen who had occasionally visited the region became a throng. Still other years had to run before the region came to be appreciated as a vast sanatorium with healing properties that have prolonged many lives, and also before millionaires were to find the wilderness attractive to the degree that they created vast private parks and built summer camps some of which cost a fortune each.

The bearing of these conditions upon the growth and wealth of the county, and particularly upon its southern part, is incalculable. The hotel business alone is to be reckoned annually in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, some part of which radiates far—farmers and merchants all sharing in it, and many of the male residents of the immediate vicinity finding employment as builders, general help and guides at good wages, and with mental and moral benefit through association with the people whom they serve.

## PRIVATE PARKS AND FOREST FIRES

The private parks, though not altogether popular locally because they restrict somewhat the freedom of the woods that formerly obtained, are nevertheless of consequence and vastly beneficial, for they add to the county's taxable values, provide remunerative employment to many caretakers and servants, and afford protection of the utmost value against destructive forest fires. How much this single last named consideration may mean may be realized by recalling what has been suffered from such fires in the past. Three-quarters of a century ago large improved areas in a number of the northern towns were devastated by fires sweeping in upon them from the forests. Crops were destroyed, and buildings and their contents lost. Again, in the early seventies, many extensive Adirondack timber tracts were fire swept, and in 1903, following a severe and protracted April and May drouth, half a million acres of forest in the State were burned over. In 1908 and 1913 there were almost equally extensive ravages. Of course the only time that a forest fire can be fought to advantage is at its beginning, and private park employees are always alert to discover and stamp out such fires before they gain headway. In 1903 the public cost for fighting forest fires in Franklin county was \$36,128.68, and many thousand dollars additional were expended by individuals and corporations in similar effort on their own lands. In the one town of Altamont alone three concerns thus paid out nearly \$14,000, and one brought suit against the town for reimbursement in the sum of \$6,000. Besides these costs, there was a large property loss, probably not less than \$150,000. The actual expense paid by taxation (one-half by the towns and one-half by the State) for fighting these fires in Franklin county in 1903 was:

Altamont . . . . .	\$3,858.44
Bellmont . . . . .	2,088.98
Brandon . . . . .	1,524.14
Brighton . . . . .	2,944.58
Dickinson . . . . .	1,300.32
Duane . . . . .	3,807.64
Franklin . . . . .	5,121.24
Harrietstown . . . . .	2,272.50
Malone . . . . .	3,388.90
Santa Clara . . . . .	6,641.00
Waverly . . . . .	3,200.94
	<hr/>
	\$36,128.68

## THE ADIRONDACKS AS A SANATORIUM AND PARK

The health-giving properties of the forests and the invigorating air have induced the founding of numerous sanatoria, which are constantly filled. Their patients are in many cases accompanied by friends and relatives to lend them cheer and companionship and to promote their comfort, and many of these become permanent residents of the localities and establish fine homes.

To some or perhaps a part of all of these conditions is due almost altogether the fact that the village of Saranac Lake, a hamlet which had continued in its rude state and had been without appreciable growth, and apparently without any promise of growth, for half a century following its first settlement, has become one of the most attractive, prosperous and progressive communities in the State, with a present population of five thousand or more.

A generation ago, when agitation began for acquisition of large wilderness tracts by the State, with the purpose of making most of the region a vast public park, the proposition excited general apprehension and alarm locally, because it was believed that consummation of it must proscribe industrial operations, prevent the development of natural resources, and shut out hope for future growth. The writer may be pardoned a bit of retrospection and personal reference here. Sharing in the general view and irked by what the scheme appeared to entail of injury to the county, but with recognition that it was likely to be imposed in some form, he took an active part in the discussion, and undertook to have provisions incorporated in any plan that might be adopted which would protect the section in a measure. Out of this effort came the concession that any lands taken by the State should continue to be taxed exactly as if they were to remain in private ownership. The suggestion of this policy was scouted at first by the metropolitan press and by legislators generally as absurd — preposterous. But the argument as unfolded prevailed, that if the State were to persist in repressing our industrial opportunities and circumscribing our operations, chiefly for the benefit of city people, as was then supposed, it at least must not impose unbearable burdens upon the individual property untaken, and the wealthier sections of the commonwealth should pay for what they were clamoring for. The suggestion accordingly came to be accepted generally as based in justice, and was vitalized by statute. The concession must continue, or some of the towns suffer bankruptcy. And still we must now admit that the park plan was

wise, that the evils it was thought to comprehend have not been suffered, and that there are more money and larger benefits for our county in preservation of the forests than could possibly be realized through their destruction for lumber, charcoal and wood pulp.

#### PROPERTY VALUATIONS AND TAXATION

The assessed valuation of the real property in the county, which totaled \$4,918,419 in 1868, increased to \$13,536,418 in 1917, a gain of \$8,617,999; and whereas the State board was accustomed a half a century ago, as well as a good many years later, to deduct from our own valuation something like half a million dollars in equalizing assessments as between the various counties, it added \$9,174,906 in 1917, indicating that in its judgment Franklin has not kept pace with most other localities in advancing its rate of assessment from a small to a large or full percentage of the actual worth of property. But notwithstanding this penalizing the county now pays only about one dollar in every \$532 of the State tax, whereas in the old time it paid one dollar in every \$500. State taxation at its worst, however, is only an inconsequential part of the public burden, and, therefore, the place to enforce economy and retrenchment is at home. For illustration, nearly seven-eighths of the county budget in 1917 was for county purposes, and only one-eighth to meet the State levy; and while the county's part of the State tax a half a century ago was but little more than it is at present the county's own expenses then were only \$17,708.31, and those of the towns, notwithstanding war debts were being paid, were but \$41,622. The cost of county government mounted to \$198,661.95 in 1917 (eleven times as much as in 1868), and of the towns to over \$200,000. Here we have a total of about \$400,000 of distinctively county and town taxation in 1917, and school district and village taxes must have aggregated as much more, so that about \$27 in every \$28 of our tax burdens are of our own imposition. It is thus obvious that tax reduction must be wrought through local retrenchment, if at all.

While the foregoing assessment figures suggest a gratifying increase in realty values, for personalty the comparison is almost as striking the other way. Formerly it stood at about three-quarters of a million dollars, and now is only about a third as much, notwithstanding it must be the fact that we are many times better circumstanced as to personal possessions than we were a half a century ago.

In 1868 the county was in debt for war bounties to the amount of \$67,369.82, and there was considerable town debt as well. In 1881 every dollar of it had been paid; but such condition did not long continue, as the erection of county buildings was undertaken and bonds issued to meet the cost. At present the county owes \$491,000 for highway construction, and the towns are in debt, principally for like purposes, to the amount of \$92,400 besides their respective obligations to the State for moneys advanced on account of the construction of State and county highways. The county's obligations on this account aggregate \$39,550 as of this date, and those of the towns \$14,064. But inasmuch as the obligations are not to be discharged until fifty years from the date of their inception, the county will then have paid, including interest, a total of \$90,855, and the towns \$42,190.50. Besides all this, the villages of Malone, Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake are in debt to an aggregate of about three-quarters of a million dollars.

#### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The public school development has been great. Though the number of school districts in the county remains substantially unchanged, in part because of consolidation of several into union free school districts, the school buildings have been bettered generally, and better qualified and a larger number of teachers are employed, the courses of study have been broadened, and the work is of a better grade. At the close of the civil war only two institutions were giving academic instruction, and now the number is eleven. The public moneys apportioned to the county by the State in 1868 totaled \$20,322.50, and in 1917 the amount was \$58,224.39. There has been, besides, a corresponding increase in the school appropriations locally.

There are six incorporated villages in the county, viz.: Malone (1853), Chateaugay (1869), Fort Covington (1889), Saranac Lake (1892), Tupper Lake (1902), and North Bangor (1914).

#### OTHER CHANGES IN BRIEF

Changes which need be only enumerated include the introduction of gas in Malone as an illuminant in 1871, and later as a fuel; of the electric light in the same place in 1886, and since then in almost every hamlet in the county; of the telephone in 1882, and now numbering more than two thousand subscribers in the county; of water-works in

a dozen communities; the erection of new county buildings; a large increase in the number of religious and fraternal societies, as well as the erection of a number of fine edifices for worship; the founding of the Farrar Home for Deserving Old Ladies, and of the Alice Hyde Memorial Hospital at Malone and of a general hospital at Saranac Lake. Nor should mention be omitted of the prevalence of markedly better excise conditions and of a stronger temperance sentiment. A half a century ago almost any one of even a half-way decent reputation could procure a license to sell spirituous liquors, and nearly every village and hamlet had its saloons or hotel bars, while in the few instances where towns ranged themselves in the prohibition column the traffic was nevertheless continued not uncommonly, and usually without aggressive action either by individuals or by public authorities looking to its suppression or to prosecution of offenders. At present there are but three license towns in the county, and a year or two hence, now that the women can vote, there are not likely to be any. Moreover, in the towns where no-license obtains sales are almost unknown, whereas in the old time no-license was often equivalent to "free rum." Legitimate business is better because of the change, wives and children are more comfortable and happier, and men generally are leading more useful and cleaner lives.

A word about the "movies" seems pertinent because they reflect so marked a change in the attitude of the people in the matter of amusements. Every village and almost every hamlet has a place of entertainment of this type, and it is astonishing the patronage that they enjoy. In Malone alone the admissions amount probably to \$500 or \$600 a week, and elsewhere in proportionate sums, so that fifty thousand dollars a year is doubtless spent in the county for this one form of amusement.

Systematic and comprehensive improvement of highways began about 1907, and reconstruction of over a hundred and thirty miles of roads has been had since 1911 at exclusively county expense, with bonds issued to the amount of half a million dollars to pay for it. The undertaking was perhaps too ambitious in consideration of the county's wealth and resources, for maintenance is expensive, and if not given the improvements go to pieces quickly. About an equal mileage of State and county roads has also been built, the towns as such have invested heavily in like works, and the old ineffectual and wasteful practice of working out highway taxes has been discontinued altogether.

## THE FUTURE

What of the future? It is believed not to be without hope and promise, though conditions and our location, remote from manufacturing centers, can not be thought favorable to a very large growth or to a very great industrial development. Aside from the timber supply, our natural resources are few, and not likely to attract capital for the establishment of large manufactories. It would seem, therefore, that we have no warrant for expecting new industrial activities except as additional comparatively small plants may be created. But the sanatoria, the summer resort business, the factories that we already have and agricultural possibilities are resources of no mean consequence, and all are capable of further expansion — particularly agriculture. Study of scientific farming and intelligent and diligent application of its methods must be our principal reliance. Our fields have never as yet produced in the measure that they ought, nor have they been given over always to the classes of crops to which they are best adapted; neither have our dairy herds had the attention and selective care which alone can make them properly profitable, and sheep husbandry has been too much neglected latterly.

The average cost of living here is lower than in most localities; the habits of the people are frugal; labor agitation and disturbances are practically unknown; the suppression of the sale of liquor makes for larger savings, for a better employment of the energies of men, for greater thrift, and for morality; and the climate lends itself to the development of strong and vigorous men.

With proper fostering of the interests which we have, and especially if the best approved methods of cultivation of the soil be learned and applied by farmers generally, and painstaking and intelligent attention be given to farm stock — cows, swine, sheep and poultry — so that only animals that show a profit be allowed to live, the county ought to thrive and its people generally prosper.

## CHAPTER II

### FRANKLIN COUNTY OFFICIAL ACTS

The official history of Franklin as a county begins, of course, with the county's erection in March, 1808, as told in preceding pages, and everything of an official character antedating that year is a part of the annals of Clinton county, or of the separate towns Chateaugay, Constable and Malone, originally called Harison. The record for 1808 is brevity itself, and includes no matter of consequence apart from the routine procedure of organizing the county government under the terms of the act of erection.

#### SITE FIXED FOR COURT HOUSE

In 1809 a petition to the Legislature represented that Noah Moody's dwelling house, on the rising ground a few rods west of the Main street bridge, in the center of the town [township?] of Malone (the township was originally called Malone, but the town, which included a number of other townships, was called Harison at that time) had been selected by the inhabitants of the county for the site of their court house and jail; that "in consequence of such selection the inhabitants of such town had bound themselves to contribute the sum of fifteen hundred dollars toward erecting such court house and gaol within two years;" and that since the act erecting the county had not definitely designated the site it was questionable whether payment on the bond could be enforced, it was prayed that the site be fixed by law. An act as suggested was accordingly passed, and in 1810 a supplementary act empowered the supervisors of the county to raise by tax the sum of \$3,250 in three equal annual installments for building the proposed structure, besides five per cent. commission for the collector and one per cent. fees for the treasurer. The supervisors were also to appoint a committee to superintend the work, and the sum of \$250 previously raised for strengthening a room in the academy for use as a jail, but never expended, was authorized to be applied, with the \$3,250, in constructing the new building. In 1811 a further act sanctioned an increase of \$500 over the original amount allowed for construction, and provided that when the judges of the court of common pleas should deem the building to be so far completed as to be safe and convenient

for holding courts and securing prisoners, they direct the sheriff to give notice thereof by proclamation, and that thereafter "said court house and gaol shall be the court house and jail."

The original journal of proceedings of the board of supervisors for the years 1808 to 1813, inclusive, lies on my desk, and it shows on this subject that Cone Andrus and John Mazuzan, of Malone, and James Ormsbee, of Chateaugay, were appointed a committee to superintend the work of building, and that they were paid at different times a total of \$127.25, which included the expenses of one of them for six days spent on a trip to Plattsburgh and also six dollars paid for plans and for drawing a contract for erection of the building — which allowances were additional to the following sums voted for construction. In 1810, \$1,084; in 1811, \$1,333.33; and in 1812, \$1,332.67, or a total of \$3,750. In addition an allowance of seventy dollars was voted to the contractor for covering the cupola with tin instead of with shingles, and for providing a "necessary." There was also a separate appropriation of sixty dollars for the repair of a door in the jail and for painting the seats in the court room. Thus, if the full fifteen hundred dollars from subscriptions was realized, the entire cost of the building, including the expenses and compensation of the building committee, but exclusive of other fees and commissions as well as of two dollars paid to one of the judges for examining as to the sufficiency of the jail, and three dollars "blown in" for spitboxes, was \$5,757.25.

At the time of the appointment of the building committee they were instructed by the supervisors to take for a model the court house in the county of Clinton, "and build as near like that as in their opinion they think will best commode this county, having reference to the sums of money likely to come into their hands for the purpose, which will probably not exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, including all probable donations." The resolution proceeded further: "It is wished that they might complete the outside and paint it the ensuing year, and to accomplish this purpose they will please to collect all donations made by individuals, by subscription, bond or otherwise, as soon as possible. From these it is expected the committee will realize at least fifteen hundred dollars."

#### THE COURT HOUSE ALSO A JAIL AND HOUSE OF WORSHIP

The building was erected under contract by Noah Moody. It was originally hip-roofed, and contained a basement, a part of which served as a kitchen for the sheriff, and the other part consisted of two tiers of

cells—dark, damp and dismal, without a particle of furniture except one chair in each cell. Straw scattered on the floor had to serve for beds for the luckless prisoners confined therein. The sheriff and family made the superstructure their home. The first floor was cut into six rooms—dining-room, two living rooms, a hall, and a debtors' and criminal prison. The latter had only a single grated window, and contained bunks for beds. The ceiling was made of blocks of wood dovetailed together and once in an attempt to escape the prisoners heated a poker and undertook to burn off the dowels, with the result that they set fire to the building and had a decided fright. The jury rooms on the second principal floor were appropriated by the sheriff for sleeping quarters when court was not in session, and the remainder of the floor was the court room proper. As it was the only public assembly room in the town for many years, it served also as a public hall for almost all sorts of purposes—for public worship for the different denominations, for lectures, concerts, etc.

The court house hill in 1810 was a very different proposition from that of to-day. It had a greater rise, with a much sharper grade, which fact, joined to its deep sand, led to the opening of a highway up academy hill, that was commonly used by the stage and by west-bound traffic generally. A road ran at this time diagonally across the academy green. In course of time the court house hill was cut down, so that by 1853 the court house was pretty well up in the air, and because of this the building was lowered fourteen feet by Nathaniel Evans. It ceased to be used for jail purposes with the erection of a new jail in 1852, and, when the new court house was built, in 1853, was sold at auction to ex-Sheriff Stockwell for \$93.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE SUPERVISORS 1808-1813

Parts of the journals of proceedings of the supervisors for the years 1808 to 1813, inclusive, amply repay examination. In these years the board usually convened in annual session at the academy, accomplished nothing the first day beyond organizing, and then invariably adjourned to a hotel, where its further meetings were held and its real business transacted. The supervisors in the years stated were:

Year	Chateaugay	Constable	Dickinson	Harison, Ezraville or Malone
1808	Gates Hoyt	Albon Man	Not erected	Nathaniel Blanchard
1809	William Bailey	Albon Man	Samuel Pease	Asa Wheeler
1810	Gates Hoyt	Seth Blanchard	Joseph Plumb	Hiram Horton
1811	James Ormister	Albon Man	Joseph Plumb	Asa Wheeler
1812	Sebus Fairman	Albon Man	Joseph Plumb	George F. Harison
1813	Gates Hoyt	Albon Man	Jonathan Lawrence	Harry S. House

Bangor having been made a town, Joseph Plumb was its supervisor in 1813.

John H. Russell was clerk of the board for all of these years, and for the first session was paid fourteen dollars for attendance and services and for engrossing the proceedings. For per diem, mileage and expenditures for books the three supervisors in 1803 received a total of \$85.84. The town audits, including a levy of \$100 in each town for highway purposes, were in these amounts: Chateaugay, \$410.65; Constable, \$391.30; and Harison, \$704.94. Deducting the highway moneys and the items for wolf bounties, the total town charges for Chateaugay were but \$65, and for Harison only \$174. The assessed valuation of Chateaugay was \$188,363; of Constable \$188,629.84; and of Harison \$472,636—a total for the county of \$759,628.84. Upon this valuation was laid a tax for county uses of two and three-quarters mills, or \$2,199.56, of which \$250 was for providing a look-up in the academy, \$850 for distribution among the towns for bridges, and unstated amounts for wolf bounties and for contingent expenses. A like rate on the present valuation of the county would yield \$39,040.87, or only about one-sixth of what was raised in 1817. The amount of the budget in 1808 was less than one dollar per capita, while in 1917 it was five dollars for each inhabitant.

Further analysis of those early town charges discloses that commissioners of highways and overseers of the poor were paid one dollar each, assessors a dollar and a quarter each, clerks of elections a dollar and a half each, and supervisors two dollars each per day. In that period State elections were held in the spring, and those for representatives in Congress in the autumn. For the latter the supervisors made provision by allowing to each town for the expenses thereof the munificent sum of forty-one dollars!

#### CURIOUS CHARGES

Some of the allowed accounts are extremely curious. For illustration, there were four claims presented by three individuals as county charges, at two dollars per day each, for "examining woolen cloth." From earliest times down almost to recent years the laws of the State provided for inspection by officials of almost everything—beef and pork, potash, hay, hops, green hides and skins, flaxseed, lumber, shingles, flour and meal, leather, wood and stone, and many other articles. Usually the acts authorizing the appointment of inspectors

and prescribing their duties provided that makers and shippers of any of the commodities specified should label the packages with their names and addresses; required inspectors to rate the quality of the goods, and stamp the same on the packages; and imposed penalties for sending the goods out of a district or out of the State without compliance with the provisions of the statutes concerning them. The theory of the procedure was that the State's reputation as a producer should not be permitted to be injuriously affected through shipment abroad of inferior commodities or of commodities improperly packed. But nowhere in the index to general laws is there any reference to inspection or examination of woolen cloth, and neither the State historian nor State librarian had ever heard of such a service. But in running through the index to the laws of 1812 for another purpose I chanced upon the explanation. In that year an act was passed (but repealed three or four years later, and so never got into the general laws) that provided for the payment of premiums of \$100, \$50 and \$30 for the best, second best and third best specimens of woolen cloths made in mills of this State from wool grown in the State, and also for premiums of \$40, \$35 and \$30 for specimens made in families. In each county the cloths were to be judged by the judges of the court of common pleas, and the samples approved by them were to be sent to Albany for final judgment for the State as a whole. The judges were to be paid two dollars each per day for their services in this capacity. The quantity of cloth examined by them does not appear, nor are there figures showing the county's product at that time. The census of 1825, however, shows a production for the county in 1824 of 8,941 yards not fulled and of 13,307 yards fulled. In the same year the county made 26,162 yards of cotton and linen.

The supervisors' records from which I am quoting contain these items also:

County budget in 1809 (including \$1,000 for bridges).....	\$2, 276 05
County budget in 1811 (including \$260 for bridges and \$1,333.33 for court house and gaol).....	2, 444 72
County budget in 1812 (including \$1,332.67 for court house and gaol).....	3, 286 02
County budget in 1813.....	1, 699 97
John Wood, in 1810, "for services done as sheriff".....	35 50
Building four pounds in Chateaugay.....	120 00
Ebenezer Brownson, two days examining woolen cloth.....	4 00
Joshua Nichols, two days examining woolen cloth.....	4 00
Asa Wheeler, one day examining woolen cloth.....	2 00
Gates Hoyt, in 1811, for services as county clerk.....	12 00
Clerk of the board of supervisors in 1811.....	11 50
Appleton Foot, for room and candles for court, three terms.....	34 00

Lemuel Chapman, finding room and candles for jury.....	\$2 00
Gideon Collins, for money advanced for transporting arms from Plattsburgh.....	1 25
Expenses for bringing arms from Plattsburgh in 1812 (paid by 23 individuals).....	643 86
Gates Hoyt, for time and expenses in 1813 in transporting munitions of war from Plattsburgh to Franklin county and distributing same.....	36 00
Lemuel Chapman, guarding arms in transit from Plattsburgh in 1813.....	6 00
Thomas Kennan, transporting arms and munitions from Platts- burgh, and distributing same in 1812.....	4 00
Jonathan Lawrence, for transporting arms and munitions from Malone to Dickinson.....	4 00
Reuben Kelsey, undersheriff in 1813, for board of prisoner three weeks and five days.....	5 58
Reuben Kelsey, undersheriff, for board of Indian three weeks and two days.....	4 93
Appleton Foot, for providing room and candles and fire-wood for three terms of court.....	45 00

It seems also from these records that cash did not have to be had always when taxes were due, as a resolution adopted by the supervisors authorized the county treasurer to take notes from Albon Man and George F. Harison for taxes on the lands of Harison and Pierrepont, for whom Mr. Man and Mr. Harison were agents.

If taxes were low in the years which these records cover, such condition did not continue in 1821, when the county budget jumped to \$28,794.04 (due largely to the extravagant and doubtless corrupt allowance of bounties for wolves killed), which total was equivalent to a tax of over five and a half dollars for every man, woman and child in the county.

#### RECORDS MISSING

The original records of the proceedings of the board of supervisors from 1813 to 1833 can not be found, but from data obtained from other sources it would seem that, with few exceptions, transactions could not have been much more than of a routine character for a long period. In 1819, however, the Legislature having directed the supervisors to appoint commissioners to purchase a suitable site and to erect thereon a fireproof clerk's office at a cost of not to exceed one thousand dollars, the supervisors appointed Benjamin Clark, Cone Andrus and John L. Fuller as such commissioners, and authorized them to expend five hundred dollars for the work. The next year six hundred dollars was raised to cover the cost to date, and a year later two hundred and eighteen dollars additional was voted. A lot west of the court house, fronting ten rods on Main street and six rods on

Brewster street, was purchased for one hundred dollars, and a single story edifice of wood (scarcely "fireproof"?) was constructed, which stood until 1850.

#### THE POOR AND THEIR SUPPORT

The Legislature having passed an act in 1824 making the establishment of poor houses obligatory upon all of the larger counties and permissive in the smaller, agitation was begun to have Franklin county take advantage of the provisions of the act, upon the representation that money would be saved and pauperism diminished, because those who would apply quietly to a town official for assistance would not seek admission to a public institution unless driven by actual distress to such course. The supervisors in 1826 appointed a committee to investigate, which submitted a very full and careful report in 1827, showing the cost of the then existing system to each town and to the county for each of the then preceding six years, and urging strongly that a poor house be built. The figures of cost as given in the report were:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cost to Towns</i>	<i>Cost to County</i>
1821 . . . . .	\$503.78	\$63.17
1822 . . . . .	372.82	74.54
1823 . . . . .	618.25	185.03
1824 . . . . .	513.15	170.95
1825 . . . . .	721.30	257.23
1826 . . . . .	795.17	1,103.08
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$3,524.47	\$1,854.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The county paupers were those who had no legal residence in a town, and were mostly foreigners. The census of 1825 listed only eight persons in the entire county as paupers. More than half of the whole county charges for support of paupers for the six years was for expenditures in the single town of Fort Covington, while of the town charges forty-four per cent. was borne by Malone alone. Figures gathered from the State as a whole, and analyzed by the secretary of State, were published to show that the average cost of keeping a pauper in a poor house was only twenty-four cents per week, and it was stated that, whereas it had formerly cost the city of Salem, Mass., from ten to twelve thousand dollars per year to maintain its poor, the cost had been

reduced to sixty-four dollars per annum through the establishment of a poor house.

But notwithstanding this showing (which possibly may have been thought to prove too much), and notwithstanding the strong argument made by the committee in favor of acquiring a farm and building a poor house, the board of supervisors practically ignored the matter until 1830, when superintendents of the poor were appointed and directed to rent a tenement and a small farm, and cause the permanent paupers to be there maintained. The next year it was voted to buy a suitable place for a poor house, and the sum of two thousand dollars was appropriated for the purpose. The results predicted by the report of the committee in 1827, above noted, were not realized, however, unless comparison be made with the year 1826 alone, as the appropriations ranged every year after 1830 until 1845 from fifteen hundred dollars to two thousand five hundred dollars. In 1845 the poor house was burned, and the supervisors provided for rebuilding, but without appropriating a dollar specifically to cover the cost — which must have been paid, perhaps, out of the insurance money, or perhaps from the county's contingent fund. At the same time the board voted to petition the Legislature to abolish the poor house system in this county. Precisely the motives that determined this latter action are not of record, but it is not difficult to conjecture what they may have been in part. Doubtless the question of cost was one, and also considerations of humane treatment of the poor may have been a factor. It will be seen in preceding pages how considerably the town poor had been cared for under the practice of placing them in good families, and in the Franklin *Telegraph* (Malone's first newspaper) appeared an advertisement in 1825 inviting bids for the support of Malone's poor for the ensuing year, but carrying the reservation that the lowest bid would not necessarily be accepted. In other words, the kind of care that the poor would be likely to receive, as well as the price, would enter into determination of the award. But by no means could a system adaptable in 1825 have been certain to work satisfactorily twenty years later, because at the earlier date practically all of the inhabitants were socially on the same plane, regardless of financial standing, and even most of those who were best to do were poor, and glad to be able to add a bit to their incomes in any honest way, while by 1845 a new class had come to constitute an appreciable percentage of the population, and some of these would not have been agreeable in

all households as virtually members of the family, as in 1825 it had been customary to treat them. Moreover, the material condition of the people had changed notably in these twenty years, and, though severe economy still had to be practiced generally, there was not, on the whole, the former necessity to seize upon opportunity, however unpleasant, for adding to one's earnings. Then, too, the poor house system had operated to invite the dumping of paupers by one locality upon another. Thus the *Northern Spectator* (Malone's second newspaper) reported in 1834 that there were sixty-three paupers in the poor house, most of whom were foreigners who had been thrust upon us from Canada or from neighboring counties. Eight paupers of this class were found one morning in the year stated to have been left in the horse-sheds attached to one of the taverns in Malone, having been brought the night before from another county and abandoned here.

#### THE JAIL CONDEMNED

Prior to 1847 a grand jury had condemned the jail in a presentment to the court as unfit and unsanitary, and in that year the supervisors appointed a committee to investigate as to the advisability of building a new one, separate from the court house; and in 1849 the same body considered the proposition to locate court house, clerk's office and jail all on Arsenal Green, and took steps to ascertain the probable amount that could be obtained for these buildings and the grounds then and now occupied by them. The reports on these questions do not appear in the records, but the idea was of course impracticable, for the Arsenal Green was then of State ownership for military purposes only, and, in any case, were better preserved for a park than encroached upon for buildings. Nevertheless it is unfortunate that before so much money was invested the location was not changed, because the proximity of the court house to the railroad and to other noisy centers at times makes transaction of business therein almost impossible. In 1850 the supervisors voted to expend \$500 in building a new clerk's office, and also to borrow \$5,000 from the State, payable in ten years, to cover the cost of lowering the court house and of erecting a new jail. This jail was of stone on the site of the present clerk's office, and contained living apartments for the sheriff. It was built in 1852, and was demolished in 1892, when the present jail was erected. In 1851 the sum of \$600 was raised to pay for the new county clerk's office, which was a one-story stone building on the site of the present jail, and served the

county's needs until 1892. The loan from the State was not paid until it was long past due, nor was even the interest on it kept up — the county having had to raise money in 1867 to pay seven years' interest.

#### FEES AND SALARIES INCREASED

Other than these matters, little or nothing of particular interest or significance appears in the records of the supervisors' proceedings down to 1860 or later. It is observable, however, that charges and compensation of county officials increased continuously for a number of years, but most of them only moderately. Whereas \$35.50 had sufficed to cover the sheriff's bill against the county in 1810, that official's charges had become \$291.53 in 1834, nearly doubled in the next fifteen years, and in 1854 were \$1,686.99. Included in the last total was an item of \$150 for the hanging of Bickford. Twenty-odd years later the price for a similar gruesome service (in the case of Joe Woods) was a hundred dollars more. After 1854 the bills of the sheriffs increased almost steadily for a quarter of a century, until four dollars per week each was allowed for the board of prisoners as against a dollar and a half in 1810, and fourteen shillings in 1847, and the sheriff's charges against the county became about four thousand dollars annually. In 1847 thirty dollars was deemed ample for the purchase of fuel for the court house and jail, then in one building; but in 1885 the corresponding item was \$400. In that year, too, the sheriff's bill bounded to \$5,513.44, and from 1899 to 1903 his charges as allowed ranged from \$6,577.27 to \$7,452.88. So great an increase naturally suggested measures for keeping the figures down, and accordingly an act was procured to be passed by the Legislature putting the office on a salaried basis, with the county to pay the cost of food, fuel, etc. The salary fixed for the sheriff was \$1,200 and living expenses for himself and family, and for jailor, matron, cook, etc., \$1,016 in the aggregate. For a time the office had been earning for the county from three to four thousand dollars a year for housing and boarding detained Chinamen until the courts should determine whether they were entitled to admission to this country, or must be deported. While this business continued the net jail cost decreased appreciably, but when it ceased, after a few years, the relief that had been expected from the change in system was far from realized. The sheriffs' reports give the cost of jail maintenance, including salaries, for each year after the Chinese business died out, at from about \$6,000 to over \$10,000 in 1917, of

which latter total \$797.75 was for livery and for work in connection with the federal draft. In 1914 the charge for automobile hire and livery alone was over eleven hundred dollars. When the sheriff's bills first touched four thousand dollars there was ugly talk by taxpayers that tramps and bums were in league with the officials to put themselves in the way of arrest, so that they themselves might be assured in winter of free lodging and board, the officers of fees payable by taxation, and the jail of a good business. The suspicion may have been uncharitable and unfounded, and the same may be true of the thought that comes all unbidden as the present itemized bills are scrutinized, viz., that the run of jail fare must now be better than in the period when the sheriff himself had to supply it, and also better than it would be if the old system obtained, though, of course, it is not to be forgotten that the scale of prices for everything is far higher than it used to be. Though often discussed and advocated, no intelligent action was taken until 1915 to provide for remunerative employment for jail convicts here. Then a county farm was purchased, and the sheriff reports that in 1916 it was worked by prisoners at a cost of \$674 for fertilizer, seed, tools and extra labor, and in 1917 with an expenditure for like purposes amounting to \$974.66. Its products in the former year were valued at \$906.92, and in the latter at \$2,642.38. But the sheriff does not rate the investment as so desirable because of the profit which it yields as because the employment of the convicts benefits their health and general condition. Now that the traffic in liquors has been prohibited it is thought to be uncertain if there will be enough prisoners to work the property advantageously.

In 1810 the county clerk drew \$12 from the county for services, in 1834 only \$79.76, and \$473.27 in 1849. The clerk of the board of supervisors never had as much as \$40 in any one year, including expenditures for stationery, until 1847, when his salary was fixed at \$60 per annum. It has since been increased from time to time until it is now \$550, making the position at least as highly paid, considering time given and service rendered, as any office in the county with possibly one exception. In 1847 the salary of the county judge was made \$600, and was twice increased during the next fifteen years—first to \$700 and then to \$800. It was next made \$1,000, was doubled in 1873, and recently was advanced to \$3,200, with allowances of \$1,000 for clerk and an equal amount for stenographer. The salary of the district attorney was \$300 in 1853, then \$400, and by a number of increases has become \$1,800.

The cost of the court house alterations and of the erection of the jail in 1852 and 1853 exceeded the estimates, and an additional sum of \$1,032.74 was voted to cover the deficiency.

It appears that until 1825 use of the court house had been permitted to all organizations and to all individuals whenever it was wanted, for almost any purpose, without charge except for cleaning; but in that year the supervisors resolved that occupancy must be paid for at a fair price except in cases where the usage should be for public purposes or by the people of the town of Malone.

In 1847 foreign paupers admitted to the poor house introduced ship fever (a form of typhus), and Matthew A. Whipple, keeper, or some member of his family, contracted the disease. The supervisors voted him forty dollars as reimbursement for the amount paid by him for physician's services.

At this period and for some time later licenses were granted by commissioners of excise who represented the county as a whole, and apparently there were no no-license towns, as every town in the county except Belmont, Brighton, Duane, Franklin and Harrietstown is listed in the commissioners' reports as having licensed places; and in most of the excepted towns those who wished to engage in the traffic were accustomed to do so without bothering with the formality of taking out licenses. The fee charged for licenses in earliest times was from three to five dollars, but in this period usually ranged from thirty dollars to fifty dollars each.

The report of the superintendent of the poor for 1857 placed the cost of maintaining paupers in the poor house at thirty-seven and a half cents each per week, exclusive of such products of the farm as were consumed. A year or two later this cost was put at forty-two cents, and once it was stated at over a dollar.

A retaining wall in front of the county buildings, made necessary by the grading of the street, was built in 1857.

#### CIVIL WAR EXPENSES

In 1863 the burden of the war obligations began to be heavy, nearly every town in the county having issued bonds to provide funds for bounties to those who would enlist, and so avert resort to a draft for filling the quota that each town was required to furnish. A part of these bonds became due in that year, and included in the town taxes were items ranging from nine hundred dollars to two thousand dollars

per town on account of such obligations. A special session of the supervisors was held in August, 1864, to provide for county bounties, and it was voted that the county pay three hundred dollars to every man who should enlist or furnish a substitute under the President's call for half a million more men. The usual price asked at this time by those offering themselves as substitutes (many of whom came from Canada expressly to so enlist) was a thousand dollars, which was paid by not a few who were anxious to escape the draft, or were actually drafted. Afterward these were reimbursed by town, county and State to the aggregate of the bounties that the three had offered, so that the net costs to individuals who had procured substitutes was reduced to one or two hundred dollars each. In November, 1864, the county treasurer reported to the supervisors that to that date he had issued bounty bonds to the number of 299, each of the denomination of \$300, with 23 yet to be issued, or a total of \$96,600; and that it would be necessary to include in the tax levy an item of \$35,581 for principal alone that would become due in 1865. At the same session sums to pay town bounty bonds were raised in varying amounts for the several towns — Duane's being the lowest (\$749) and Chateaugay's the highest (\$10,439). In addition, the county had to contribute \$9,788 toward the bounties paid by the State. Principally because of these items, the county budget, which had been \$30,662 in 1863, bounded to \$170,248.67, and, besides, the town taxes were enormous — the bounties paid by these calling for an aggregate of \$85,105 — and the lowest tax rate for any town was \$18 on each \$1,000 of assessment (in Malone), while in most towns it ran from thirty-odd dollars up to fifty or sixty dollars, and for Franklin was ninety-three dollars, or *over nine per cent.*!

Another special session was held in February, 1865, to vote further bounties for enlistments under the President's call of December, 1864 for 300,000 men, and there was authorized an issue of bonds to provide for payment of a bounty of \$600 to every man who should enlist or furnish a substitute, but with provision that no town should on its own account pay a bounty in excess of \$25. At the annual session in the same year there had to be included in the town taxes varying items for town bounties theretofore paid — the lowest of which was \$990 in Constable, and the largest \$10,760 in Malone. The county budget totaled \$71,018, with Malone again having the lowest rate (twenty dollars and a half), and Franklin the highest (ninety-seven dollars and a half)! In this year the town taxes alone were \$108,153, of which

\$94,120 were on account of bounties. In 1866 and 1867 the bounty payments became smaller generally, though in the former year Chateaugay had to raise \$12,140 for that purpose, and Malone \$15,552 in the latter year.

#### VOTED TO BUILD A NEW POOR HOUSE

At the annual session in 1869 it was voted to build a new poor house, and a committee was appointed to procure plans and estimates of cost, which were to be reported at a special session in January, 1870. At such session bonds to the amount of \$25,000 were authorized to be issued for the work, and Samuel C. Wead and Baker Stevens of Malone and James Jordan of Burke were constituted a committee to supervise the work, with power to engage a competent man to have immediate supervision. Hiram Hoyt of Malone acted in the latter capacity, and Albert A. Rounds of Malone was awarded the contract for constructing the building. A structure of brick and stone was erected on the county farm, two miles west of the village of Malone, at a cost of \$38,628.75.

In 1870 the county system of granting licenses was displaced by putting the matter into the hands of town and village commissioners, and at once the number of towns in which licenses had been granted became fewer. The no-license towns in 1870 were: Belmont, Brandon, Brighton, Burke, Constable, Dickinson, Duane, Fort Covington and Harrietstown.

#### SUPERVISORS' SESSIONS MORE PROTRACTED

Nothing that need be particularized appears in the record of the supervisors' proceedings from 1870 to 1878 except that the annual sessions, which until 1874 had never been prolonged beyond a week, had come to continue for nine, ten or eleven days, with the practice of allowing each supervisor pay for two or three extra days because of work done evenings, and the supervisors from Brighton, Duane, Franklin and Harrietstown pay for five extra days because each of them had to be two days longer on the road than those from the other towns; that the last bounty for killing a wolf was paid in 1875; that the county's share of the State tax had been persistently growing greater, having reached its maximum (\$54,024.23) in 1872; and that the cost of maintaining the poor had grown to more than \$14,000 per year.

A company of the national guard having been organized in Malone, its commandant in 1878 filed a demand with the board of supervisors

that an armory be provided for its use. Accordingly the old Baptist church building on Webster street was bought at the price of \$1,200. Afterward \$1,212.75 was spent upon needed alterations, and the following year \$200 additional. The building was made to answer the company's needs until an armory was built by the State, and in 1893 it was sold for \$1,050. It was used also for holding courts while the new court house was being built, and the use of it was voted to the village school district of Malone when the central school building was burned in 1882.

Until 1879 the sessions of the board of supervisors were always held at one of the hotels in the village of Malone — apparently at first without any payment for the accommodation. Later it was customary for several years to pay ten or twelve dollars for the rooms, and eventually the price became one hundred dollars. The sessions were then held for two or three years at the court house, but in 1882 the practice of sitting at a hotel was restored, and continued for a few years.

The loan of \$5,000 in 1851 for altering the court house and erecting a new jail, which debt was to run for only ten years, was paid in 1879 and 1880.

The reports of the commissioners of excise in 1880 showed only Bombay, Constable, Franklin, Malone and Moira as license towns.

A number of attempts to divide the town of Dickinson had been made and failed prior to 1880, but then succeeded. The part set off was to be known as the town of Waverly.

It is noteworthy that in at least one year at about this time the supervisors assumed to draw pay for acting as a board of county canvassers and also as supervisors. Thus if their service covered, say, ten days in both capacities, they allowed themselves pay for eleven days.

#### A NEW COURT HOUSE

The matter of building a new court house had been proposed a number of times during the ten years preceding 1882, but never commanded much support until that year, when the proposition was carried almost unanimously. A special session of the board was held in January, 1883, to complete arrangements for the work, for which it was agreed to expend \$30,000 and also \$1,800 for the purchase of a strip of land thirty feet wide on the east of the county's lands, the latter of which had more than five times as much frontage in the same vicinity, and had been acquired for \$100. When details came to be determined, it

was seriously proposed that as a matter of economy the jail and clerk's office both be provided for in the new building, but wiser counsels prevailed, and it was determined to locate only the surrogate's and county treasurer's offices in it. Leslie C. Wead of Malone, Benjamin F. Harris of Moira, and James Y. Cameron of Fort Covington were appointed a building committee, and the contract for materials and work was awarded to James Houston of Malone at \$29,500 — which did not include heating apparatus, lighting or furnishing. Mr. Houston claimed before the supervisors the next year that he had lost \$10,000 on the work, and the board allowed him something like \$2,000 in addition to extra allowances that the building committee had granted. Including these extra allowances, and architect's fees, heating, lighting, furniture and compensation of the building committee, the entire cost to the county was not far from \$35,000. Mr. Wead was succeeded on the building committee by Daniel H. Stanton, and the sums paid to the members were: To Mr. Wead and Mr. Harris \$300 each, to Mr. Cameron \$150, and to Mr. Stanton \$100.

A proposition to build a new jail and a new clerk's office the same year was defeated.

For ten years or such a matter the towns Brighton and Harrietstown had been coveting territory included in Brandon, and had appealed to the supervisors several times to set off large tracts therefrom and join the same to the applicants. Brighton never realized on the effort, but in 1883 Harrietstown's appeal was granted in part, a township and a half having been then taken from Brandon.

The office of surrogate's clerk was created at the session of 1883, and the salary fixed at \$400 per year.

In 1885 it was voted to pay the county clerk \$654 a year for his services to the county in lieu of fees therefor — the salary having been fixed at the seemingly odd figures because it represented the average of the clerk's charges and allowances for the few years immediately preceding.

In 1885 the sheriff's bill as allowed was \$5,513.44, and the cost of supporting the poor was \$15,447.20. In the same year fuel for the jail and court house cost \$400, as against \$30 allowed the sheriff forty years before for the same purpose.

#### NEW JAIL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

Again in this year the proposition to build a new jail and clerk's office was considered, and a committee was appointed to look into the

matter and report in 1886, but the question was allowed to drag without much attention until 1891, when, the county not owing a dollar, it was decided to build. At a special session of the supervisors in 1892 a committee previously appointed reported that a new jail would cost \$18,200 and a new clerk's office from \$12,000 to \$14,000. E. A. Buell of Constable, E. R. Tower of Bangor, Dwight Dickinson of Malone and A. R. Fuller of Duane were named a building committee, and the sum of \$32,000 was appropriated for the work. Orville Moore served as superintendent of construction. The committee's final report placed the cost for both buildings at \$36,966.09, less \$598 received for dirt sold, but plus \$1,600 for furnishings for the clerk's office and \$609.60 allowance to the committee for services.

The State having appropriated \$25,000 for the construction of an armory at Malone, a site was purchased by the county in 1892 at a cost of \$3,800.

#### OFFICIALS REFUND FEES

The compensation of the county clerk for county services was increased in 1889 to \$800, which five years later that official deemed inadequate and refused to accept; and, therefore, there was a return to the fee system, under which bills for county work ranged for the ensuing eighteen years from \$1,274 to \$2,184 per year; but an examination by a representative of the State comptroller in 1911 disclosed that some part of the charges had been made for services which a strict construction of the statutes required to be rendered gratuitously. Bills for six years preceding were accordingly re-audited, and claims presented by the supervisors for a refund of all unwarranted charges of date within the statute of limitations. As a result, one former clerk repaid \$3,257 to the county, and the then incumbent \$656. There was no suggestion or suspicion on the part of anybody that the unlawful bills reflected any intentional wrong, but only a mistaken assumption of a right to charge and to be recompensed for all actual services. In 1909 the office had netted the clerk \$4,484. In 1911 the supervisors established a salary of \$4,000 a year for the office in lieu of fees, for all of which the clerk was to account to the county, and out of his salary pay his help. But an opinion by the attorney-general held that the supervisors' action did not require the clerk to pay to the county allowances made to him by the State for work in connection with collection of the mortgage tax, nor the percentage that he received in connection with the issuing and reporting of hunting licenses, which two items aggre-

gate perhaps \$500 or \$600 annually, and so make the gross compensation, say, \$4,500 a year, and the net probably about \$3,000. The reports of the clerk since he was placed on a salary basis show earnings of the office paid over to the county treasurer varying in amounts from \$3,317 to \$4,274 a year; but these statements make no account of the charges which would have had to be paid under the old system for services by the clerk for the county, amounting perhaps to \$800 or \$1,000 per annum.

The town of Brandon, from which a township and a half were set off in 1883 to be added to Harriestown, was further partitioned in 1888 to form Santa Clara, and still again in 1896 to add another half township to the latter. Waverly was partitioned in 1890 to erect Altamont.

#### THE INFLUX OF CHINAMEN

In 1897 additional land adjacent to the county buildings was bought for \$350, and a barn erected thereon for the sheriff, which was remodeled at a cost of \$3,410 in 1902 into a detention house for Chinese prisoners. Chinamen had begun about 1890 to drift across the Canadian border into the county in violation of the exclusion act—sometimes singly or in couples, and occasionally in larger, though still in small, numbers, and were picked up by United States officials and lodged in jail. After a time such arrivals became numerous, overcrowding the jail, and it became necessary to make other provisions for their care. The jail barn, made available for the purpose, was leased by the federal government, and became a detention house. At times there were more than 200 Chinamen in the jail, and 300 or 400 in the detention house. The jail inmates were mainly those who straggled across the international boundary by themselves and also those who, after confinement in the detention house, had been ordered deported. Those in the detention house were arrivals over the Canadian Pacific Railroad, who had been received at the border by federal officials, to be held in custody until their right to be admitted should be adjudicated—the railroad company having contracted with our government to be at the expense of caring for them in the meantime, and if they should be denied admittance to return them to China. For the board of those in jail the United States paid the county three dollars per week each. All had money, and were accustomed to spend it freely in satisfying their wants—those in the jail buying meats and other food when the regular jail fare was not to their liking, and doing their own cooking. Often they received articles of

food direct from China. The actual cost for their board was under a dollar per week per head, so that the county cleared two dollars and more on its contract with the federal government. Its receipts from this source ranged from \$296 to \$4,196 a year; but the business began to fall off after a time, and practically disappeared in 1911. The railroad company doubtless found that with so many deported it was not profitable to continue bringing them here, or perhaps the Chinese themselves concluded that the price they had to pay for coming when most of them were denied a right to remain was more than the trip was worth.

The sessions of the board of supervisors naturally increased in length as the county grew and its business became greater and more complicated, so that whereas formerly the sessions had continued only for one week they extended in 1898 to seventeen days, in 1903 to twenty-three days, and in 1917 to twenty-eight days exclusive of two extra sessions, at a cost of \$4,320.39.

#### COST OF SUPPORTING THE POOR

In 1904 the expense of relieving the poor and supporting the poor house was \$16,395.67 plus \$500 voted for expenditure by Grand Army posts on account of indigent veterans. For 1917 this expense had increased to \$29,695.10 without counting products of the farm (valued at \$4,003.79) consumed by inmates of the poor house, the increase having been due in part to a larger number of paupers, but more to the higher prices for food, clothing, etc. The superintendent of the poor informs me that the showing for 1918 will be better because of the suppression of the liquor traffic in a number of towns. Many families which formerly have had to have poor relief every winter supported themselves in 1918.

#### TOWN MEETINGS IN THE FALL

In 1902 the town meetings were held for the first time concurrently with the general election in November, but the next year the supervisors voted unanimously that the arrangement had not worked satisfactorily, and provided for a return to the plan of holding them in the spring. In 1917, however, it was ordered that thereafter they be held at the general election in odd-numbered years, which seems to me a mistaken policy. There is no institution under our form of government that is so educative in regard to public affairs as the old-fashioned town meeting, where all taxpayers can assemble, thresh out their town

problems and business, and determine expenditures after full discussion. At a general election, however, there can be no opportunity for explanations, and the taxpayers must simply accept or reject rather blindly the propositions which a town board may submit. Thus home rule goes practically out of the control of the taxpayers as a body, and almost entirely into the hands of a few town officials.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF HIGHWAYS

By 1903 public sentiment on the highway question was becoming aroused, and there was earnest demand for road improvement. In that year the supervisors recommended that the all-money plan of caring for the highways be made mandatory, and that the practice of commuting road taxes by labor be abolished. In addition, a number of towns had previously taken up this question, and had bonded themselves in considerable amounts for the improvement of particular roads and for building bridges. A beginning along right lines having been made, there was no halting it, and two or three years later the supervisors voted, eighteen to one, to apply for the county's full share of road construction under the fifty million dollar State bond issue. In 1906 petition was formally made for improvement by the State of 133 miles of roads in the county, with specification of the roads, so that every town should have its equitable mileage, and with assumption by the towns and the county of the proportionate part of the cost to be borne by each. This interest, late in developing, continued and extended until in 1911 the supervisors determined to bond the county for half a million dollars for the improvement of highways, which now cost \$60,000 a year to maintain—the county providing two-thirds and the State one-third. The county is paying, besides, \$10,000 a year on the debt, and over \$20,000 for interest. Our highway expenditures thus total annually more than the entire county tax of 1910.

#### BREACHES OF TRUST

From earliest times down to 1897 the duties of each of the county officials had been discharged, if not always with the highest efficiency, at least without default or embezzlement. But upon the death of the then county treasurer in 1898 it was discovered that he was short \$3,542.99 in his accounts, and some years later a successor was found to have appropriated to his own use \$15,051.80 of county moneys, and a superintendent of the poor also went wrong. The shortages of both

were replaced, and the county lost nothing except the moneys which it had to spend in investigation. Both officials were indicted and convicted.

INCREASE IN COUNTY EXPENSES

The items in the County budget for 1910 aggregated \$60,253.03, but appear in the printed record as totaling \$61,183.33 — a discrepancy of \$930.30. The budgets have been increasing almost continuously ever since 1910, and in 1917 amounted to \$227,146.94. The figures for the intermediate years are:

In 1911.....	\$108,158 43
In 1912.....	123,438 68
In 1913.....	145,719 90
In 1914.....	195,897 89
In 1915.....	240,259 20
In 1916.....	189,822 08

The explanation of the very large amount in 1915 is that highway expenses that year were \$18,000 in excess of those for 1917, the State tax also was more, and the purchase of a jail farm cost \$5,300. The budgets for 1910 and 1917 are herewith shown:

	1910	1917
State tax .....	None	\$24,552 33
State tax for stenographer.....	\$837 79	526 91
Justices, constables and coroners' accounts.....	1,240 55	2,069 34
School commissioners' expenses*.....	600 00	.....
Miscellaneous county accounts.....	9,373 31	2,386 92
County Clerk .....	1,874 14	700 00
Poor fund.....	14,000 00	28,000 00
Armory fund.....	3,601 25	3,405 69
Court fund† .....	None	6,000 00
Bills of charitable institutions.....	7,241 11	16,756 22
Bills of reform schools and penal institutions‡.....	.....	1,804 27
Repairs, etc., at poor house.....	600 00	1,400 00
Erroneous assessment .....	134 28	23 49
Highways .....	4,266 39	79,252 51
Printing‡ .....	.....	1,256 00
Debentures of the board of supervisors.....	3,287 68	4,000 00
Contingent fund .....	None	870 72
Investigation of treasurer's and superintendent of the poor's accounts.....	933 03	None
Miscellaneous .....	667 50	None
Supplies for jail†.....	.....	7,000 00
Repairs, coal, etc., for county buildings†.....	.....	7,863 78
Society Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.....	None	150 00

\* The office of school commissioner has been abolished, and the expenses of the district superintendents of schools are now paid by the State.

† Payment of court expenses, and apparently for supplies for the jail and also for fuel, was made in 1910 from surplus moneys in the treasury.

‡ The items for reform schools and penal institutions and for printing were included in miscellaneous county accounts in 1910; the amount of the printing bills in that year was \$2,713.84, and the like item of \$2,256 for 1917 includes only a part of the printing charges for that year.

	1910	1917
Tuberculosis poor fund.....	None	\$1,000 00
Salary and expenses of visiting nurse.....	None	1,300 00
Soldiers and Sailors' relief.....	.....	805 00
Home defense company.....	None	5,596 56
Board of elections, salaries and expenses.....	None	3,444 60
Purchase of land for enlargement of armory.....	None	6,683 11
Salary county judge and surrogate.....	\$2,000 00	3,200 00
Supplies and office expenses of surrogate.....	.....	300 00
Salary of surrogate's stenographer.....	700 00	1,000 00
Salary of surrogate's clerk.....	720 00	1,000 00
Salary of district attorney.....	1,500 00	1,800 00
Office expenses of district attorney.....	.....	126 77
Salary of county treasurer and assistant.....	1,200 00	1,700 00
Supplies and bond for county treasurer.....	.....	725 00
Salary of superintendent of the poor.....	700 00	900 00
Salary of keeper of the poor house.....	500 00	600 00
Salary of matron of the poor house.....	200 00	200 00
Salary of janitor of county buildings.....	600 00	900 00
Salary of sheriff and help §.....	2,806 00	3,606 00
Salary of poor house physician.....	100 00	100 00
Salary and expenses of sealer of weights and measures.....	600 00	850 00
Salary and expenses of probation officer.....	None	791 72
Salary and expenses of farm bureau manager.....	None	2,500 00
	<u>\$60,253 03</u>	<u>\$227,146 94</u>

The board of elections was created in 1911, a revision of the election law having required a transfer from the county clerk to such body of the duties of administering the law and of providing ballots, etc. So far as can be judged, the only additional expense thereby imposed is the difference in salaries, amounting to a few hundred dollars, between the amounts formerly paid and those now allowed.

The farm bureau was established in 1912, and the expense of maintaining it is shared by the federal, State and county governments and by its individual members. The State contributes \$600 yearly, and the United States \$1,200. Membership is voluntary, but must include at least 1,000 in order to make the federal part of the fund available. A manager of the bureau gives all of his time to the work, and aims to be of practical assistance to the farmers in procuring help and seed for them, in testing soils, in advising as to methods to be employed, and in a score or more of other ways. It is believed to be one of the best investments that the county ever made.

In 1917 the State appropriated \$40,000 for an enlargement of the armory in Malone, and the county had to purchase the land on which to build the extension — paying \$6,683.11 for it.

§ This item for 1917 includes \$800 for help and supplies for the jail farm.

## CHAPTER III

### FRANKLIN COUNTY POLITICALLY

Though the writer does not purpose to venture into the field of general history except as it may seem essential to make understandable the recital of local affairs, it will not, I hope, be thought pedantic if a brief statement be given concerning the conditions and causes that led to the formation, rise and fall of the important political parties that the county has known.

Originally the political groupings of voters in the United States were as Federalists and anti-Federalists; the former the followers of Alexander Hamilton, or at least believers with him in a form of government which should possess in itself sufficient powers and resources to maintain the character and defend the integrity of the nation, and the latter, professing with Thomas Jefferson a fear that centralization of power at Washington might endanger popular liberty, opposed to a strong government and in favor of State sovereignty. The anti-Federalists came to be known in New York about 1790 as Republicans, which designation continued until about 1830, when the name Democratic was adopted, and has since continued. Thus the Democratic party of to-day may trace its lineage almost unbroken from the merging of the Colonies into States to the present, even if as much may not be said concerning its consistent and steadfast adherence to the principles and policies that distinguished it in the beginning. While the Federal party was strong enough in New York to elect a Governor twice prior to 1800, it never afterward was able to command under that title a majority of the votes in any distinctively State contest, though in a number of years it did control the Legislature and Council of Appointment (thus enjoying in such years control of appointment of all county officials), and for a long time made itself a considerable factor in determining general election results by allying itself quietly with one or another of the factions into which the Republicans split. This split was in large measure over the question of the party leadership of DeWitt Clinton as a Republican, Tammany being bitterly inimical to him, which enmity increased and extended to other parts of the State as he came to be suspected of secret leanings to Federalism and of friendliness to the appointment of Federalists to public office. Beginning in 1816,

political conditions and party alignments in New York became very confused, if not actually chaotic, and so continued for a dozen years or more, and the straight Republican of one day was found not infrequently to have gone over to the Clintonians the next, or *vice versa*, without any clearly explained or even conjectured reason. The Federalists as an organization utterly disappeared, and no compact and distinctive party succeeded them until in 1832, when the Whig party was organized and named, though it continued nevertheless for a few years to be called at times National Republican also.

The anti-Masonic party sprang into existence, made its campaigns of venomous bitterness, and disappeared in this same period. It grew out of the kidnapping of William Morgan at Canandaigua in 1826, and his alleged murder a few weeks later near Niagara Falls, because he was about to publish a book revealing the secrets of Masonry. The feeling engendered was intense and widespread. Here in Franklin county those Masons who adhered to the order (and they were good citizens) naturally felt that the men who attacked their organization in general, and in particular fought against the election of any member of it to public office, were making a wholly gratuitous and unjustifiable assault upon them personally, as well as doing injustice to the order itself. Upon the other hand, the anti-Masons complained that the Masons, in their resentment, were retaliating in an unfair manner by attempting social ostracism and by establishing what in these days we should call a boycott of their business. The warfare continued actively for a number of years, and men of the highest character, including clergymen, renounced their affiliation with Masonry, some of them inveighing against it, while others, simply disavowing belief that the order was evil, announced that they abandoned connection with it solely in order to avoid giving offense to others. The charter of the lodge in Malone was lost, though its jewels were preserved, and it was not until 1854 that the lodge was revived and a new charter obtained. Even as late as forty years after the organized political movement had disappeared there remained individuals in Franklin county who would not in any circumstances vote for a Mason for any office, no matter how high his qualifications otherwise might be.

At about the time of the disappearance of the anti-Masonic party, the Abolition party sprang into existence, composed of restless spirits possessing brilliant intellectual powers, unbounded moral and physical courage, and a profound conviction that slavery was a crime against the

moral and divine commandment. Its members were a proscribed and persecuted class, denounced unsparingly by both of the great political parties, condemned even by many of the churches, and subjected to mob demonstrations almost everywhere that they carried their agitation. They were devoted to the utter destruction of slavery by every instrumentality which they could lawfully employ. In Franklin county they apparently never had a party organization, and never polled more than about one hundred votes. The county did have, however, as early as 1835 an anti-slavery society without political character or partisan activity. Its membership was not large, nor did it include more than a few of the more prominent and influential men of the period. Its purpose was solely to oppose slavery by protest and by education of public opinion against it.

Interest attaching to elections in Franklin county in early years was necessarily almost entirely general, with little individual or personal significance in any of the contests, for the reason that until 1822 all county officials were appointed by the Governor and Council and all members of Assembly except two, all State Senators and all members of Congress elected until the year stated were residents of other counties, and practically unknown by the local electorate. Until 1842 general elections were continued from day to day and from place to place, at first through a period of five days, and afterward for three days, the idea being in those times of sparse and widely scattered settlement to take the polls as near as practicable to the voters instead of requiring the electors to travel long distances, or multiplying election districts. There was a property qualification for voters until 1822, and for a long time elections for State officials and members of the Legislature were held in April instead of in the fall.

#### PARTY ALIGNMENTS

Official records of Franklin county election returns are not procurable in complete form prior to 1822, but such fragmentary reports as I have been able to gather appear to justify the statement that from the date of the county's erection until 1843, a period of thirty-five years, it was almost uniformly anti-Republican, or, to use the less confusing description, anti-Democratic. In 1822, 1823, 1829, 1830, and 1831, however, the Republicans (Democrats) carried the county, while in every other year the Federalists, Clintonian Federalists, anti-Masons or Whigs were in the majority. The majorities were usually

under three hundred, though in 1827 the Clintonians had eight hundred and forty votes in a total vote of eleven hundred and twenty-six.

That the county was Federal in its political proclivities for so many years does not seem strange when it is remembered that the people were so largely of New England stock, where anti-Republican sentiment was strongly predominant. Originally the Federalists had included most of the statesmen of prominence and wealth in New York, and thus the party came in time to be regarded as representative of aristocracy, which of itself naturally tended to alienate the "plain people."

#### A CAMPAIGN STORY

As bearing upon this point, a campaign story is pertinent. William A. Wheeler had addressed a Whig political meeting at Bombay, where his position as the agent of a non-resident who had large land interests there had given him a close acquaintance with many of the people, and won for him their favorable regard. A few days later Joseph R. Flanders followed him at a Democratic meeting, and, speaking highly of Mr. Wheeler as a man and neighbor, yet proceeded to urge his hearers not to vote for him because, however estimable he might be personally, his habits of life and of thought unfitted him to represent the county sympathetically and understandingly of the wants, needs and convictions of the great body of the people. Mr. Flanders characterized Mr. Wheeler as an aristocrat, whereupon one of the auditors, a settler with whom Mr. Wheeler had dealt considerably and forbearingly, arose, and shouted — "It's a domned lie, sor, for he has drank whiskey with me in my own kitchen out of a tacyup."

#### AN EXTRAORDINARY CAMPAIGN

An extraordinary campaign for representative in Congress occurred in 1836. The Democratic candidate was Captain James B. Spencer of Fort Covington, and Asa Hascall of Malone the Whig nominee. Mr. Hascall looms as the biggest and most esteemed citizen of the county for many years, with the possible exception of Luther Bradish. Mr. Hascall's character appears to have been reproachless, his standing at the bar very high, his aptitude for public service remarkable, and his popularity and the esteem in which he was held great. In only a single instance out of many does he appear to have failed to carry his town and the county whenever he was a candidate for office. He was District Attorney by appointment by the Governor from 1818 to 1841

and again from 1843 to 1847. He was also a Member of Assembly in 1825, 1826, 1835 and 1839; supervisor of Malone from 1818 to 1835, and from 1840 to 1842, besides having served four terms of four years each as justice of the peace. He was once defeated for the Assembly, and was at least twice an unsuccessful candidate for Congress and once for Senator — being beaten, however, not by an adverse vote in Franklin county, but by majorities against him in the other counties comprising the district. Mr. Hascall died January 5, 1852, aged sixty-six years. The *Palladium* said of him that he “was a great and good man,” and that “members of the bar were accustomed to look to him with a feeling bordering on reverence, as a pattern of integrity and worth in their profession. \* \* \* His influence was great and unbounded, and employed to good account.” The remarkable character of the campaign of 1836 consisted in the fact that it was waged by the Whigs not merely as a matter of partisan opposition to Captain Spencer, but also upon the grounds of crime alleged to have been committed by him, a most unusual course in this county. Indeed, I recall only one other instance in the county’s history where a like attack was made openly and venomously against a candidate. By circulars and newspaper publication it was charged against Captain Spencer that he had been a participant in the attempts to defraud the government through undertaking to collect raised and fictitious claims growing out of war losses in 1813, and had also been arrested for passing counterfeit money in Vermont before coming to Franklin county to make his home. The story of these war claims is told in another chapter, but will bear recital of additional details. The man behind them was one David Jones, who resided at Fort Covington, and was a brother-in-law of Captain Spencer. According to a public document comprising a part of the record of Congress in 1817, the government had sent a special agent to Fort Covington in that year to investigate, and that agent reported that Jones had offered him \$10,000 for a few weeks’ work, if he would join in getting the claims allowed. Jones said that he had \$20,000 lying idle, and would buy all the claims for a small sum, increase the amount of each, prove them by fictitious witnesses, and make from \$100,000 to \$150,000 out of the venture. The special agent found in his investigation that many of the claimants who appeared to have made affidavits covering their cases had in fact either not sworn to anything definite beyond the fact that they had received no pay for their losses, or else that they denied having any knowledge of what the affidavits con-

tained. One of these claims was by Benjamin Sanborn, a former resident of Chateaugay, who represented that when the British visited that place in 1814 they seized property of his worth \$180 (a claim for which the United States government was not liable anyway), while his claim as it reached Washington was for \$5,100. It appeared to be attested by affidavit of Captain Spencer to the effect that the latter knew it to be correct and just, and Captain Spencer appeared also to have taken the affidavits of "paper" witnesses to this and other claims (called "paper" witnesses because there were no such persons). Captain Spencer's defense was a denial that he had made the false affidavit or taken affidavits of non-existent men, insisting that these were all forgeries. In regard to the charge of having passed counterfeit money, I have been unable to ascertain what defense was made, but in view of the fact that, after having left Vermont and forfeited his bail there, he voluntarily returned, and does not appear to have had any proceedings pressed against him, it may be conjectured that a satisfactory explanation was forthcoming. It was also charged against Captain Spencer that he had smuggled broadcloth for a cape from Dundee, and that when the garment had been seized he induced his tailor to commit perjury by swearing that the garment had been purchased from him on this side of the line. Captain Spencer was a judge of the court of common pleas, postmaster at Fort Covington, and also a deputy collector of customs. He had borne a good reputation generally in the county, and was regarded as a respectable citizen. While Mr. Hascall carried Franklin county against him by one hundred and fifty-nine, Captain Spencer received about eight hundred majority in St. Lawrence, and was elected.

#### THE EXCITING CAMPAIGN OF 1840

The campaign of 1840 was the most enthusiastic and exciting ever known up to that year, and was the first characterized by spectacular features. The Van Buren administration, charged with responsibility for the financial panic in 1837, attacked for tyranny and extravagance, and for indulging the most expensive and luxurious living in office, had inflamed the Whigs, and such Democrats as repudiated General Jackson and Van Buren, to the degree that they were profoundly convinced that patriotism even more than partisanship required the election of General Harrison, popularly known as "Tippecanoe." Public feeling was yet further inflamed by the sneer of Democrats to the effect that General Harrison lived in a log cabin and drank hard cider, for

there were millions who themselves had been born in log cabins or still lived in them, and the sneer was interpreted as an insult to honest poverty. Thus the log cabin, the coon and the cider barrel were made the campaign insignia of the Whigs, and, with the military record and appealing personality of General Harrison, served to arouse a feeling on the part of the people generally that was sure to lead to victory. Every voter had his song book and political textbook. One of the songs of especial popularity ran that "Van might from his coolers of silver drink wine, and lounge on his cushioned settee," while Tippecanoe upon his buckeye bench was content with cider; and speakers pictured Van Buren as using gold forks and spoons in a palace. Political meetings were attended by twenty thousand, sixty thousand, and even a hundred thousand people, drawn from a number of States, literally "acres of people assembled," and most of them camping for two or three days at a time in tents or hastily built cabins, though wherever such meetings were held it was the custom of every Whig in the place to fling flags from his windows or the roof, and to "hang the latch-string out," as proclamation that his house was open and free to those in want of lodgings. In many places cabins were erected in public parks or on street corners, to serve as club or committee rooms and rallying points, and always at the door was a cider barrel, and tacked on the wall a coon skin. Every town in Franklin county had its own Tippecanoe Club, and Malone had also a Tippecanoe choir, which, like the modern glee club, rendered campaign songs at home, and occasionally in outlying places as well. Campaign meetings were held in pretty much every school district in the county, and more important rallies in the larger villages and hamlets. At a political dinner given in Plattsburgh a whole hogshead of hard cider stood at the head of the table. So deeply stirred were the Whigs of Franklin county, and so sincerely convinced of the righteousness of their cause, and that theirs was indisputably the party of patriotism, that they seized upon the Fourth of July for a political demonstration, and thus assumed to make celebration of the national holiday distinctively a partisan affair. Processions came to Malone from almost every town in the county, most of them accompanied by bands, and the attendance was estimated at between three and four thousand. The procession from Bellmont and Chateaugay alone was estimated to be a half a mile in length, and that made up from Bangor, Moira, Brandon and Dickinson at over a mile. That from Constable, Bombay, Fort Covington and Westville was

equally large. In each there were log cabins on wagons drawn by either four or six horses gaily caparisoned, and in some were large canoes emblazoned with flags and the names of the party candidates, while the Bangor contingent had a liberty pole sixty-four feet high mounted on a wagon. Within the cabins or on their roofs were live coons. Each division was greeted upon arrival with the booming of cannon. Speeches were made during the day, and a dinner was served on Arsenal Green. The campaign on the part of the Democrats was equally active, but without attempt at spectacular effect.

#### THE CAMPAIGN OF 1844

The campaign of 1844 promised at the making of the nominations to be even more demonstrative than had been that of 1840, for upon that occasion little was to be seen in the shops and stores in Baltimore except Clay portraits, banners, medals, ribbons, streamers and badges, Clay song books, Clay marches and quicksteps, Clay hats, Ashland coats, live coons and foxes. But these were not much in evidence after the campaign really opened, which nevertheless speedily became the most ardent and exciting that the country had ever witnessed. It was distinctively a speaking campaign. The most eminent Whigs and the party's most famous orators undertook tours covering half of the country, and involving weeks of continuous travel and daily or nightly addresses. They worked as hard as the paid stump hacks of later years, who are indifferent to poor accommodations, fatigue and broken voices if only they can earn a dollar. The size and enthusiasm of the meetings were unparalleled. Henry Clay had been for years the leader and the idol of the Whigs, who held him in almost personal affection, but he made the mistake in the heat of the campaign, in the hope of placating sentiment in the South, of so modifying his position on the annexation of Texas as a slave State, that he antagonized the abolitionists and many of the "conscience Whigs" of the North; and, these deserting him and voting for the abolition candidate, he was defeated. "When the result was known," Carl Schurz says in his biography of Clay, "the Whigs broke out in a wail of agony all over the land. 'It was,' says Nathan Sargent, 'as if the first born of every family had been stricken down.' The descriptions we have of the grief manifested are almost incredible. Tears flowed in abundance from the eyes of men and women. In the cities and villages business places were almost deserted for a day or two, the people gathering together in groups to

discuss in low tones what had happened. \* \* \* Many despaired of the republic, sincerely believing that the experiment of popular government had failed forever." The number of abolition votes cast in Franklin county was eighty-six, whereas in 1840 there had not been one.

From 1843 to 1860 political conditions locally were mixed, and election results usually close, with the Democrats more often in the ascendancy than the Whigs. This change from Whig to Democratic supremacy I suppose to have been due, first, to the great influence exercised by Silas Wright throughout this northern section, and, second, to the large influx of foreign immigration. The largest majority or plurality obtained by any party in the county between 1843 and 1854 was two hundred and seventy-five, and in five of these years it was less than one hundred. In 1843 Francis D. Flanders was elected to the Assembly by twenty-nine majority, and was beaten for the same office in 1844 by twenty-six majority. The majority for Silas Wright for Governor the same year was only three. In 1847 the Whigs and Democrats united in nominating Joseph R. Flanders for county judge and William A. Wheeler for the Assembly, and both were elected practically without opposition. In 1849 and in 1850 the Democrats carried the county for their general ticket, but lost it on county offices. In the former year, S. C. F. Thorndike was elected County Clerk by only two majority, and in 1857 Charles Russell had only one majority over Albert Andrus for member of Assembly.

Conditions of this sort are not as conducive to the comfort and content of the active partisan as a knowledge that sure and large majorities may always be counted upon; but who shall say that they are not more wholesome and not calculated to promote a higher grade of public service? Upon the whole, Franklin county's officials have been of a superior order, their average of intelligence, aptitude and integrity having been high, and yet is it not true that where the division of the people into parties is nearly equal, each party is constrained to name its very best men for candidates instead of passing out nominations at times when success is believed to be certain as rewards for mere partisan activity and efficiency, and without much regard for the question of fitness and conscientious devotion to the public welfare?

#### THE DEMOCRACY DISRUPTED

The Democratic party was disrupted in 1847 by the slavery issue. For a generation it had been dominated by the pro-slavery interests,

with their demand for the right to carry slavery into the Territories whether the inhabitants of these favored it or not, and Democrats who had tired of the South's truculent spirit, together with influential leaders who had private resentments to satisfy, organized a separate movement, and in 1847 nominated a ticket of their own in New York after having failed to control the regular party convention. In the next year Martin Van Buren, who had been elected President in 1836 as the political legatee of Andrew Jackson, became the candidate of the free-soilers for the same office, with John A. Dix for Governor, upon a platform of "no more slave States, and no more slave territory," with the result that the Democratic division gave the election to the Whigs. In Franklin county the Democrats divided almost equally between the regulars and the free-soilers, each polling between nine hundred and one thousand votes.

The leaders of the free-soilers generally were, however, without sincerity or abiding principle in their professions, and thus the organization continued as a separate movement for only two or three years, the controlling participants in it being coaxed or bribed back into the regular ranks by Horatio Seymour, William L. Marcy and others upon terms that assigned them half of the places on the State ticket, and excused them from abjuring their alleged free-soil principles. They thus joined in fighting for the election of pro-slavery men to office, while "saving their face" by insisting that they expected to make the Democracy the great anti-slavery party of New York and the nation. But there was neither success nor evident effort for success in that direction.

This spirit of compromise and of killing the fatted calf for political prodigals angered those Democrats who professed to continue to adhere to the original party faith, and these then engaged in revolt and set up an organization of their own, arguing for a strict construction of the constitution, contending for extreme State sovereignty, and denying that there was any legitimate power vested anywhere to prevent a slave-owner from taking his slaves wherever he chose. There thus developed a strife in the party as fierce as that of a generation later between the Republican "halfbreeds" and "stalwarts" which wasted the party's strength, so that its supremacy was not as unchallenged as otherwise it would have been. These factions were distinguished by a variety of names, Jeffersonians, hardshells or adamantines, free-soilers, softshells, hunkers, barnburners and locofocoes, and they

fought without quarter. Especially interesting is the fact that the brothers, Joseph R. Flanders and Francis D. Flanders, who had been associated as leading Democratic workers and as editors of the *Franklin Gazette*, quarreled over the situation, and the former established and for two years edited a newspaper, called the *Jeffersonian*, to advocate his views and to fight for the cause of his faction. It was an able paper, but apparently it could not persuade a majority of Democrats to follow its arguments and pleadings, as, except in 1848, the softshells always polled from three to four times as many votes in the county as the hards. In December, 1854, having formed a law partnership in New York, Mr. Flanders removed to that city, and the publication of the *Jeffersonian* was discontinued. William B. Earle and Carlos C. Keeler were associated with Mr. Flanders in the ownership of the paper, but had no part in editing it. The publisher was Warren Dow.

#### THE KNOWNOTHING PARTY

In 1853 the American or Knownothing party, with its platform of "put none but Americans on guard," and political proscription of all citizens of foreign birth, began to be a factor in elections in this section, though in some localities it had appeared as early as 1837. For a time it was a secret organization, each locality having its own separate "lodge," and the members professing ignorance concerning their associates and as to what was done or contemplated by the organization. Hence the appellation "knownothing." In 1854 in Franklin county the Knownothings gave their votes generally to the Whig candidates, but in 1855 the party had become so formidable that it put a county ticket of its own in the field, and elected it by about four hundred plurality. George S. Adams was its candidate for county judge, Albert Hobbs for the Assembly, and Edgar S. Whitney for county clerk. The organization continued in existence for four or five years, showing in 1856 a strength approximating that of the Republican party. In 1857 the Knownothings and the Republicans in Franklin county agreed upon a union local ticket, each party taking an equal number of nominees. But several of the leaders among the Knownothings were dissatisfied with the arrangement, and, refusing to support it, the Democrats won by a narrow majority except on Assembly, which they lost by a single vote to the fusion candidate, a Knownothing. The first man to carry the county as a distinctively Republican candidate, without any other party backing, was William A. Wheeler that same year. He was the

nominee for State Senator, and had fifty plurality in Franklin county. A fusion on a county ticket was effected again in 1858, and this time it was completely successful—the majorities ranging from about 80 to 240, though by reason of the Knownothings and the Republicans having separate State tickets the Democrats obtained a plurality of 520 on Governor. Whereas the Republican and Knownothing vote in the county in 1857 had been practically equal, the former became in 1858 twice as large as the latter—the vote having been for State officers: Republican, 1,621, and Knownothing, 782.

The Knownothings nominated county candidates in 1859, but so hopeless was their cause seen to be that all of them withdrew, and the absorption of the party by the Republicans became practically complete. The result in the county on State officers in that year was divided, the Democrats having two majority on Secretary of State, and the Republicans having registered larger, but still small, majorities for most of the other offices. The entire Republican county ticket was elected by majorities varying between twenty-five and two hundred. Never since then have the Democrats succeeded in electing any man to any county office in Franklin county.

The only enduring consequences of the Knownothing movement were that through sympathy and association with it a large number of men who had theretofore acted uniformly with the Democracy passed under its cover to affiliation with the Republican party; and also it was doubtless because of the prominence of former well known Knownothings as Republican leaders that the Irish vote was bound still more firmly to the Democrats. Most of the Democrats who became Republicans through having first attached themselves to the Knownothings could not possibly have been induced to make the change directly, but found transition by a side route easy and agreeable. Otherwise it is extremely doubtful if Republicanism in Franklin county could so soon have gained ascendancy, or held it so surely and strongly.

#### POLITICAL RANCOR

The foregoing reference to adherence by Irishmen to the Democratic party makes it pertinent at this point to recall the fact that until about 1884 any Irishman in this section who voted the Republican ticket was deemed by his fellows to have been disloyal to his race and religion, and to merit punishment—so harsh was political intolerance in that period. Among Republicans, though manifested in milder form

generally, a like spirit prevailed. In Number Nine of Malone, peopled almost altogether by Irishmen, there were years when any man of that extraction resident there who was known to be a Republican, or to have supported Republican candidates in a single instance, was not safe as to his person or property. Cases of serious assault and even of burning buildings or of maiming animals for such offending occurred more than once. Conditions have changed marvelously in this regard within the past generation, and the Republican party in this county counts among its staunchest members a considerable percentage of Irishmen without their having incited any particular resentment on the part of other Irishmen because of their political defection. Rather curiously, while the Irish are so generally Democrats, the large preponderance of the French have been Republicans.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

The Republican party had its birth July 4, 1854, at Jackson, Mich., as a conscience movement. The struggle for the extension of slavery that had persisted, now quietly and then furiously, through more than a third of a century, with the slavery interests repudiating solemn compromise and compact over and over again, and invariably carrying their points, had at length inflamed public opinion in the North to the degree that it was ripe for uncompromising and resolute resistance to further aggressions looking to the imposition of slavery wherever slaveholders might choose to carry it into any region anywhere which had not been organized into States. Congress, the President and the courts were all subservient to the truculency of the slave power, which was united and defiant in its claim of constitutional rights and privileges; and withal sincerely convinced that it was contending only for that to which it was entitled, and which was vital to the prosperity of the South. Conviction of necessity and that its demands were within constitutional guaranties were thus set on the one hand against an equal conscientiousness and an abiding devotion to righteousness on the other hand, together with entire persuasion that further encroachment by slavery must not only involve dishonor, but actually imperil the public safety. Soon came the famous or infamous Dred Scott decision by the supreme court, upholding nearly every contention that had been advanced by the slavery interest, and then followed the fierce struggle for determination of whether Kansas should come into the group of States free or slave. Events moved swiftly, passions were kindled to fierceness, and the

struggle culminated in civil war through the refusal of the South in 1860 to accept an election result that had been reached strictly within the forms and requirements of law and the constitution.

The Republican party made its first campaign in Franklin county in 1855, and polled one hundred and seventy-seven votes for the head of its ticket, Preston King, who had formerly been a prominent Democrat, and thus commanded some Democratic support. The candidates for county offices received from eighty-four to one hundred and sixteen votes each. This record of the beginning of the party which has never failed in any year since 1860 to elect its entire county ticket in Franklin county deserves to be preserved, and therefore the vote by towns for King is herewith given: Bangor 24, Bellmont 4, Bombay 12, Brandon 1, Burke 4, Chateaugay 2, Constable 7, Dickinson 16, Duane 3, Fort Covington 21, Franklin 3, Harrietstown 2, Malone 52, Moira 25 and Westville 1.

#### INTRIGUE AND CORRUPTION

That tricks, intrigue and corruption in politics are not altogether of modern origin and employment becomes evident upon consulting newspaper files of the long ago. Thus the *Plattsburgh Republican* in 1818 charged that the leaders in both parties in Franklin county had bargained the year before with Ebenezer Brownson to support him for the Assembly in 1818 as the price of treachery by him to his party in 1817, and that accordingly three men met here in 1818, as if in convention, and assumed to nominate him. At that time Franklin and Clinton had only one Assemblyman between them, and, the former voting for Mr. Brownson by two to one for his Republican opponent, he was elected as a Clintonian or Federalist, notwithstanding there was a considerable majority against him in Clinton. It is noteworthy in passing that Mr. Brownson was an office-holder to an extent that would not now be tolerated, having been first judge of the court of common pleas from 1809 to 1814, and again from 1823 to 1825; also surrogate from 1816 to 1828 and county clerk from 1821 to 1823, as well as member of Assembly in 1819.

In the *Franklin Telegraph*, Malone's first newspaper, there appeared an item in 1824 that is really refreshing to any one who has wearied of the cry of "Malone ring," for it is evidence that the ring of which so much has been heard, and which some may have believed to be pre-historic, was not always existent, or at least not always dominant. In 1824, it seems from the *Telegraph's* item, the popular complaint was

against "the Fort Covington junta," and it was suggested that the combination so described was generally able to exercise control. But the real significance of the paragraph is that even ninety years ago there was a "machine" in politics and "bosses" and a "ring," as well as at present, and that the fellow who got licked was prone to howl about it.

To determine when the buying of votes began I suspect that we would need go back to a time before the county was erected. Indefinite allusions in the newspapers as early as 1835 indicate very plainly that the practice prevailed even then to some extent, and men still living are able to recall here and there the names of political leaders or large employers of labor in different towns who were reputed to visit Malone always just before an election, and dicker there for the delivery in mass of the votes of all of the men whom they controlled, or claimed to be able to handle. There were allegations, too, that the federal office-holders practically dictated party management and the naming of candidates for office in the county, as well as attended to negotiating with individual voters to give their ballots for a consideration, either cash or the promise of "recognition" or reward by way of some appointment or nomination to be conferred in the future.

The *Franklin Telegraph* in 1828 declared that the Jacksonians had sent one thousand dollars as a campaign fund into the Congressional district of which Franklin county was a part, and that this county received its share of the fund, with ten dollars over paid to Malone by mistake. The amount was certainly generous for that period for such a purpose. If the right records were accessible, I should doubtless be able to show that the Whigs also practiced similar methods.

In 1853, according to both the *Palladium* and the *Jeffersonian*, the saloons in Malone were run openly by the softshell Democrats for several days preceding the election, and whiskey was free in them then, and also on election day, while votes were bought by the same party in large numbers. One worker in an adjoining town was said to have received twenty-five dollars to use in getting out the vote, but applied it instead to purchase his supply of wheat for the winter, and did not even himself vote.

In the same year disgruntled Democrats caused Democratic ballots to be printed on which appeared the names of some of the Whig candidates for county offices, and circulated these with advice to their friends to cast them. At another time the other faction of the Democrats

worked the same game, with the result that the Whigs had them to thank for the election of a part of their local ticket. The ballots used in early times have since come to be known as of the "vest-pocket" order, each party furnishing its own and distributing them itself through its local committees or individual workers. Ordinarily it was a matter of honor with the printer who supplied them to get the names exactly right, and not to suffer any one outside of the office even to have a glimpse of them. This was the rule so that the printer for the opposing party should not be able to counterfeit their appearance, or to reproduce them so "doctored" that the name of a Whig candidate should appear in place of a Democrat, or *vice versa*. It would have been no violation of party ethics for Whigs or Democrats to attempt trickery of the sort indicated against each other, but for a partisan printing office to participate in such a fraud upon its own candidates was deemed disgraceful in the extreme. In Presidential years electoral tickets were sometimes printed with an engraved or lithographed back as a guard against counterfeiting. In the day of "vest-pocket" ballots, too, attempts were commonly made by the workers of one party to steal the votes of the other or to coax them or buy them from the man to whom they had been intrusted for safekeeping until election day. It is within the recollection of the writer that one year all of the Democratic ballots for one of the "south towns" were obtained by Republicans, and Democrats there had to vote the Republican ticket, write their own ballots, or not vote at all.

Nor should mention be omitted that in political practices of the olden time in many localities (chiefly urban, and I think never in Franklin county) was included employment of gangs of fighting bullies to loiter about the polls on election day to challenge decent citizens, force an excuse for assaulting them, and deter them from casting their ballots. But naturally so high-handed and repugnant methods could not long endure in a free people possessing any spark of resolute spirit, and ballot-box stuffing and repeating were substituted as equivalent agents. Ballots printed on so thin paper that it was called onion skin, folded into the regular ballots, would be deposited in the boxes, and when the excess number so introduced were drawn out and destroyed by election officers it was easy to distinguish by the "feel" of the paper between the onion skins and the regulars, so that only the latter were withdrawn, leaving the fraudulent to effect the count. Many an election was thus carried, though never locally. Then, or perhaps simul-

taneously with this particular form of trickery, gangs of repeaters were marshaled in cities to go from poll to poll and vote upon fictitious names that had been placed on the registry books for them, or upon the names of genuine electors. It is gratifying to be able to add that Franklin county never countenanced or employed this practice either. Sometimes, however, inability to comprehend how so large Republican majorities could be gained here legitimately, Democratic newspapers in New York city and elsewhere have charged that considerable numbers of Canadians were brought over the border to vote. There was never even a shadow of warrant for so assuming with regard to general elections, though I regret to be compelled to record that occasionally at hotly contested town meetings in some towns men who were not residents or even citizens have been brought out from the lumber camps and permitted to vote.

Referring again to the unlawful use of money at elections, such use obtained commonly on the part of both Republicans and Democrats for many years, and was winked at, if not actually encouraged and participated in, by men of high character. The buying of votes here was most common in the years from 1876 to 1904, and if the Republicans resorted to it more than the Democrats it was solely because they were the more often supplied with funds, though occasionally the Democrats had the better plenished campaign chest — notably so in 1892. The practice began with the purchase of the votes of ignorant men who had no fixed political convictions, but as it grew voters of means and intelligence, seeing how freely funds were lavished, came to itch for a part, and, though this class would not bargain with Republicans if they were Democrats or *vice versa*, they came to insist upon their own respective parties paying them for “their day’s time,” or for the use of their teams on election day. The price on straight vote buying at ordinary elections was usually a dollar or two each, and at Presidential elections when interest was eager it ran at times to five or even ten dollars apiece. In 1892 the money so spent in Malone, or pocketed by workers who pretended to have spent it, was probably at least five thousand dollars. In 1888 the like expenditure in Chateaugay was in the vicinity of four thousand dollars, and correspondingly large in Bangor and Fort Covington. While this practice still continues, it is much less prevalent, the funds for prosecution of it have become smaller in amount, and those who engage in it operate more timidly and furtively. And now that women have the franchise it is likely to disappear completely.

## THE CAMPAIGN OF 1860

By 1860 local Republicanism had become strong and the spirit of its adherents confident, resolute and eager. Thus the campaign of that year was one of fiery enthusiasm from its very beginning. Its most distinguishing feature, apart from the deep convictions that animated it, was the Wide-Awake organizations, which were of a semi-military character. The members wore black oilskin caps and capes, and carried pitch torches perhaps two feet long by two inches in diameter, and when special effects were sought each man had a roman candle or two to discharge as he marched, and sympathizers along the route fired rockets and illuminated and decorated their stores, offices and residences. The purpose of the clubs was not merely to afford a spectacle, but even more to enlist the interest of young men, and make them zealous in missionary work during the campaign and in service on election day in getting out the vote, and in assuring order, freedom of action and fair play at the polls. The Democrats affected to see in the clubs a public danger and a plan to intimidate voters, and called their members "nigger skins." Nevertheless in many localities, though not in Franklin county, the Douglas faction of the Democracy organized similarly, but with uniforms of orange instead of black. Chateaugay organized the first Wide-Awake club in the county in June, and Bangor, Fort Covington and Malone followed quickly. The first meeting of the campaign was held at Malone, with intention when it was appointed that it should be simply a town rally at the old King's Hall; but interest and enthusiasm had been so kindled that the people literally took the affair out of the hands of the committees, and proceeded to manage it themselves. Ogdensburg sent announcement that its company of Wide-Awakes would attend, and neighboring towns reported that their delegations and clubs also were coming, so that it was seen that the hall would not begin to hold the foreshadowed crowds. The freight depot was thereupon cleared of its contents and seating arrangements in it improvised; but not even that structure could house the throngs, and the meeting had to be in the open air. Thousands attended, including a hundred Wide-Awakes and a band from Ogdensburg, and the gathering was the largest that had occurred in Malone since 1844. Soon afterward a like meeting at Brushton assembled thousands from all over the county, the number from Malone alone having been between 1,500 and 2,000, and a little later Malone sent a still larger representation to a rally at Ogdensburg. There was of

course organized effort by committees, but upon the whole the campaign almost ran itself, and was ardent in the extreme throughout the summer and autumn. Men did not need to be urged to appear at the polls, nor was much money required for financing the contest aside from that invested in uniforms and torches or paid for bands, hall rent and special railway trains. The irreconcilable remnant of the Know-nothing party fused with the Douglas Democracy on a county ticket, and the Breckinridge Democrats nominated their own candidates for county offices, but could not poll even twenty votes for them, though they cast 1,038 votes for Presidential electors. Extreme Democrats as the Breckinridge men had been, they yet hated the other Democratic faction so bitterly that a number of them afterward aligned themselves with the Republicans. The Republican pluralities ranged between 664 and 842.

#### A UNION PARTY DURING THE CIVIL WAR

When civil war threatened disruption of the Union the Republicans, though apparently able to command a majority single handed, placed country above party, and invited war Democrats to amalgamation with them in an organization that should be called the Union party, and whose platform should be simply a declaration for the preservation of the Union. As a particular evidence of their sincerity, they proposed to concede to Democrats one-half of the places on the county ticket, including the head, which went to Albert Andrus. A mass convention ratified the selections, and the ticket was given a majority of about 1,350 — Chateaugay having been the only town in the county that was carried by the Democrats. A like arrangement continued throughout the duration of the war, and would probably have obtained in 1866 also except that, Franklin having proposed the nomination of Mr. Andrus for State Senator, and St. Lawrence having refused to accept him, he became the head of a movement to organize an "Andrew Johnson party," with the understanding that the President had promised him control of federal appointments here. The movement was a good deal of a fiasco, and notwithstanding it and the Democracy became practically one locally a majority of about 900 was massed against it — the Republicans having called themselves in the campaign Union Republicans, but with most of the town caucuses having been held as straight Republican. During each of the years of the war the Union party had been dominant, though in 1862, owing to the absence of so many Republicans in the army and because taxes had become onerous

and a draft was impending, it won out by only 75 to 100 majority. The majority in 1864 was 1,002.

The Republican pluralities in the county in Presidential years have been:

Year	Plurality	Year	Plurality
1860* .....	664	1892 .....	2,499
1864 .....	1,002	1896 .....	3,701
1868 .....	1,139	1900 .....	3,768
1872 .....	1,295	1904 .....	3,832
1876 .....	1,158	1908 .....	3,065
1880 .....	1,386	1912 .....	1,224
1884 .....	1,690	1916 .....	1,497
1888 .....	2,729		

It is improbable that any other county in the State can parallel the foregoing record for Republican steadfastness, with almost continuously increasing pluralities through forty-four years. The exception of 1876 is explained by the fact that, Mr. Wheeler having been the candidate for Vice-President, that master of political arts and organization, Mr. Tilden, directed particular effort to be made in this county to dissuade Democrats from giving him a complimentary vote, to bring every Democrat to the polls, and to secure as large a part of the purchasable electorate as could be won by a generous campaign fund. Still, the Republican vote increased 600 over that of 1872, but the Democratic vote increased by a yet larger figure. Mr. Wheeler's plurality exceeded that given to the Republican candidate for Governor by 75.

The failure to increase the plurality in 1892 over that of 1888 was due to the wave of sentiment that swept the entire country for "a change," and to the fact that the Democratic campaign fund was inordinately large.

No particular reason is assignable for the reduced plurality in 1908 except perhaps that party ardor was not then quite as fervent as it had been, and that the personality of Mr. Taft counted for less than that of Mr. Roosevelt; and the collapse in 1912 was occasioned principally by the great Republican defection to the National Progressive party, which, besides taking away 1,200 or 1,300 votes directly, caused general demoralization. The National Progressive vote in the county was 1,368, of which few were drawn from the Democrats. In 1916

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\* The Douglas and Breckinridge fusion in 1860 was with agreement that the faction which should poll the larger vote would receive the votes of all the electors for its candidate. The Douglas vote in the county was 1,402 and the Breckinridge vote 1,038, so that 664 was the Republican majority instead of a plurality.

hundreds of Republicans, while still protesting adherence to their party in a general way, voted nevertheless for Mr. Wilson because he had "kept us out of war." It was one of the inexplicable mutations in politics that this condition should obtain to such an extent in Franklin, while other counties on all sides of us gave substantially their customary Republican majorities.

#### ELEMENTS OF REPUBLICAN STRENGTH

Consideration of the causes which have influenced the people so largely to Republican affiliation here opens an interesting field for conjecture. These causes have seemed to me to be in the main: (1) the nomination, with rare exceptions, of a high class of men, both in respect to ability and character, at least for the more important local offices; (2) the silent appeal, not at all definitely measurable, but surely largely potent, that was carried to the masses by the mere fact that so large a proportion of those eminent in business, in the professions, in the churches, and in furthering worthy public enterprises were outspoken Republicans and active workers for their party; (3) the consistent and unfailing battling of the Republican party against the fads, isms and heresies which developed from time to time (including repudiation, greenbackism, free silver coinage, and assaults upon the courts), while the local Democracy temporized and flirted, and sometimes actually got into bed, with them; (4) freedom from factionism; (5) accession of Irish voters, beginning in 1884, and continuing appreciably for a number of years; (6) the strong conviction, shared even by many Democrats, that the policy of protection comprehended more of benefit to the locality than that of a tariff for revenue only; (7) a distrust, natural on the part of countrymen, of a party dominated by city influences, and especially by Tammany Hall; (8) the gravitation by a certain type of men to the stronger party, and the realization by others that their only hope for political preferment lay in affiliation with the Republicans; and (9) the superior organization which the Republicans created and maintained.

#### FEATURES OF SOME CAMPAIGNS

It is unnecessary and would be tedious to review campaigns year by year, and it must be enough merely to indicate the special features which characterized some of the Presidential contests, and to refer briefly to a few of the particularly interesting so-called off year elections.

In 1868 marching organizations, called Tanners' Clubs because General Grant had been a tanner, were formed in a number of towns. The members wore uniforms and carried torches. At a parade by these clubs at Chateaugay the procession was stoned, and a number of persons were injured — one of them so seriously that he never recovered. A banner offered by the county committee for the largest gain by any town over its 1867 vote was won by Dickinson. The vote was: Republican, 388; Democratic, 37.

There were Tanners' Clubs again in 1872. At one stage of the campaign the inclination on the part of considerable numbers of Republicans to vote for Mr. Greeley occasioned grave forebodings, but this disturbing condition was offset by Democratic antipathy to the man who, almost more than any other, had hurled epithet and denunciation at that party for a generation, and in mid-October it had become so manifest that Republican success was assured that little further effort was exerted.

In 1876 Hayes and Wheeler Clubs (many of them uniformed and known as Hayes and Wheeler Guards) were organized early throughout the county, and in most towns the roll of members equaled or exceeded the entire Republican vote cast by them in 1872. At the first rally of the campaign in Malone 300 uniformed voters joined in a parade, and for the final meeting there were 900. The evening parade included nearly 1,000 actual voters, and most residences and places of business in the village were a blaze of light. There were no electric lamps in those days, and illuminations were managed by placing innumerable candles in windows, often with grease damage to carpets and other furnishings. The Bangor contingent in the procession were all mounted, and in every hat and from every bridle an American flag waved. The Democrats attempted a counter demonstration, but only about 500 appeared in their procession, many of whom were boys. None of them was uniformed.

In 1880 several of the uniformed clubs were known as Boys in Blue, who were all veterans of the civil war, and numbered 350. There were also other uniformed organizations, known as Garfield and Arthur Guards and as "Company Q" of Malone. The latter was composed of about 150 young business men, each of whom paid for his own equipment, which consisted of white caps and capes and torches. The committee expenditure for uniforms and torches was between \$700 and \$800. In one early parade in Malone there were 700 uniformed torch

bearers, and at the closing rally over 1,000, exclusive of a hundred business and professional men carrying lanterns. The route of march was four miles long, and by actual count more than 250 residences and business places were brilliantly illuminated and lavishly decorated. Free dinners were served at the old rink to 1,500 out-of-town visitors, and in the evening, before the speaking, 2,500 rations were distributed at Concert Hall, afterward the Malone Opera House, in Putnam Block.

Boys in Blue and Blaine and Logan Guards, all uniformed and supplied with torches, were the spectacular feature of the campaign of 1884. In a procession at Malone there were 700 torch-bearers, and so extreme was partisan rancor that the marching men were stoned and rotten-egged. To a meeting at Ogdensburg the county sent 500 uniformed men by special train.

In the campaign of 1888 there was a less employment of spectacular agencies. Fewer of the towns than had been customary had uniformed organizations, and where there were any at all the membership was small except in Chateaugay. In some localities those who participated in parades carried lanterns instead of torches, and the traditional log cabin, which was so marked a feature of the 1840 campaign, again appeared. Chateaugay had one which was a gem of its kind. The campaign was stirring and excellently organized, and it was in this year that the famous Morton Glee Club of Malone made its brilliant reputation. It appeared not only at many rallies throughout Franklin county, but also in other parts of the State generally—having been drafted into service in connection with the meetings which were addressed by the candidate for Governor. It was pronounced everywhere to be the finest glee club in the State.

The campaign of 1888 was the last in which uniformed organizations appeared, though there was one parade in Malone in 1892 of business men carrying lanterns shaped like the "Harrison hat." One of the 1840 methods was revived in this year, and speakers toured the northern towns of the county in a tally-ho coach drawn by four horses. The effect was not altogether satisfactory.

In 1896 the Republicans seized upon the American flag as their distinctive party emblem, and never were the national colors so profusely displayed. Such use of the flag has since been prohibited by law. The mad vagaries of Mr. Bryan excited alarm in business circles, and not a few lifelong Democrats aligned themselves openly with the Republicans, and others voted with them quietly.

The campaigns of 1900, 1904 and 1908 were without marked incidents or characteristics other than the intense interest which animated them.

The first noteworthy off-year contest after the civil war was in 1878, when the Greenback craze fastened upon so many minds. It stood for an unlimited issue of paper money as a legal tender, with the pretense that the mere fiat of government could give to an irredeemable promise to pay an equal stability and purchasing power with that of a currency based upon coin of intrinsic value. It seemed likely at first to sweep a great mass of voters, especially those who were in debt, into its current. Greenback clubs were formed, and there was confident prediction that the new party would carry the county. The Republicans fought the movement strenuously by argument, and the Democrats toyed with it, even making some of its county nominees their own. The Greenbackers polled about 250 votes for their State ticket, and the Republican pluralities ranged between 1,500 and 1,800, which were larger than had ever before been registered.

A deplorable and melancholy event occurred in 1881. Major William D. Brennan was serving his third term in the Assembly, and William A. Wheeler was a candidate for United States Senator. The opposition to the latter was anxious that the nomination should precede the announcement of the Assembly committees, which were to be named by an anti-Wheeler Speaker, and it was assumed that inasmuch as some of the assignments were sure to be disappointing, the effect would be favorable to Mr. Wheeler. It was necessary to secure a given number of signatures to the call for the nominating caucus, and Major Brennan was persuaded to become one of the signers. His justification of himself was that the required number was certain to be obtained without him, and that he would be unnecessarily and unwisely antagonizing the majority by standing out against an early caucus. But it was immediately charged openly at Albany that he had "sold out," and Mr. Wheeler and his friends recognized that if he had ever had any chance for election it had been lost. Then Major Brennan was appointed to the most important Assembly chairmanship, and it was flung at him that the assignment was his reward for having joined in the caucus call. There was correspondence between Major Brennan and Mr. Wheeler on the subject, and the former at once became depressed and morbid. Mr. Wheeler's active interest and somewhat high-handed intervention with delegates to the county convention in 1879 had alone brought about

Major Brennan's first nomination, and the closest and most affectionate relations had long subsisted between the two. Major Brennan talked freely about a "cruel letter" written to him by Mr. Wheeler, which he said had robbed him of ability to sleep and had broken his heart. He induced Frederick D. Kilburn to visit Albany for inquiry into the facts, and then to proceed to Washington to undertake to effect a reconciliation with Mr. Wheeler. The result of Mr. Kilburn's mission was not satisfactory to Major Brennan, whose nervous and depressed condition became worse, compelling a relinquishment of his legislative duties, and in March he committed suicide. Mr. Wheeler's letter to Major Brennan was never exhibited by the latter except possibly to one or two persons, and Mr. Wheeler, while admitting that it was cold and formal, denied that it contained anything "cruel." A copy of it which he showed me bore out that description. No one who knew Major Brennan could possibly believe that he ever intended, or even realized until too late, that in signing the caucus call he would injure Mr. Wheeler's interests, and his action was undoubtedly simply an error of judgment.

#### A NEW BALLOT LAW

Until 1890 each party had always supplied and distributed its own ballots, and a trusted voter could obtain one in advance and mark it to his liking at home. But in 1890 a law was passed providing for an official ballot, which could be had only at the polls from an election officer, and might not be taken elsewhere for alteration or consideration. These ballots were of as many kinds as there were separate parties, were uniform in appearance, and were each about five by seven inches in size. The use of pasters on them was permissible. The new law compelled an increase in the number of election districts, which, added to the cost of the ballots, and other new requirements, increased the expense of elections greatly. This form of ballot was continued until 1896, and in 1894 there were so many sets of candidates and so many propositions to be voted upon that seventeen separate ballots had to be handed by the election officers to each voter. The so-called blanket ballot first came into use in 1896. On it there were as many distinct columns as there were parties with nominations in the field, and each party had its own column, distinguished by its chosen emblem for the benefit of the illiterate. At the top of each column below the party emblem was a circle. A cross (X) mark in any circle meant a vote for every one of the candidates in such column unless the voter chose also to make

a cross mark opposite the name of particular candidates in another column, in which case he voted what was called a "split" ticket — the mark within the circle giving his vote to everybody in the column except for the offices as to which marks had been made in other columns. Since probably eighty to ninety per cent. of the entire electorate ordinarily vote "straight" party tickets, this form of ballot undoubtedly accommodated the large majority better than any other; but it is the fault of a few that independent or discriminating voting ought to be encouraged, and accordingly the form of ballot was changed in 1914 so that the names of all candidates for any given office are grouped together; and now every elector must make as many separate cross marks as there may be candidates whom he desires to support. Thus a longer time is required by every voter for marking his ballot, and the election officers must spend more time in making the count. With the blanket ballot restored, the election districts need not be as many, nor would it be as difficult to induce capable men to serve as election officers. Is it right that public expense be unnecessarily increased, and four-fifths or more of the people inconvenienced in voting merely to satisfy the notions of a few goody-goodies or theorists? We ought to return to the use of the blanket ballot.

With the exception of the campaign of 1836, when the Democratic nominee for Congress was charged with smuggling, subornation of perjury, perjury on his own part, counterfeiting, and attempting to defraud the United States treasury, the campaign of 1891 has had no parallel in Franklin county politics. Allen S. Matthews of Fort Covington, the Republican candidate for the Assembly, was publicly accused of having burned his storehouse when it was practically empty, and of then having attempted to collect insurance on a considerable quantity of wool claimed to have been in it. The matter was considered in an informal conference of many of the leading Republicans of the county, strong evidence was gathered in disproof of the charge, and the campaign fought out vigorously. Mr. Matthews was elected by 1,368 plurality.

#### "DANDELIONS" AND "SNOWSHOERS"

There was a bitter and fierce Democratic quarrel in 1893, when the local Cleveland and Hill factions fought each other for party control as "Dandelions" and "Snowshoers"—so designated because the former had wished in 1892 that the delegates to the national convention should be chosen at a late date, and the latter that they be named in

February. In Franklin county most of the men who for a generation had been representative of the best Democratic character, and had kept the party intact and alive through difficulties and discouragements, were with Hill, while the Cleveland forces were mostly of the younger class, ambitious to gain office and party control. The delegates to the county convention in 1893 were nearly equally divided between the two factions, each of which attempted to organize the body in its own interest. Two sets of officers were placed in nomination, and upon a vote each crowd claimed a majority. Two chairmen undertook to preside, and a hot knockout fight resulted, with a number of the delegates participating — both factions having foreseen some such development, and in anticipation of it having included among their delegates men of pugilistic prowess. Finally each set of delegates proceeded to act separately, and each named a ticket. The courts sustained the Hill body as regular, and, deprived of the privilege of having their own candidates on the official ballot, the Cleveland crowd voted generally for both the State and county Republican tickets. The Republican plurality that year, notwithstanding the campaign was one of great apathy, was 2,275. The Cleveland element had a further revenge later, when it was permitted by the President to control the distribution of the federal offices in the county.

Republican pluralities in off years after 1888 were often in excess of 2,000, and once reached 3,000; but also they occasionally dropped to 600 or 800. Never since 1858 have the Democrats elected a single candidate to any county office. The largest Republican vote, 6,700, ever polled in the county was in 1904.

In 1887 an unfortunate Republican schism arose from the peculiar action of the convention in nominating a candidate for school commissioner for the district comprising the western and northern towns of the county. There had been sharp contests in the town caucuses, and it was indisputable that on a clear-cut issue a majority of delegates favorable to the nomination of Almanzo Hutchins of Brandon had been chosen. But either some delegate was bribed or inadvertently voted contrary to what were virtually the instructions of his caucus, and a ballot gave William G. Cushman of Fort Covington a majority. A motion to reconsider was carried, and on a second ballot the delegates all voted in accordance with the intentions of their respective caucuses, and Mr. Hutchins was declared the nominee. Mr. Cushman then entered the field independently, but with the claim that, having received

a majority vote in the convention on the first ballot, he was in fact the regular party nominee, and that the convention had neither the right nor the power to take a second ballot. No campaign in the county ever aroused more interest or developed greater bitterness. Mr. Cushman was elected by a large plurality. In 1893 Mr. Hutchins was again nominated for the office, over Willard Hyde of Bangor, who became an independent candidate without any claim that he had not been fairly defeated in the convention, but urging that his circumstances and his health justified his course. The animosities of 1887 were revived, sympathy for Mr. Hyde was widespread and potent, and Mr. Hutchins was again beaten.

#### MALONE'S GLEE CLUB

In a number of Presidential campaigns Malone had a Republican glee club of exceptional merit. The voices were superior both in natural quality and cultivation, and the songs, set to catchy and stirring tunes, abounded in clever and witty passages. No feature of a political meeting was more popular or contributed more to its success. In 1888 this organization gained a Statewide reputation, having appeared at the State convention, and having also toured the State with the candidate for Governor. Captain William H. Barney, Dr. Floyd L. Danforth, Lencie L. Sayles and Frank L. Channell were a great quartet, and rendered their party a magnificent service. Incidentally, three of them sung themselves into public office.

#### CAUCUS SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES

A reference to caucus or primary systems and practices must conclude this chapter. Until 1870 or a little later caucuses in Franklin county seldom or never reflected any well defined popular sentiment or preferences as between aspirants for office. In the years after 1860 the hopelessness of Democratic success at the polls served always to deter men of that political faith from seeking nominations, so that there was never incentive to strife in that party in this regard, and its caucuses were thus always perfunctory and merely a form for preservation of organization. The Republicans appeared in these years to be willing generally that the selection of candidates be made practically by a single individual, Mr. Wheeler, who, communicating his wishes and plans to customs officers, postmasters and close personal friends in the several towns, was sure to have delegates commissioned to county conventions who were altogether disposed to act as he might advise.

The caucuses were seldom attended except by the few who were Mr. Wheeler's agents and by perhaps a handful of others whom these invited to be present, while in Brighton, Duane, Franklin and Harriestown the practice of holding caucuses at all did not prevail until years later. The general course in the towns named, even until about 1880, was that some leading and active Republican would assume of his own initiative and without authority to arrange with three men in each town to go to a convention as delegates on credentials which he himself would prepare. Often such pseudo delegates would vote in the convention as a body, and for the candidates recommended by their leader, who, in turn, was controlled by some one person or small group of persons in Malone. Justice requires that it be added that in the exercise of his autocratic power Mr. Wheeler usually studied to meet popular wishes so far as these were evident, and that his nominees should be men of ability and character, whose party record entitled them to recognition and reward. Otherwise he could hardly have maintained his control. In the old-style convention each town had equal representation and voting power. Soon after 1870 it became the custom for individuals to put themselves forward for office, with direct appeal to the voters for support, but never failing to attempt to enlist the backing of the "machine" also, and the town caucuses often became animated gatherings of considerable numbers, registering their preferences as between rival contenders for their favor either by a vote of instructions to the delegates, or by making choice of men representing a particular candidate over the set who stood for his competitor. In a number of spirited canvasses in the eighties and nineties even more votes than the usual Republican poll at an election were cast in some of the caucuses.

In 1911 a law was enacted which substituted official primary elections for the caucus and convention system, which had been operated at individual and party expense, and with no rules except such as custom or occasionally organization decree had established. The official primary is wholly under official control, with public officers presiding at them, and with ballots and all other supplies and expenses paid for by taxation. The theory of the new scheme was that it would make party "machines" and "bosses" less powerful, and lodge control absolutely with the people. The intention was admirable, but in practice the expected results have not been realized, perhaps because no occasion has arisen since 1911 for a genuinely spontaneous assertion of the popular will; and the party workers have had their way quite as surely and

with as little difficulty as formerly. Not improbably still another reason for the partial failure of the official primary election may be found in the fact that in order to participate in it enrollment has to be made nearly a year in advance, a requirement which in principle resembles personal registration, always operative to make the vote light at an election. Yet further, the mass of enrolled voters are those who are party workers and committee members, and through these the word often passes from "higher up" that the leaders and the organization stand for this or that candidate, who accordingly gets the votes. Doubtless a principal influence toward making the law unpopular is the expense that attaches to it. Until 1918 that expense in Franklin county was over \$2,300 per year, whereas the old caucus and convention plan cost taxpayers nothing, since the candidates for nomination or the party organizations paid all of the bills. An amendment made to the law in 1918 reduces the cost for its annual administration locally by about \$500.

The old system of caucuses and conventions was by no means without its faults, the chief of which were its concession to a town of, say, fifty voters the same representation and voice in determining nominations that were given to one with ten or twenty times that number of electors, and the practice of voting in a convention by secret ballot, which carried opportunity for betrayal by a delegate of his constituency. Require that all caucuses be called upon ample public notice; that the chairman, secretary and tellers be sworn to an honest discharge of their respective duties; and that all voting in a convention be upon roll-call, with each delegate declaring openly his attitude upon any question or candidacy; and the system would have much to commend it. First, experience points to the fact that a wider and more popular interest is awakened under it. Second, it would bring men together from all parts of the county for interchange of views, and for informing each other concerning public sentiment in the different towns. Third, it would promote acquaintance of the leaders of thought with each other, which is assuredly desirable. Fourth, it would provide a method for authoritative declaration of a crystallized public sentiment. And, fifth, it would inspire among convention delegates and spectators alike a quickened and broader interest in public questions and in party policies. Though there is doubtless an element that decries the desirability of the last specified condition, the fact nevertheless abides that our government is through parties, and, therefore, it follows that the stronger

allegiance to a party, based upon intelligence and conscience, the better and more responsive to the popular will an administration is likely to prove.

### FRANKLIN COUNTY MEN WHO HAVE HELD PUBLIC OFFICE

Lists of the Franklin county men who have filled the more important local offices, or held higher positions in the State or national civil service, are appended. Where men are classified in years earlier than 1830 as Republican it is to be remembered that the description is practically equivalent to Democratic, which name did not come into use in New York until about 1830.

#### *Vice-President*

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1876.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone

#### *Presidential Electors*

1828.....	James Campbell.....	Federalist.....	Fort Covington
1832.....	James B. Spencer.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1864.....	Hiram Horton.....	Republican.....	Malone
1868.....	Francis D. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1884.....	William F. Creed.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1900.....	William T. O'Neil.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1912.....	Oscar L. Chapin.....	Democratic.....	Malone

#### *Lieutenant-Governor*

1838-1840.....	Luther Bradish.....	Whig.....	Moira
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Mr. Bradish was defeated for Governor in 1842.

#### *State Superintendent of Banks*

1896-99-1902-05	Frederick D. Kilburn.....	Republican.....	Malone
1883.....	William F. Creed (deputy)...	Democratic.....	Malone
1908-1911.....	Frederick J. Seaver (deputy)..	Republican.....	Malone

#### *Delegates to Constitutional Conventions*

1846.....	Joseph R. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1867.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1867.....	Joel J. Seaver.....	Republican.....	Malone
1893.....	John I. Gilbert.....	Republican.....	Malone
1915.....	Ferris J. Meigs.....	Republican.....	Altamont

#### *Deputy Conservation Commissioner*

1917.....	Alexander Macdonald.....	Republican.....	Waverly
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#### *Representatives in Congress*

1830.....	William Hogan.....	Democratic.....	Hogansburgh
1836.....	James B. Spencer.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1846.....	Sidney Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moira
1860.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1868-70-72-74.	William A. Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1886-88.....	John H. Moffitt.....	Republican.....	Bellmont
1904-06.....	William H. Flack*.....	Republican.....	Malone

\* Died in office.

*State Senators*

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1822.....	David Erwin.....	Republican.....	Constable
1843.....	Sidney Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moira
1851.....	Henry B. Smith.....	Democratic.....	Chateaugay
1857.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1863.....	Albert Hobbs.....	Republican.....	Malone
1871-73.....	Wells S. Dickinson.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1883.....	John I. Gilbert.....	Republican.....	Malone
1891.....	Frederick D. Kilburn.....	Republican.....	Malone
1908-10.....	William T. O'Neil*.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1910-12.....	Herbert P. Coats.....	Republican.....	Harrietstown
1914-16.....	N. Monroe Marshall.....	Republican.....	Malone

\* Died in office.

*Members of Assembly*

Until 1832 Franklin and Clinton counties comprised one Assembly district, during which time Franklin county furnished the member five times.

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1809-11.....	Gates Hoyt.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1817.....	Gates Hoyt.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1818.....	Ebenezer Brownson.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1822.....	William Hogan.....	Republican.....	Hogansburgh
1823.....	George B. R. Gove.....	Clintonian-Federalist.....	Fort Covington
1824-25.....	Asa Hascall.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1826.....	James Campbell.....	Federalist.....	Fort Covington
1827-29.....	Luther Bradish.....	Anti-Masonic.....	Moira
1830-31.....	James B. Spencer.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1832-33.....	Jabez Parkhurst.....	Whig.....	Fort Covington
1834.....	Asa Hascall.....	Whig.....	Malone
1835-36-37.....	Luther Bradish.....	Whig.....	Moira
1838.....	Asa Hascall.....	Whig.....	Malone
1839-40.....	John S. Eldredge.....	Whig.....	Hogansburgh
1841.....	Thomas R. Powell.....	Whig.....	Malone
1842.....	Joseph H. Jackson.....	Whig.....	Malone
1843.....	Francis D. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1844.....	Hiram Horton.....	Whig.....	Malone
1845.....	Sidney Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moira
1846.....	Joseph R. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1847.....	Elos L. Winslow.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1848.....	George B. R. Gove.....	Whig.....	Fort Covington
1849-50.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Whig.....	Malone
1851-52.....	Darius W. Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moira
1853.....	Andrew W. Ferguson.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1854.....	Edward Fitch.....	Whig.....	Malone
1855.....	Albert Hobbs.....	Knownothing.....	Malone
1855.....	George Mott.....	Democratic.....	Bangor
1857.....	Charles Russell.....	Knownothing-Republican.....	Moira
1858.....	Martin L. Parlin.....	Knownothing-Republican.....	Malone
1859.....	Wells S. Dickinson.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1860.....	William Andrus.....	Republican.....	Malone
1861-63.....	Albert Andrus.....	Union party.....	Malone
1864-66.....	James W. Kimball.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1867-68.....	Edmund F. Sargent.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1869-71.....	James H. Pierce.....	Republican.....	Franklin
1872-74.....	John P. Badger.....	Republican.....	Burke
1875-77.....	John I. Gilbert.....	Republican.....	Malone
1878-80.....	William D. Brennan.....	Republican.....	Malone
1880.....	Samuel A. Beman.....	Republican.....	Malone
1881-84.....	William T. O'Neil.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1885-87.....	Floyd J. Hadley.....	Republican.....	Westville
1888-90.....	William C. Stevens.....	Republican.....	Malone
1891-93.....	Allen S. Matthews.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1894-98.....	Thomas A. Sears.....	Republican.....	Bombay
1899-1902.....	Halbert D. Stevens.....	Republican.....	Malone
1903-06.....	Charles R. Matthews.....	Republican.....	Bombay
1907-08.....	Harry H. Hawley.....	Republican.....	Malone
1909-14.....	Alexander Macdonald.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1915-17.....	Warren T. Thayer.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay

Luther Bradish was Speaker of the Assembly in 1838, the only Franklin county man who ever held the office. Indeed, this county has

never even had a candidate for the Speakership with the exceptions of Mr. Bradish, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. O'Neil and Mr. Macdonald.

### Surrogates

Surrogates were appointive by the Governor and Council, or by the Governor and Senate, until 1847, when the duties of the office in Franklin county were devolved upon the county judge.

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1808.....	Joshua Nichols.....	Republican.....	Malone
1814.....	Albon Man.....	Federalist.....	Constable
1816.....	Ebenezer Brownson.....	Republican.....	Malone
1823.....	James B. Spencer.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1837.....	Sidney Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moira
1843.....	Martin L. Parlin.....	Democratic.....	Malone

### County Judges

Courts of common pleas preceded the county court, which was created in 1847. The first judges of the court of common pleas and the county judges have been:

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1809.....	Ebenezer Brownson.....	Republican.....	Malone
1814.....	George L. Harison.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1815.....	Joshua Nichols.....	Republican.....	Malone
1816.....	Albon Man.....	Federalist.....	Constable
1820.....	Hiram Horton.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1823.....	Ebenezer Brownson.....	Republican.....	Malone
1825.....	Benjamin Clark.....	Republican.....	Malone
1829.....	William Hogan.....	Republican.....	Hogansburgh
1837.....	Roswell Bates.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1843.....	Henry B. Smith.....	Democratic.....	Chateaugay
1847.....	Joseph R. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1851.....	John Hutton.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1855.....	George S. Adams.....	Knownothing.....	Malone
1859-63.....	Henry A. Paddock.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1867-71.....	Albert Hobbs.....	Republican.....	Malone
1877-83.....	Horace A. Taylor.....	Republican.....	Malone
1889-95-1901..	Samuel A. Beman.....	Republican.....	Malone
1907-13.....	Frederick G. Paddock.....	Republican.....	Malone

### District Attorneys

It was not until 1818 that each county had a district attorney, and not until 1847 was the office made elective. Before that district attorneys were appointive by the courts.

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1818.....	Asa Hascall.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1841.....	Joseph H. Jackson.....	Whig.....	Malone
1843.....	Asa Hascall.....	Whig.....	Malone
1847.....	William A. Wheeler.....	Whig.....	Malone
1850.....	Ashbel B. Parmelee.....	Whig.....	Malone
1853.....	Henry A. Paddock.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1856.....	Walter H. Payne.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1859.....	Albon Man.....	Republican.....	Malone
1862-65.....	Horace A. Taylor.....	Republican.....	Malone
1868-74.....	Samuel A. Beman.....	Republican.....	Malone
1877-80.....	John P. Badger.....	Republican.....	Malone
1883-89.....	Henry G. Kilburn.....	Republican.....	Malone
1892-95.....	Frederick G. Paddock.....	Republican.....	Malone
1898-1904.....	Gordon H. Main.....	Republican.....	Malone
1907-13.....	John W. Genaway.....	Republican.....	Malone
1916.....	Ellsworth C. Lawrence.....	Republican.....	Malone

*County Clerks*

County clerks were appointive by the Governor and Council until 1822, when they were made elective by the people.

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1808.....	James S. Allen.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay (Burke)
1809.....	Gates Hoyt.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1811.....	Asa Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1813.....	Gates Hoyt.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1815.....	Asa Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1821.....	Ebenezer Brownson.....	Republican.....	Malone
1822.....	Asa Wheeler.....	Republican.....	Malone
1825.....	George B. R. Gove.....	Clintonian.....	Fort Covington
1828.....	Abel Willson.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1831.....	Samuel S. Clark.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1834-40.....	Uriah D. Meeker.....	Whig.....	Fort Covington
1843.....	Lauriston Amsden.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1846.....	Henry S. Brewster.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1849.....	Samuel C. F. Thorndike.....	Whig.....	Malone
1852.....	Francis D. Flanders.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1855-58.....	Edgar S. Whitney.....	Knownothing.....	Fort Covington
1861.....	Uriah D. Meeker*.....	Republican.....	Malone
1861-64.....	Claudius Hutchins.....	Republican.....	Dickinson
1867-70.....	William W. Paddock.....	Republican.....	Constable
1873-76.....	Almerin W. Merrick.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1879-82.....	George W. Dustin.....	Republican.....	Dickinson
1885-88.....	N. Monroe Marshall.....	Republican.....	Bellmont
1891-94.....	Frank S. Channell.....	Republican.....	Malone
1897-1900.....	William H. Flack.....	Republican.....	Waverly
1903-06.....	Harvey J. Dudley.....	Republican.....	Constable
1909-12.....	Harry H. Hawley.....	Republican.....	Malone
1915.....	F. Roy Kirk.....	Republican.....	Malone

\*Appointed vice Whitney, deceased.

*Sheriffs*

Sheriffs were appointive by the Governor and Council until 1822, since when they have been elective. The office was formerly so influential and powerful that it was felt that an incumbent of it could force his re-election indefinitely if he were permitted to hold consecutive terms, and therefore a sheriff has always been ineligible for re-election.

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1808.....	John Wood.....	Republican.....	Malone
1812.....	Lemuel Chapman.....	Republican.....	Malone
1814.....	Zerubabel Curtis.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1815.....	James Campbell.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1818.....	John Wood.....	Clintonian.....	Malone
1822.....	John Mitchell.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay (Burke)
1823.....	John Mitchell.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay (Burke)
1825.....	Reeve Peck.....	Clintonian.....	Malone
1828.....	John Backus.....	Federalist.....	Constable
1830.....	Oren Lawrence.....	Democratic.....	Moir
1833.....	Aaron Beman.....	Whig.....	Malone
1836.....	Guy Meigs.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1839.....	William Andrus.....	Whig.....	Malone
1842.....	Loyal C. Lathrop.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1845.....	Benjamin W. Clark.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1848.....	Rufus R. Stephens.....	Whig.....	Hogansburgh
1851.....	James C. Drake.....	Democratic.....	Banzor
1854.....	James C. Sawyer.....	Democratic.....	Fort Covington
1857.....	George H. Stevens.....	Democratic.....	Banzor
1860.....	Daniel F. Soper.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1863.....	George G. Gurley.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1866.....	Robert A. Delong.....	Republican.....	Malone
1869.....	William H. Hyde.....	Republican.....	Banzor
1872.....	Robert A. Delong.....	Republican.....	Malone
1875.....	James A. Stockwell.....	Republican.....	Westville
1878.....	Lyman J. Folsom.....	Republican.....	Malone

*Sheriffs — Continued*

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1881.....	James A. Stockwell.....	Republican.....	Malone
1884.....	Lyman J. Folsom.....	Republican.....	Malone
1887.....	George W. Sunderland*	Democratic.....	Malone
1887.....	George W. Dustin.....	Republican.....	Moir
1890.....	Fred P. Wilson.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1893.....	Edward F. Rowley.....	Republican.....	Westville
1896.....	Edgar A. Whitney.....	Republican.....	Moir
1899.....	Ernest A. Douglass.....	Republican.....	Chateaugay
1902.....	Frank S. Steenberge.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1905.....	George S. Henry.....	Republican.....	Fort Covington
1908.....	Frank S. Steenberge.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1911.....	Alfred A. Edwards.....	Republican.....	Malone
1914.....	Frank S. Steenberge.....	Republican.....	Bangor
1917.....	Alfred A. Edwards.....	Republican.....	Malone

\* Appointed in place of Folsom, deceased

*County Treasurers*

County treasurers were appointive by boards of supervisors until 1847, when they were made elective by the people. The record shows that under the first practice incumbents usually enjoyed long terms of service.

Year of appointment or election	Name	Politics	Residence
1808.....	Nathan Wood.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1810.....	Hiram Horton, Sr.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1821.....	Jacob Wead.....	Federalist.....	Malone
1837.....	Samuel Clark Wead.....	Whig.....	Malone
1843.....	Samuel S. Clark.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1848.....	Samuel Clark Wead.....	Whig.....	Malone
1851.....	William Wallace King.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1854.....	S. M. Weed.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1857.....	B. S. W. Clark.....	Democratic.....	Malone
1860-63.....	William G. Dickinson.....	Republican.....	Malone
1866-72.....	William D. Brennan.....	Republican.....	Malone
1875-78.....	Daniel H. Stanton.....	Republican.....	Malone
1881-84.....	Frederick D. Kilburn.....	Republican.....	Malone
1887-90.....	Fred O'Neil.....	Republican.....	Duane
1893-96.....	Edwin R. Tower.....	Republican.....	Brandon
1897-1900.....	Thomas Adams.....	Republican.....	Malone
1903-06.....	Orren S. Lawrence.....	Republican.....	Malone
1909.....	Frank L. Carpenter.....	Republican.....	Bellmont
1910-13.....	Berton L. Reynolds*	Republican.....	Brandon
1916.....	James A. Latour.....	Republican.....	Harrietstown

\* Appointed vice Carpenter, deceased, and afterward elected.