

A
GENEALOGY
OF THE
FENTON FAMILY,
DESCENDANTS OF
ROBERT FENTON,

AN
Early Settler of Ancient Windham, Conn.,

(NOW MANSFIELD,)

COMPILED BY
WILLIAM L. WEAVER,

Editor of the Willimantic Journal.

WILLIMANTIC, CONN.
1867.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY,

REUBEN EATON FENTON,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

A DESCENDANT, IN THE SIXTH GENERATION, OF ROBERT FENTON THE SETTLER

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED, BY

THE COMPILER.

FENTON GENEALOGY.

"PERHAPS the first man by the name of Fenton who ever visited the present territory of the United States," says Judge E. T. Foote, of New Haven, "was Captain Edward Fenton, of the British Navy, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who, under the command of Sir Martin Frobisher, was a noted captain in an exploring expedition which visited St. Augustine, Flo. in 1585."

1. ROBERT FENTON, who is first heard of at Woburn, Mass., in 1688, was the common ancestor of the Connecticut Fentons. We can learn nothing in regard to his parentage, birthplace, or nationality. The records of Woburn shed no light on the subject; and we can find no trace of him elsewhere, previous to his appearance in that town. Neither can we find any early Fentons in New England, except Robert; and we are inclined to think all who bear the name in this country, except immigrants of a later period, are descended from him.* There is an old tradition in one branch of the Mansfield family, that Robert Fenton was a native of Wales. But very little reliance, however, can be placed on such traditions, as we have found in the course of our investigations; though we think it not improbable that this Robert Fenton was born in Great Britain, or that he was a Welchman. The records of Robert Fenton, at Woburn, are very meagre. He remained in the town but a few years, and it does not appear that he was a real estate owner there. In 1687, he is not on the tax list in that town; but in

* Peter Fenton was in Captain Ladd's Company, in Colonel Benedict Arnold's Detachment; and was taken prisoner at Quebec on the 31st of December, 1775, after having suffered everything but death in that memorable march through the wilderness, at that inclement season of the year, "in the face of continual dangers and obstacles, through pathless forests, over swollen and rapid rivers, suffering from cold and hunger, and want of the necessaries of life." As the section where the Connecticut Fentons lived furnished recruits for Arnold's expedition, it is probable that Peter Fenton was a descendant of Robert, though we have no records to prove it.

August, 1688, he is taxed 2s. 6d., — perhaps a personal tax. He was also a tax-payer, in Woburn, in 1688, 1689, 1690, and 1691; but the amounts we have not. The early Church records of Woburn are lost. At precisely what time Robert Fenton came to Windham, we have not been able to ascertain. Between May 30, 1693, and April 19, 1694, he was received as an inhabitant of the town, the exact date not being given. He evidently located in what was then called the "north end" of the town, being that part of Ancient Windham which became Mansfield,* where he was living in 1694. December, 1694, Robert Fenton was appointed, with Joshua Ripley, the first town-clerk and magistrate of Windham, to lay out the lots on the west side of the river, that belonged to Willimantic. At the same meeting he was chosen "Fence viewer," for the north end of the town, — an office sometimes held by the wealthiest planters; at one time by Cates, the first settler. At another time he was appointed, with Mr. Ripley, to oversee those who were selected to lay out sundry lots. He, however, took but little part in town affairs. Robert Fenton built the first bridge across the Natchaug River, according to the following record: —

"June 13, 1695, Robert Fenton engaged to the Towne to build & make a sufficient bridg over the Natchaug falls, suitable for man and horse to pass with a load, the bridge to be made by the first of October next; the sd Fenton also engaged to maintain the bridge three years."

For this he was to have "four pounds in money." We judge from this, that he was a mechanic; probably a carpenter. Robert Fenton bought of James Elderkin, of Norwich, the second lot of 1,000 acres, lying at the "Ponds," Sept. 16, 1696. The "home lots" of these 1,000 acre rights, into which the town was divided,

* In 1676, Joshua, the Niantic sachem, son of Uncas, the famous Mohegan chief, gave by will large tracts of land east of Connecticut river to several prominent gentlemen, who were called "Joshua's legatees." The tract, which after its settlement was called Windham, was given to sixteen men, mostly residents of Norwich. It embraced most of the territory included in the present towns of Windham, Mansfield, Hampton, Chaplin, and Scotland. It was laid out for settlement in May 1686, at three places, — Windham Center, Mansfield Center (then called "North End," or the "Ponds"), and Willimantic. Windham began to be settled in 1689; Mansfield soon after 1690; and Willimantic some years later. Windham was divided, and Mansfield set off as a town, Oct. 20, 1703. The Indian designation of Mansfield was *Nanbesetuck*.

were generally twenty rods on the front. This lot was near what is now known as the "Town Pond," at Mansfield Center.

Dec. 28, 1702, Robert Fenton's property was prized as follows: The housing, home lot, with apple trees and fences thereupon, forty pounds in money; the first division of land, six pounds in money; the pasture lot, four pounds in money; the ten acre lot, with the eight acres and a half of meadow and the fence thereupon, twenty-five pounds in money; the hundred acre lot, ten pounds in money; and all the land, yet to be layed out, belonging to a thousand acre right, ten pounds in money. The whole amounted to ninety-five pounds.

Robert Fenton was one of the patentees of the town of Mansfield, which was set off from Windham, and made a town, Oct. 20, 1703. His name appears sixth on the list. He was called one of the proprietors of Mansfield, in 1707; and was living there in 1712, when he sold land to different persons. Between the latter date and 1730, he probably left Mansfield, — as his name is not on the list of freemen, made out in the latter year; and settled in the then new town of Willington, where, says the late Rev. Moses C. Welch, in his Century Sermon, he died at the house of his son, at an advanced age.

The name of Robert Fenton does not appear as a member of either the Windham or Mansfield Church; but Dorothy, his wife, generally written "Dorritty" in the records, was a member of both. We think it probable she was an original member of the Windham Church (the early records are gone), from which she was transferred to the South Mansfield Church, on its organization in 1710. The date of the death of Robert Fenton and his wife, and their ages at the time, have not been ascertained. The records of neither Mansfield nor Willington give any information on the subject; and no stones have been found to mark their last resting place. The above cited testimony of Mr. Welch is all the positive information that we have on the subject.

With regard to the character and position of Robert Fenton, there is not much in the records on which to base an opinion. Still, there is sufficient to indicate that he enjoyed the confidence and respect of the early settlers of the town. Most of the planters

were in moderate circumstances. They generally owned 1,000 acres of land each, for which they paid about ten pounds. As settlers increased, and the original proprietors were enabled to sell their surplus land, which rapidly increased in value, their means increased, and some of them became quite wealthy.

Perhaps a word may be said here in regard to the descendants of Robert Fenton, particularly those families that remained in Mansfield and Willington. They have "occupied the middle walks of life, being mostly farmers and mechanics; and, as a general thing, having generally neither riches nor poverty." We have found, in our genealogical investigations, each family characterized by some peculiar traits, which, to a greater or less degree, extended through all the generations of such family. The Fentons are no exception to this rule. Some of their traits have been mechanical ingenuity, skill in music, courage and patriotism, good sense and especially a pleasant, genial disposition. Their kindness and cordiality as friends and neighbors, and their good humor, have been proverbial.

ROBERT FENTON, by wife Dorothy, had the following children: *Robert*, b. at Woburn, Oct. 6, 1688, of whom we have no further account; (2) *Francis*, b. at Woburn, July 22, 1690; (3) *Samuel*, the place and date of his birth not found, but in the Mansfield records he is called the son of Robert and Dorothy Fenton. The following are recorded in Windham and Mansfield: *Bridget*, b. Aug. 14, 1695; (4) *Jacob*, b. April 5, 1698; *Doritty* (Dorothy), b. Sept. 4, 1700, m. Samuel Slafter, and had a family; *Anne*, b. July 7, 1703, m. John Rigbe; *Violata*, b. Aug. 20, 1706, m. John Harris, Dec. 7, 1730, and had children; (5) *Ebenezer*, b. Aug. 29, 1710; *Abigail*, twin of Ebenezer, b. Aug. 29, 1710. An Abigail Fenton m. Abraham Snow; of Lebanon, in 1740; and had children,—perhaps, this one.

2. FRANCIS FENTON, the second son of Robert the first, was one of the earliest settlers of Willington. He located in the south part of the town, his homestead being about three-fourths of a mile north from Mansfield "Four Corners." His son, Francis, Jr., lived on the same farm. The cellar place, where Francis Fenton, Sen., built

his house, may still be seen, though the dwelling has long since disappeared.

FRANCIS FENTON, Sen., is known by tradition as the "Money Maker." Very little, however, is known of his history, except from tradition; but that is so direct that it is entitled to rather more credit than traditions generally are. According to the best information obtained from this source, gathered from various individuals, Francis Fenton, Sen., was a very shrewd man, and possessed remarkable mechanical ingenuity. That he made silver money (one account says copper, too), and passed it, is undoubtedly true. Being suspected of counterfeiting coin, an officer was sent to arrest him. Getting notice of it, he gave the officer the slip, and made for the river, which was not far from his residence. He was pursued, and, finding he was likely to be captured, cut a long, hollow trumpet-weed, and when the officer approached, went into the water, and lying flat on his back at the bottom of the river, held the hollow weed firmly in his mouth, through which he breathed; and thus, not being discovered by the officer, escaped arrest. The river, at which this incident took place, is a small mill stream, which rises in the northeast corner of Willington, or the south part of Union, runs southerly through the eastern part of the town, enters Mansfield, and soon after passes into the Mount Hope River, which latter empties into the Natchaug.

From the above circumstance, according to general tradition in that locality, the stream took the name of Fenton River, which it still bears. On this river, in Willington, are the silk mills at Daleville; and, in Mansfield, the silk factories at Gurleyville, and that at Chaffee's. Although Mr. Fenton escaped for the time, he was afterwards arrested, and brought to trial. It was found that he had made very perfect imitations of Spanish milled dollars, which, on being tested, proved to be pure silver. As there was no law against counterfeiting foreign coin, he was acquitted. It is said that he was unable to read; but his faculty for imitating was such, that he reproduced every letter and figure exactly, and the coins that he made were almost perfect copies of the original. With only the imperfect tools that he could then obtain, it is something of a wonder how he was enabled to make coin so perfectly. It has also been a wonder where he obtained his silver, and fabulous stories

have been told respecting deposits of the precious ore in the hills near where he lived. But, as the country is not a silver-bearing region, they probably have no foundation in truth.

Our own impression is, that Francis Fenton "made money" more to gratify his mechanical ingenuity and curiosity than for anything else; that he did not go into the business very extensively; and that he probably picked up old silver with which to try his experiments. His descendants in Willington, where this branch of the Fentons lived, have been very respectable people; and no discredit seems ever to have attached to them because their ancestor tried experiments in "making money."

The marriage of Francis Fenton we have not been able to find. It is not on record, either in Mansfield or Willington.

He d. Jan. 25, 1781, in the ninety-first year of his age. Ann, his widow, d. July 1, 1785. The children of Francis and Ann Fenton, recorded in Willington, were: (6) *Francis*, b. March 16, 1718, being the first white child born in Willington; (7) *Nathaniel*, b. April 10, 1720; *Ann*, b. Oct. 2, 1723; *Mary*, b. Jan. 29, 1725, d. Nov. 18, 1740; *Elizabeth*, b. Feb. 21, 1726-7; *Abigail*, b. Aug. 27, 1728; *Eleazer*, b. Sept. 6, 1732, probably lived in Willington, but we have no account; (8) *Elijah*, b. Feb. 6, 1735-6.

3. SAMUEL FENTON first settled in Mansfield, but soon after removed to Willington, where he had a numerous family which we are unable fully to trace. His first marriage, and first three children, are recorded in Mansfield.

SAMUEL FENTON m. Catharine Warrin, Sept. 7, 1720; m. second, Experience Ingalls, Sept. 4, 1754. Children: (9) *Samuel* b. July 17, 1722; *Robert*, b. March 31, 1724; *Asa*, b. April 22, 1726, d. Jan. 20, 1746,-7; *Catharine*, b. Jan. 21, 1728, d. July 11, 1753; *John*, b. Aug. 13, 1730; *Ebenezer*, b. April 10, 1732, d. Aug. 9, 1740; *Susannah*, b. April 10, 1734; *Joseph*, b. March 1, 1736; *Benjamin*, b. April 27, 1738; *Abijah*, b. June 15, 1740; *Francis*, b. Sept. 25, 1742. Children by second wife: *Nathan*, b. July 17, 1758; *Joseph*, b. Feb. 28, 1760.

4. JACOB FENTON, fourth son of Robert the settler, located in Mansfield, where he spent the early part of his life. He united

with the Mansfield Church, Sept. 10, 1732. He was one of the first settlers of Norwich, Vt., with Ebenezer Smith and Samuel Slafter, also from Mansfield. We have not been able to learn anything further of a definite character in regard to him. He m. Mary Pierce, daughter of Nathaniel, of Enfield, Dec. 10, 1730. His death is recorded in Mansfield records as follows:—

"Mr. Jacob Fenton died at Norwich, N. H., July 15, 1763." His will is dated March 17, 1758; and admitted to probate in Windham Probate Court, Aug. 13, 1763. In it, he names his wife Mary, and only surviving son, Joseph. He speaks of his son Jacob, deceased, and of Roswell as the only son of his son Jacob. He had no daughters. His inventory amounted to £356 14s. 6d.

The children of Jacob and Mary Fenton, recorded in Mansfield, were: (10) *Jacob*, b. Dec. 1, 1731; *Robert*, 1st, b. Nov. 30, 1732; d. December 17, 1732; *Nathaniel*, b. Feb. 15, 1734-5, d. Sept. 8, 1755; *Shubael*, b. July 12, 1737, d. before 1758; *Joseph*, b. June 21, 1739, m. Abigail Wright, Oct. 31, 1758, and had *Bridget*, b. March 14, 1759, when his record disappears from Mansfield; *Robert* 2d, b. Sept. 26, 1741, d. Dec. 3, 1741; *Elijah*, b. Sept. 27, 1743, d. young.

5. EBENEZER FENTON, the youngest son of Robert the first settler, m. first, Mehitable Tuttle, daughter of Jonathan, Feb. 11, 1740-41; m. second, Lydia Comant, eldest daughter of Malachi, Aug. 23, 1762. Children by first wife: (11) *Jonathan*, b. May 17, 1741; (12) *Ebenezer*, b. April 15, 1743; *Sarah*, b. Feb. 16, 1744-5; *Nathan*, b. Feb. 9, 1746-7; (13) *Solomon*, b. June 23, 1749; *Lydia*, b. May 26, 1753, m. Jacob Barrows; (14) *Elijah*, b. Aug. 8, 1754. Children by second wife: (15) *Nathaniel*, b. March 26, 1764; (16) *Jacob*, b. Nov. 5, 1765; *Mehitable*, b. Jan. 18, 1767; *Abigail*, b. Feb. 2, 1769; *Robert*, b. May 24, 1771, d. June 19, 1776; *Justin* or *Justus*, b. Sept. 14, 1773, d. in Ohio some years since; *Malachi*, b. April 9, 1776, d. in Otsego Co., N. Y., left quite a large family; *Robert* 2d, b. Oct. 11, 1780, lived in Green, Chenango Co., N. Y.

6. FRANCIS FENTON, Jr., of Willington, m., first, Elizabeth Holt, June 10, 1746; m., second, Anna Newcomb, of Windham, Oct. 31,

1754. Children by first wife: *Mary*, b. April 13, 1748; *Francis*, b. Feb. 13, 1750-51. Children by second wife: *Berry* (perhaps Benjamin) b. Jan. 1, 1758, *Thomas*, b. Feb. 3, 1764.

7. NATHANIEL FENTON, the second son of Francis Fenton, Sen., lived in Willington. Of his history we learn no particulars. He m., first, *Mary Tilden*, Oct. 23, 1746; she d. June 22, 1748; m. second, *Rebeckah Chamberlain*, Feb. 8, 1749-50. He d. Sept. 23, 1758. Children by first wife: *Nathaniel*, b. Feb. 26, 1747-8, d. May 25, 1748. Children by second wife: *Rebeckah*, b. July 28, 1751, m. a Knowlton, of Ashford; *Nathaniel*, b. April 29, 1753, settled in Belchertown, Mass., had family. One son, *Ira*, was a famous musician, says an informant; (17) *Eleazer*, b. April 11, 1755; *Erastus*, b. Jan. 17, 1757, d. about 1772, aged 15 years.

8. ELIJAH FENTON, son of Francis, Sen., lived in Willington. He m. *Lois Hovey*, daughter of John, of Mansfield, June 4, 1761. He d. Oct. 10, 1776. Children, (18) *Elijah*, b. March 9, 1762; (19) *John*, b. July 8, 1763; *Lois*, b. Oct. 4, 1764; *Roger*, b. May 2, 1766, m. *Sarah Hanks*, April 10, 1791, and had *Frederick*, b. Feb. 3, 1792; *Ashbel*, b. Nov. 17, 1771.

9. SAMUEL FENTON, Jr., lived in Willington. He m. *Lydia Lee*, Dec. 15, 1746; he d. June 29, 1795; she d. July 22, 1810. Children: *Asa*, b. Jan. 10, 1747-8, had a family, and he or some of his descendants lived in Stafford. *Ambrose*, b. Dec. 2, 1749, d. May 30, 1753; *Adonijah*, b. June 9, 1754; *Amariah*, b. Dec. 11, 1756, d. June 10, 1774; *Solomon*, b. Nov. 6, 1758, m. a Parker, had three children, lived in Willington; *Pamelia*, b. July 7, 1762; *Lucina*, b. July 3, 1764; *Lydia*, b. Jan. 28, 1769; *Thirsa*, b. Dec. 26, 1771.

LUKE FENTON, said to have been a son of Asa who was son of Samuel, Jr., above (No. 9), was b. Dec. 30, 1768, m. *Chloe Preston*, Sept. 10, 1789. She was b. Sept. 10, 1777. They removed to Corinth, N. Y., after 1801, where he died. Children b. in Willington: *Chloe*, b. Feb. 17, 1789; *Orrin*, b. April 13, 1791; *Luke, Jr.*,

b. Aug. 23, 1792, m. Anna Church, he d., widow and two children, Henry and Mary Jane, both m., still living; *Wealthy*, b. Jan. 3, 1795, m. Ezra Boardman, Dec. 25, 1811, has a daughter living, m.; *Orrin 2d*, b. April 23, 1797; *Eunice*, b. Aug. 22, 1799; *Darius*, b. Oct. 20, 1801, m. Sarah Eggleston, Nov. 29, 1826, has five children living,—the sons are named Theodore, Theodocious and Curtis. Children b. in Corinth: *Lyman*, b. March 3, 1804; *Lewis*, b. Jan. 15, 1806; *Lodisa*, b. March 20, 1809, m. a man named Angel, has a daughter living; *Horace*, b. March 12, 1812, m. Caroline Hammond, and has a daughter living; *Almira*, b. March 27, 1818. Darius and Wealthy are the only members of the above family that are living.

ELEAZER FENTON, 3d, of what family we have not ascertained, but perhaps son of Asa, m. Matilda Holt, Aug. 4, 1794. She d. May 1, 1797; he d. Feb. 6, 1799.

10. JACOB FENTON, son of the first Jacob, lived in Mansfield. He m. Rebecca Cross, daughter of Wade, Jan. 31, 1754; he d. June 25, 1756. Children, (20) *Roswell*, b. June 9, 1755; *Mary*, b. Feb. 13, 1757.

11. JONATHAN FENTON was in the war of the Revolution. He enlisted in Captain John Shumway's company, April 3, 1779, for two years. He lived in Mansfield at the time; but, as we find no account of his descendants in that town, perhaps he removed. He m. Mary Cary, widow of Daniel, July 11, 1762. Children: *Gamaliel*, b. Jan. 13, 1764, enlisted in the First Regiment, and served in the latter part of the war of the Revolution. *Jonathan*, b. July 18, 1766; *Mary*, b. March 10, 1769; *Richard Webber*, b. Sept. 4, 1771; *Phebe*, twin of Richard W., b. Sept. 4, 1771; *Bridget*, b. Nov. 12, 1773.

12. EBENEZER FENTON, Jr., lived in the northeasterly part of the town of Mansfield, about half a mile south of the old Methodist meeting-house. He served in the Revolutionary war, in the First Regiment, for a time. He was probably the most ingenious mechanic ever born in Mansfield. We do not find that he learned any trade, and his opportunities for education, or displaying his

genius, were very limited. He made surgical instruments of a superior kind, electric machines; and, unaided by science, made a telescope, spy-glass and microscope. His ingenuity was so remarkable that it became a common saying, that he could "make anything." He m. first, Sarah Dunham, daughter of Ebenezer, Dec. 25, 1766; m. second, Rebeckah Johnson. Children by first wife: *Eunice* b. July 29, 1767; *Bethiah*, b. Nov. 5, 1768, d. Aug. 2, 1769; *Alice* b. Oct. 20, 1770, m. Jonathan Storrs; (21) *Azel*, b. March 21, 1772; *Oliver* second, d. in the State of New York; (22) *Elisha*; *Aaron*, m. a Westlin, in Windsor, moved to Lewis Co., N. Y., where he was a farmer, and where he d. some ten or twelve years since. He was a very strong man. *Orrin* married in Windsor, moved to Turin, Lewis Co., N. Y., had family; *Horace* married, and removed to the State of New York.

13. LIEUT. SOLOMON FENTON lived in Mansfield. He served seven years in the war of the Revolution, and was first lieutenant in a company in the Second Regiment in 1779. He was also a very ingenious mechanic, and spent a part of his time, while in the service in repairing arms. An officer at one time broke the hilt of his sword, and Mr. Fenton, seeing it, told him he thought he could mend it. He did so in the most perfect manner, and from that time he was kept employed in repairing arms, which he did with great skill. He m. Sibbel Snow, Aug. 19, 1772. He d. in Chenango County, N. Y. Both his sons are dead. Children: *Nathan*, b. June 20, 1773; *Washington*, b. March 14, 1776.

14. ELLIAH FENTON lived in Mansfield. He m. Ruby Anderson, Nov. 22, 1774; he d. April 17, 1790. Children: *Augusta*, b. Nov. 10, 1775, m. Daniel Read, of Ashford, and had *Augusta*, b. 1799, who d. 1848, unm.; *Daniel Bardine*, b. 1801, m. Amanda Knowlton, of Ashford, has twelve children, formerly lived in Williamantic, now resides in Mansfield; *Flenda*, b. 1802, is the widow of Judge Kibbe, of Somers, now resides at Greenport (L.I.); *Mary B.*, b. 1804, m. Ezekiel E. D. Skinner, and resides in Greenport, has six children; *Eliza*, b. 1807, m. Rev. Benj. R. Skinner, brother of Dr. Skinner above named, and son of Rev. Ezekiel

Skinner, M.D., who in 1834 went to Liberia, Africa, as Colonial Physician, and was soon afterwards appointed temporary Governor of the Colony, and remained there three years. Eliza, above named, with her husband, went missionaries to Liberia, where she d. of African fever, Jan. 13, 1831, and her husband d. at sea from the effects of the fever, on his return home, March 1, the same year. Wm. D. Read is another son, and resides at Gurleyville, umm.; Martha Jane, the youngest of the children of Augusta and Daniel Read, b. 1818, m. Alvah S. Bosworth, of Ashford. Resides in Mansfield, and has children, (23) *Zebina*, b. July 9, 1784; (24) *Marvin*, b. July 30, 1787; (25) *Elijah Anderson*, b. July 19, 1790.

15. COL. NATHANIEL FENTON, settled first in Mansfield, where his two elder children were born. In February 1791, he removed to Otsego, then Montgomery County, N. Y., and was one of the early settlers of Burlington, where he remained until September 1823, when he removed to Ellicott, Chautauque County, N. Y., where he continued to reside until his death. In his 17th year he entered the Continental Army, and spent the first period of his enlistment in the State of New York, during which time he was engaged in several skirmishes with the enemy. At the expiration of his service, he returned home. In the following April, he again enlisted. The troops to which he belonged were stationed on the lines in Connecticut and New York. The year was full of incidents, many of which were of a thrilling character. The most noted engagements in which he bore a part were those at a place known as Frog's Neck. In the first of these engagements, the Americans suffered great loss, and were obliged to retreat. As Mr. Fenton had been carrying the wounded and assisting them from the field, he was delayed; and, in the retreat, was hotly pursued by a mounted British officer. Being in danger of capture, he turned upon his pursuer, shot down his horse, and thus escaped. In July following, he was in another battle at the same place, in which the Americans were successful. He enlisted the third time, and continued in service until the close of the war. He was with the army at West Point when it was disbanded. All he obtained for his services was what were called "settlement

notes," which realized only nineteen dollars. In his latter years, he drew a pension. When he settled in Otsego, the county was new, and the settlers were greatly troubled to obtain provisions. Fortunately, game was abundant, and we judge that Col. Fenton was an expert hunter. He very nearly lost his life, however, in one of his hunting excursions. One cold winter morning he started into the woods with his dog and gun. Soon after, a severe snow-storm set in; and toward noon he thought it prudent to start for home. He became bewildered, and was soon sensible that he was lost. He wandered, faint and weary, through the following night, next day and night, and in the forenoon of the third day came to a dwelling where he was kindly cared for. In this long period he neither ate nor slept. He had judgment enough to know, that, if he lay down, he would probably never rise again. This so overtaxed his energies that he never entirely recovered. It was in the dead of winter, the snow was two or three feet deep, and he was in the woods fifty hours. The place where he came out was only seven miles from where he entered. In 1802, he made a profession of religion, united with the Congregational church at Burlington, and was an active and useful member. A correspondent in Burlington says, "he was a leading man in religious affairs, and an exemplary Christian. In town affairs, he was active, and almost always elected to some office. He was a member of the Assembly while he resided in Otsego County, and also a member from Chautauque County after he removed there." He was Colonel of the militia, and held the office of Surrogate for the County of Otsego one term. He became a member of the church at Jamestown, and was as devoted and active as he had been at Burlington. His last public act was reading the Declaration of Independence on the 4th of July, 1843, when the anniversary was celebrated on strictly temperance principles.

Col. Fenton, we infer from the above facts, gleaned from an obituary notice published after his death, and from private correspondence, was a man of intelligence and good judgment, an ardent patriot, and a devoted and influential Christian, — one of those worthies who in his day and generation faithfully served God and his country. He m. Rachel Fletcher, daughter of Richard, of

Mansfield, Sept. 18, 1783 ; he d. Jan. 25, 1846, aged 82 ; his wife d. previously, but date not given. They had seven children. Two died in infancy, a son and a daughter. The two eldest daughters are still living, both widows. The two youngest daughters died several years since, each leaving a number of children. The following are in Mansfield records : *Orrilla*, b. Feb. 29, 1784 ; *Richard*, b. May 20, 1789 ; d. in infancy ; (26) *Richard Fletcher*, b. in Burlington, Aug. 28, 1800. The births and marriages of the other members of this family we have not received.

16. JACOB FENTON, married at Milford, in this State ; and soon after removed to New Haven, where he was engaged in making stone ware. He removed from New Haven to Burlington, N. Y., in 1801, and there carried on the pottery (earthen ware) business for a number of years. In 1812, removed to Mayville, Chautauque County, N. Y., and the next year to Jamestown, in the town of Ellicott, in the same county. In 1817, removed to the foot of Chautauque Lake, about four miles from Jamestown, now called Fluvanna, where he died.

JACOB FENTON enlisted into the Continental army at the age of about fifteen, and served during the remainder of the war. He was also a pensioner. He m. Lois Hurd, of New Milford, Conn., Sept. 13, 1790 ; he d. at Fluvanna, Jan. 21, 1822. Children b. in New Haven : *William*, b. Jan. 4, 1792, d. Dec. 19, 1794 ; *Henry*, b. Dec. 1, 1794, d. July 28, 1795 ; (27) *William H.*, b. March 7, 1796 ; *Anna*, b. in Mansfield, Conn., May 6, 1797, m. Henry Martin in 1818, lived in the State of New York, had a family, d. about twelve years ago. Children b. in Burlington, N. Y. : *Seneca*, b. Aug. 19, 1799, living in Janesville, Wis., unm. ; *Sabrina*, b. July 4, 1803, d. July 5, 1804 ; *Rebecca*, b. July 3, 1805, m. Abram Jones, and has had eight children : *Marcus A.*, b. April 13, 1808, m. Mary Johnson. No children. She d. 1846. He is living in Chicago, Ill.

17. ELEAZER FENTON, Jr., lived and died in Willington. He was a farmer, and was quite a noted man in town and society affairs. He had musical talent, and took charge of the singing at

the Congregational church for a number of years. He had a pleasant disposition, much kind feeling, was generally esteemed, and died lamented.

ELEAZER FENTON, m. Anna Dunham, daughter of Ebenezer of Mansfield, April 10, 1783; he d. Feb. 12, 1816, aged 60 years; she d. May, 1834, aged 71. Their children were: *Chester*, b. Dec. 19, 1784, is still living on the farm where he was born, nearly eighty-two years ago, and is the last of the name in Willington: he m. Phebe Baker about 1820, and had a daughter Anna, b. June 21, 1833, who m. William Eldredge; *Anna*, b. June 1, 1786, m. Asa Taylor of Willington, April 15, 1810, and have had three sons and one daughter, all living, and all married. Among the sons is Solyman Taylor, Esq., a respected citizen of Willington, now Judge of Probate for that District, to whom we are mainly indebted for the records of the Willington Fentons; (28) *Rufus*, b. Feb. 24, 1788; (29) *Rollerick*, b. Dec. 19, 1789; *Rebeckah*, b. March 6, 1793, m. Stephen Tobey, June 3, 1824, by whom she had five children, three sons and two daughters, who are all living and married. One of her sons, Charles Clinton, m. Maria D. Barrows, daughter of William, of Willimantic, and lives in Monson.

18. ELLIAB FENTON, of Willington, m. Polly Storrs, Jan. 18, 1777. Children: *Emelia*, b. Jan. 1, 1788; *Elijah*, b. March 9, 1791; *Rosa*, b. April 3, 1793; *Rhos*, b. Aug. 2, 1794; *Polly*, b. Feb. 22, 1799.

19. JOHN FENTON, of Willington, m. Lucy Eldredge, Dec. 1, 1785; he d. Dec. 13, 1807; she d. May 28, 1850. Children: *John*, b. Sept. 26, 1786; *Lois*, b. May 14, 1789; *Ebenezer*, b. July 22, 1791; *Artemas*, b. July 22, 1793; *Ashbel*, b. Oct. 20, 1796, d. Aug. 20, 1798; *Chloe*, b. Sept. 25, 1798; *Marilla*, b. Jan. 30, 1801; *Charles*, b. Sept. 1, 1802, d. Oct. 10, 1805.

20. ROSWELL FENTON, settled first in Mansfield, where his two eldest children were born. About 1778 he emigrated to Hanover, N. H., from whence he removed to Stillwater, N. Y., and about 1790 to Broad Albin, Fulton Co., N. Y., where his three younger

children were born. In the spring of 1806, he left his home at Broad Albin, for the West, intending to fix on a location for his future residence, and raise a crop; his family to follow him to his new residence in the fall. He located near the Ohio River, about fourteen miles from Louisville, where he erected his cabin in the wilderness, raised a crop, and died Sept. 16, 1806. It has been supposed that he was murdered for his money, as he had gone thither to purchase a farm, where he died suddenly, and his money was never recovered. His family emigrated, as previously arranged, by way of Philadelphia and Pittsburg, and down the Ohio River; but on reaching Cincinnati first heard of the death of their paternal head. They located in Green township, Ohio, near Cincinnati, where the mother continued to reside until her death.

ROSWELL FENTON, m. Deborah Freeman, daughter of Stephen, April 1, 1773, she was born Nov. 1, 1753, he d. in Kentucky, Sept. 16, 1806, aged 51 years, and was buried at "12 mile Island" on Ohio River; she d. at College Hill, near Cincinnati, in 1846, aged about 93 years. Their children, b. in Mansfield, were *Jacob*, b. Jan. 21, 1775, graduated at Dartmouth College in the class of 1799, studied law in Philadelphia, removed to Hamilton Co., Ohio, in 1806, where he d. without issue, March 21, 1843; (30) *Stephen*, b. Jan. 11, 1777. Children b. at Hanover, N. H.: *Hannah*, b. July 7, 1779, m. L. Van Buren, removed to Chautauque Co., N. Y., d. there in 1858. She had one son, Roswell, who became an eminent physician, and two daughters, who reside in Chautauque Co., N. Y.; *Molly*, b. in 1781, d. April 15, 1801, unm.; (31) *George Washington*, b. Dec. 20, 1783; *Roswell*, b. Feb. 10, 1786, went to Hamilton Co., Ohio, m. Anna McFannan, d. Nov. 8, 1830, leaving children: Alfred, John, Eliza, George, Roswell, and Wealthy. *Deborah*, b. Feb. 17, 1789, m. William Paddock, May 11, 1806, settled in Wayne Co., N. Y., where she d. Feb. 3, 1863. He still lives at Wolcott. Their children were: Jacob, Henry, Roxalina, William, Levi, George W., Olive, and Caroline, all of whom have families, except Olive. Child b. at Broad Albin: *Rebecca*, b. Aug. 19, 1791, m. in Cincinnati, Jan. 8, 1809, William Cary, son of Dr. Samuel Cary, a native of Windham (Scotland Society). He d. in 1862. She is living, and resides at College

Hill, Ohio. Their children were: Freeman G., founder of Farmer's College, Gen. Samuel F., founder and now President of Female College at College Hill, Ohio, widely known as an eloquent advocate of the Temperance Reform, and William, — all married and have families; *Lucy Ann*, b. Dec. 13, 1793, m. Cyrus Howard, in Hamilton Co., Ohio, where she still resides. She had fourteen children, seven living, the eldest of whom is Rev. Solomon Howard, D. D., President of Ohio University. Another son is Roswell F., Esq., a member of Ohio Legislature, and lawyer at Xenia, Ohio; *Wealthy Ann*, b. Feb. 13, 1796, m. Roswell Hazeltine, and resides at Oxford, Butler Co., Ohio, has had fourteen children, of whom nine are living.

21. AZEL FENTON was a blacksmith by trade, and a man of much physical strength and vigor. He lived, in the early part of his life, in the eastern part of the town, but in the latter part at Mansfield Center, where he died. He was respected and esteemed by his neighbors and fellow citizens.

He m. Elizabeth Barrows, daughter of Isaac, Sept. 17, 1798; he d. April 2, 1847, aged 75; she d. Jan. 24, 1859, aged 91. Their children were: (32) *Rosman*, b. Dec. 22, 1799; (33) *Chauncey*, b. Aug. 20, 1801; *Elizabeth*, b. June 10, 1803, m. Hezekiah Crane, and removed to the State of New York; *Olive*, b. March 10, 1805, m. Nehemiah Wheeler, has five children, resides in Essex Co., N. Y.; *Caroline*, b. Oct. 15, 1806, d. aged 46, unm.; (34) *Horace*, b. May 15, 1808; *Ebenezer*, b. Oct. 1, 1811, m. Samantha Johnson, had one daughter, d. —; (35) *Isaac Palmer*, b. May 15, 1813; *Juba*, b. Jan. 16, 1817, d. young.

22. ELISHA FENTON, son of Ebenezer, Jr., was a blacksmith; lived in the eastern part of the town, at or near Atwoodville. He m., first, Philata Storrs, Oct. 8, 1798; she d. Dec. 2, 1834; m., second, Lois Conant, March 7, 1838; he d. 1864, aged about 90. Children by first wife: *Julia*, b. Jan. 30, 1799, m. Phillip R. Capen. Has family. Now resides in Wisconsin. *Orin*, b. Feb. 18, 1801, m. Melitable White, is in Maine; *Phebe*, b. March 23, 1803, m. A. White, in Maine; *Shubael S.*, b. April 23, 1806, is

m., and resides in New York State; *Lois*, b. Dec. 18, 1807, m. Perry Holley, Dec. 14, 1830, has a family, lives in Mansfield; *Nancy*, b. June 10, 1810, m. Manly Barrows, now in Salt Lake City; *Sarah*, b. June 14, 1815, m. Rand White, d. April, 1852, lived in Mansfield; *Elisha*, b. April 29, 1817; *Lydia*, b. March 1823, d. November 1834. Child by second wife: *John Tyler*, b. May 22, 1841, d. July 13, 1852.

ELISHA FENTON, Jr., son of Elisha above, formerly lived in Chaplin, has been in Willimantic for the past two years, and is now residing in Norwich. He is a carpenter. He m., first, Elizabeth O. Geer, May 8, 1837; she d. May 28, 1851; m., second, Mary A. Snow, Nov. 30, 1851; she d. Dec. 10, 1857; m. third, Caroline A. Fagan, Feb. 9, 1859. Children by first wife: *James E.*, b. May 22, 1838, m. widow Lucy J. (Backus) Hunt, lives in Chaplin, has one daughter; *Fanny P.*, b. Oct. 18, 1841, d. 1863, unm.; *Anson A.*, b. April 16, 1845, killed at the battle of Winchester, Va., June 15, 1863. Child by second wife: *George*, b. Sept. 6, 1857. Child by third wife: *Lucy E.*, b. Feb. 2, 1861, d. March 9, 1863.

23. ZEBINA FENTON lived, we believe, in Mansfield. He m. Esther Shumway; he d. 1849; she d. 1857. Children: *Lucas*, b. December 1809, m. Hannah Spencer Dec. 28, 1864; *Lucia*, twin of Lucas, b. December 1809, m. Waterman Neff in 1836, and has five children; *Esther*, b. 1813, m. Smith Porter in 1841, and has five children; *Sally*, b. 1816, d. 1841, unm.; *Elijah*, b. 1819, m. Martha Chappell, 1846, and has Charlie, Mary, George, and Frederick; *Olive*, b. 1821, m. Thomas Worlfin, in 1843, and has five children; *George B.*, b. 1823, resides in Norwich, Ct., m. Susan Sherman in 1848, has one daughter Susan. *Hannah*, b. 1825, d. 1846, unm. *Jacob*, b. 1827, m. Lucy Baird in 1853, has a family; *Laura*, b. 1830, m. John Ferris about 1854, has a family.

24. MARVIN FENTON lived in Mansfield. He m., first, Sally Hibbard; m., second, Uthelda Reed; m., third, Rouena Reed; he d. June, 1855. Children by first wife; *Augusta E.*, b. Jan. 19, 1815, m. Wm. C. Pettibone, merchant tailor, Hartford, and has a family; *George Marvin*, b. May 19, 1816, m. Sarah Overton, lives in Green-

port, L. I., has one son; *Auriel Adaline*, b. May 19, 1819, d. 1838, aged 19, unm.; *Frederick Mortimer*, b. Jan. 23, 1822, resides in California (or Nevada), unm.; *Mary Hibbard*, b. Dec. 1, 1826, m. Russell Perry, of Shelby, Orleans Co., N. Y.

25. RICHARD F. FENTON, Esq., is an esteemed citizen of Jamestown, Chautauque Co., N. Y. He is the only surviving son of the late Col. Nathaniel Fenton. He m., first, Sally Ann Tew, September 1823; she d. July 1832; m., second, Mary Ann Lawrence, a native of Jaffrey, N. H., June 1833. By first wife had three children, one son survives, *Henry Nathaniel*, b. April 13, 1832, m. Melvina A. Martin, no children; by second wife had seven children, two d. in infancy, five are now living: *Lawrence Adams*, b. April 29, 1834; *Horatio Reed*, b. Feb. 9, 1832; *Elliott Artemas*, b. Feb. 10, 1843, m. Helen E. Leslie in 1864. Names of daughters not given.

26. ELIJAH A. FENTON was a mechanic. Removed in 1830 to Delaware Co., Ohio, where he continued to reside until his death. He m. Jerusha Babcock, daughter of Daniel, of Windham, March 29, 1812. She d. February 1852. He d. July 1856. Their children b. in Mansfield were *Jerusha Ruby*, b. Sept. 21, 1813, m. Seth Jones of Vermont, March 18, 1837, had a family, resides in Delaware, Ohio; *Julia Aurilla*, b. Nov. 17, 1815, m. Samuel Stiles Furniss, Feb. 11, 1836, has children, and resides at Franktown, Delaware Co., Ohio; *Elijah Wales*, b. in Windham, Oct. 6, 1817, resides in Iowa City, Iowa. He m. Mary Jane Calhoun, of Litchfield Co., Conn., Oct. 4, 1848, their children: *Florentine*, b. July 30, 1849; *Rodolphus Calhoun*, b. Sept. 27, 1852, d. 1864; *Ethbert*, b. Dec. 17, 1857; *Vernon Calhoun*, b. Jan. 8, 1861, d. 1864 — all b. in Berlin Township, Delaware Co., Ohio. *Daniel B.*, b. in Windham, Oct. 18, 1819, m. first, Susan Hall, Sept. 22, 1847, who d. 1848 leaving a son, Daniel Waldo, b. Oct. 17, 1848; m. second, Jane Hall, sister of his first wife, and are living in York Center, Steuben Co., Ind.; *Catherine P.*, m. Lambert Hall, has had children, resides in Camden, Hillsdale Co., Mich.; *Orrin B.*, m. Sarah H. Malogne; she d., leaving a son, he m. again, and has

three children, lives in Williams Co., Ohio; *Pamela B.*, m. James Ferson, had children, she d. Nov. 15, 1857; *Laura A.*, m. James Ferson above, and has had three children.

27. WM. H. FENTON, Esq., is a respected resident of Jamestown, and a magistrate of Chautauque Co., N. Y. He m. Hannah Tracy, daughter of Elias, of Hartland, Windham Co., Vt., April 17, 1817. They have had the following children: *Caroline M.*, b. May, 1818, m. Humphrey Sherman, had five children, he d. August 1856, at Newton, Jasper Co., Iowa, where his widow is still living; *Erasmus D.*, b. Aug. 8, 1819, m. Amanda Aiken, had five children, three living, resides in Austin, Minn.; *Elias J.*, b. April 2, 1821, m. Mariette McNitt, has five children, living in Janesville, Wis.; *Laura*, b. Oct. 4, 1824, d. Aug. 9, 1825; *Laura A.*, b. May 7, 1826, unm. *Harriet*, b. Dec. 19, 1827, m. John I. Harvey, has three children living in Newton, Iowa; *Coloss*, b. Jan. 14, 1829, m. Sarah Dayton, three children living in Austin, Minn.; *Mariette*, b. Oct. 7, 1831, m. Charles L. Jefferds, had four children, three living, resides at Jamestown, N. Y.; *Dana B.*, b. July 26, 1834, m. Mary L. Hunt, two children living in Jamestown, N. Y.; *Emery W.*, b. March 23, 1836, m. Eliza Myers, has one child living, resides in Jamestown, N. Y.; *Emily H.*, twin of Emery W., b. March 23, 1836, unm.; *Polly*, b. Aug. 2, 1839, d. Aug. 7, 1842; *Phyleta*, b. July 19, 1841, d. Aug. 23, 1842.

28. RUFUS FENTON, lived at first in Willington, but spent his latter years in Mansfield, where he d. He was a comb-maker and farmer. He was noted in his younger years for his musical abilities. He m. Clarissa Dunham, daughter of Jonathan, and had six children, two of whom d. quite young. He d. April 15, 1866. The following children are recorded in Mansfield records: *Malinda Augustine*, b. in Willington, Aug. 16, 1820, m. Moses Turner, of Mansfield; *Rufus Austin*, b. in Willington, Nov. 30, 1821, m. first, a White, m. second wife in Monson, Mass., d. about 1864, family lives in Monson; *Norman Dunham*, b. in Mansfield, Aug. 20, 1823, m. first Sophronia Holt, of Willington, m. second, — White, of Monson where he now resides; *Amanza Melvina Fitzalan*, b. in Mansfield, m. a Taft, resides in Stafford, and has a family.

29. RODERICK FENTON was a highly respected citizen of Willington. He was a farmer, though he worked at the comb business in his younger days. He represented the town of Willington in the legislature twice, was selectman of the town a number of years, and held various other local offices. He d. on the farm where he was b., and his death was much lamented by the whole community. He m. first, Abigail Allen, March 27, 1817; she d. Jan. 29, 1829; he m., second, Sophronia Noble, April 25, 1830; he d. Oct. 6, 1851 aged 61. Children by first wife: *Abigail Maria*, b. Jan. 16, 1818, m. first, John Brown, who was killed by the fall of a tree in 1857. They had five children, one of whom, Sherman, was killed in the war. She now lives in Coventry. *Roderick Oscar*, b. Aug. 28, 1819, m. Jane F. Rider, May 1, 1850, has two children, lives in Monson, Mass.; *Eleazer F.*, b. Jan. 3, 1822, d. Aug. 28, 1846, aged 24; *Henry A.*, b. November 1824, d. Feb. 9, 1850, aged 26; *Emily M.*, b. June 26, 1826, m. John C. Parsons, of Monson, May 14, 1846, had two children, d. May 10, 1857, aged 25; *Julietta E.*, b. Dec. 29, 1828, m. John C. Parsons, reside in Iowa, have children. Children by second wife: *Sophronia A.*, b. Dec. 17, 1831, d. Nov. 2, 1849, aged 18; *Ira*, b. July 22, 1833, m. twice, no children; *Francis H.*, b. March 15, 1839, is m., lives in Monson, no children; *Osborn*, b. 1844, served in the late war, is married, lives in Monson, no children.

30. STEPHEN FENTON (incorrectly numbered 26) m. Roxa Fitch, August 1802, settled in Broad Albin, Fulton Co., N. Y., where the aged couple now reside. Their children were: *Mary*, b. 1803, m. Randolph Wells, and live in Broad Albin, N. Y., no issue; *Stephen F.*, b. 1805, m. and settled in New York State, a physician, d. from accident in 1865; *Roxatana*, b. 1807, m. Isaac Howe, lives in Poland, New York, has family; *Deborah* m. Rev. — Chapin, resides in New York State, has family; *Asa*, a Methodist preacher, residing in Broad Albin, has family; *Eunice*, lives with her parents, unm. *Isaac*, a Methodist preacher in Johnstown, N. Y., has family; *Lucinda*, m., and resides in Oneida Co., N. Y., has family.

31. GEORGE WASHINGTON FENTON (incorrectly numbered 26), was the son of Roswell Fenton, and was born in Hanover, N. H.,

Dec. 20, 1783. From an obituary notice of him, prepared by Judge E. T. Foote, of New Haven, and published in the Chautauque *Democrat*, soon after his decease, we condense the following particulars of his history: In 1804 he left the paternal home at Broad Albin, N. Y., where his father had settled, to seek his fortune in the then western wilderness. He travelled to Philadelphia, and from thence over the mountains to Pittsburg, then a small village, and from thence down the Ohio River on an exploring tour as far as Louisville, Ky.; and from thence returned to Pittsburg, and commenced trading in goods and provisions, in a canoe, up the Alleghany River and French Creek, which he followed in the season of navigation two or three years. In the winter of 1805-6, he taught a school at Warren, Pa., the first ever taught in that place. Some of his scholars were his senior in years, but had not enjoyed equal privileges of an education. At Warren he became acquainted with the family of the late John Owen, of Carroll, then recently removed there; and on the 2d of November, 1806, he married Miss Elsie, the daughter of the said John Owen. She was born in Lunenburg, N. Y., July 8, 1790. John Owen was a native of Windsor, Conn., and was a soldier of the "Old French War," and of the war of the American Revolution, and drew a pension from the United States. He was an early settler of Chautauque County, about 1808, where he died, Feb. 26, 1843, aged 108 years.

George W. Fenton and wife removed to their new log cabin, on the south side of the outlet of Chautauque Lake, in the spring of 1807. At that time there were no settlers on the outlet, except the late William Wilson and James Culbertson on the north side, near him. No other settlers then in the "Old twelve miles square of Ellicott," save Edward Shilletto. Mr. Fenton cleared a small farm, and erected another log cabin, although a part of the season he traded on the river as formerly. In 1809 he sold his farm to the late John Arthur, of Ellicott, who removed into one of the log houses on the farm, and resided there till his death.

The late Roswell O. Fenton, of Carroll, the eldest child of G. W. and Elsie Fenton, was born Sept. 6, 1807, while his parents resided here, and was the first or one of the first white children born in the old town of Ellicott. In the fall of 1809, George W. Fenton

selected for his future residence lot No. 52, first town, and tenth range, on the east shore of the Connewango. Early in 1810, he erected his log house, and removed his family into it. He was probably the first one that took up a permanent residence on the east side of the Connewango, in the present town of Carroll. "Perhaps," says Judge Foote, "no man was better calculated for pioneer life than Mr. Fenton." He was then a healthy, athletic, industrious man, of sound judgment, and indomitable perseverance. His wife was in all respects worthy of such a husband, and they were prosperous in their arduous labors. He soon cleared up a large farm, and raised excellent crops, which sold readily at high prices. Both Mr. Fenton and wife were kind and obliging, and liberally extended their hospitality to strangers looking for places of settlement, and to settlers that had emigrated into the wilderness. He was a prominent man in the old town of Ellicott. In 1815 he was elected Commissioner of Highways, and was subsequently chosen to various offices of trust in the town. He was appointed Justice of the Peace, and a Lieutenant of Infantry, but declined both offices. He seemed to have little ambition for official distinction, still he discharged the duties of the offices he accepted with strict fidelity and general satisfaction to the people. He amassed a good property, and raised a family of five sons, who all became prosperous and wealthy men, showing the results of good training. Mr. Fenton made an investment in merchandise, and opened the first store in Frewsburg, although he continued to reside on his farm. About 1845, he had a severe attack of inflammation of the eyes, from which he became nearly blind, and which compelled him wholly to retire from business, and from mingling in public affairs, but remained at home in the bosom of his family, on his farm, the remainder of his days. Mr. Fenton enjoyed pretty good health through life, except his blindness, until a short time before his death, when he had an inflammation of the lungs, terminating in quick consumption. He died on his farm where he had resided half a century, March 3, 1860, aged 76 years. "No doubt," says Judge Foote, "he was one of the most energetic and useful of the early pioneers of Chautauque Co."

GEORGE W. FENTON, as we have seen, m. Elsie Owen, daughter

of John, Nov. 2, 1806; he d. March 3, 1860, aged 76; his widow is still living in Chautauque County. Their children were: *Roswell O.*, b. Sept. 6, 1807, d. in Chautauque Co., N. Y., leaving a family; *George W.*, b. February 1812, married and resides with family in Chautauque Co., N. Y.; *William Henry Harrison*, b. 1814, is married, has family and resides in Chautauque Co., N. Y.; *John Freeman*, b. 1816, is married, has family, and also resides in Chautauque Co., N. Y.; (36) *Reuben Eaton*, b. July 4, 1819, Governor of the State of New York.

32. ROSMAN FENTON, is now living in Essex, Co., N. Y. He m. Susan Sturtevant, February 1825; she d., Feb. 14, 1833; m., first, second, Elvira Snell, March, 1835. Child by first wife: *Francis*, b. May 13, 1832. Children by second wife: *Susan*, b. Dec. 23, 1835; *Laura*, b. Feb. 2, 1838, m. Geo. Hewett, December 1862; *Mary E.*, b. May 4, 1840, d. Sept. 17, 1842; *Mary B.*, b. Aug. 30, 1843, m. Stillman R. Cook, June 1863; *Fanny E.*, b. May 6, 1849; *Caroline*, b. June 4, 1852; *Frederick*, b. Sept. 29, 1857.

33. CHAUNCEY FENTON, Esq., is a lawyer, and resides at Crown Point, N. Y. He m. Mary Ann Perkins, Jan. 13, 1829, and has children: *John Cleveland*, b. April 8, 1830, graduated at Middleburg College, 1854, was admitted to the bar in New York City in 1859, and is a practicing attorney there. He m. Ellen C. Perkins, daughter of John A., Esq., of Windham Center, Oct. 22, 1863; *Eliza Perkins*, b. Sept. 24, 1834, m. Major John Brydon, May 29, 1863, now living at Crown Point; *Emily Johnson*, b. June 1, 1841.

34. HORACE FENTON is by trade a blacksmith, and resides at Mansfield Center. He m. first, Emily Whitney, April 11, 1834; she d. Aug. 2, 1835; m. second, Mary Huestis, Sept. 10, 1837; she d. Feb. 24, 1843, aged 29; m. third, Caroline A. Hall, March 4, 1851. Child by first wife: *Emily W.*, b. Aug. 19, 1835, m. F. P. Reed, Warren, Ohio. Children by second wife: *Marion*, m. Rev. H. R. Hoisington, now residing in Warren, Ohio; *Ebenezer*, (Lieutenant,) b. July 6, 1839, enlisted as a private in the First Connecticut Cavalry, August 1862, was transferred to Fifth Connecticut Volunteers,

and promoted to a lieutenancy in Company F, Twentieth Connecticut Volunteers, July 15, 1863, joined the Twelfth Army Corps, which was consolidated with the Eleventh Army Corps and transferred to the West, and participated in all the battles from Nashville; Tenn., to Atlanta, was wounded at the battle of Peach-tree Creek, July 20, 1864, and was honorably discharged Oct. 22, 1864; *Charles*, (Captain,) b. Aug. 27, 1840, enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Connecticut Volunteers, Aug. 7, 1862, at the organization of the company was made First Sergeant, was promoted to Second Lieutenant July 27, 1863, to First Lieutenant Nov. 13, 1864, to Captain, Company F, Jan. 10, 1865, served in Army of Potomac, was engaged in all the battles around Richmond, Petersburg, Suffolk and Fredericksburg, was on Gen. Stannard's Staff at the battle of Chapin's farm, and was one of two that escaped unwounded, served until the surrender of Gen. Lee, and was mustered out with the Regiment, July 7, 1865.

35. ISAAC P. FENTON resides in Mansfield Centre, and is engaged in mercantile business. He m. Sarah Campbell, June 28, 1834. Children: *Helen E.*, b. Feb. 8, 1836, is now, and has been for several years, a teacher in the Providence Reform School; *Marcia C.*, b. Feb. 7, 1838, m. Wm. W. Lincoln, Jan. 24, 1864; *Sarah P.*, b. Aug. 10, 1840, m. A. M. Dougherty, of Newport, R. I., late Quartermaster in the Eighth Connecticut Volunteers; *Olive M.*, b. Dec. 15, 1843; *Franklin D.*, b. Jan. 10, 1846.

GOV. FENTON OF NEW YORK.

The following interesting personal sketch of the popular and excellent Governor of New York has been kindly furnished us by a gentleman conversant with his history and political career:—

36. REUBEN EATON FENTON was born in the present town of Carroll, Chautauque Co., N. Y., on the 4th day of July, 1819,—the youngest of five children. His parents were among the earliest settlers on the territory known as the Holland Land Company, then

comparatively an unsettled wilderness on the extreme Western frontier. They had little beyond their daily wants, and their son nothing to look forward to as a legacy, except the increased value of the lands occupied by the family, which were gradually being reclaimed. He had, therefore, to forego nearly all of the facilities of early education, and exemption from daily and severe labor, which were enjoyed in their youth by the majority of those now in public life.

After fifteen years of the vicissitudes attendant upon the life of a farmer's son, his parents found themselves in a condition to place him at what was then known as Cary's Academy, afterwards incorporated Farmer's College, — an institution of moderate pretensions, but of much real capacity, located at College Hill, six miles north of Cincinnati, Ohio. It was probably here that from observation and reflection Mr. Fenton conceived the commercial enterprise that in after years made him known and appreciated as one of the first business men of his section. After a term of two years, he left Cary's Academy; and, returning to his native county, he concluded his education, in a single term, at the Fredonia Academy. Beyond an occasional attendance at the district school, during the winter, his three years at the two academies was all the time or opportunity afforded him in the pursuit of knowledge conferred by the study of books and the inculcations of teachers. Whatever of readiness, of capacity, of polish of diction, and purity of expression he has developed in after life is due to an improvement of the brief period of study allowed him in his youth, and the habits of close application and careful observation which seem to be inherent in his nature.

After leaving school, Mr. Fenton passed nearly two years as a student in the law-office of the brothers Waite, in the village of Jamestown. Ill health compelled him to give up his studies. Had he continued and completed his course, it is more than probable he would have been to-day one of the ablest jurists of the State, and those who are familiar with his dominating traits of character may well be pardoned, if they sometimes entertain and express a regret, that fate took him from the pursuit of a profession he was so well fitted to embellish, and so certain to ennoble.

Quitting the study of the law in 1840, Mr. Fenton embarked in the pursuits which laid the foundation of his fortune, and gave him a business reputation for enterprise, integrity, and industry, to which traits of character he is probably indebted for the unparalleled success which has marked his career in public affairs.

Throughout the western range of this State, across the intervening States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, down to the great streams that empty into the Gulf, he was known as one of the prominent dealers in lumber. Employing a great number of men, and with these scattered at times over a large extent of territory, he yet ever and steadily controlled, and personally superintended, every branch and almost every detail of his business. He was, as may well be believed, successful. People — the unthinking and unobservant — called him “lucky;” but those connected with him, and those employed by him, knew that his success was due to unswerving rectitude and untiring application.

Mr. Fenton's first essay in political life was as Supervisor of his native town of Carroll. He was elected to this office without solicitation on his part; but, with a characteristic regard for the desires of his fellow citizens, he waived any personal objections, and took his seat in the County Board. Eight years in succession, he was re-elected; and for three years was President of the Board, although his party was hardly strong enough to form what would be called a respectable minority. In 1849, he was nominated for the Assembly, in the Eastern District of Chautauque, by the Democrats. The canvass was exceedingly animated, but his success was not secured. The dominating power of the Whigs in the district was too strong to be overcome, even by the personal popularity of the young Democrat. His opponent was elected by the meagre majority of twenty-one in a poll that for numbers had never been equalled in the district, and after a canvass of exceeding interest and spirit.

This approach to success, the vigor and personal devotion he had displayed, turned the attention of his political friends towards Mr. Fenton as an available candidate for Congress, and he was accordingly nominated in 1850. This nomination was, however, declined; and Mr. Fenton gave his attention again to the promotion of his business, seemingly abandoning the field of politics. But the

Democrats—in a large minority in the district—could not afford to let so much availability be wasted in commercial life. In 1852, Mr. Fenton was again nominated for Congress, and this time the pressure of political necessity, and the assurances of personal friends, were too strong to be resisted. The nomination was accepted; and the work necessary to insure success undertaken at once, and with that spirit of vigilance and skilled industry which marked the man. His opponent was Hon. G. A. S. Crocker, and the political majority in the district against the Democratic party was generally full three (3) thousand. But political fealty, party usage, and party traditions were unavailing to withstand the appeal which Mr. Fenton made to his constituents. When the sun went down on that day of the election, he was the chosen representative of the people of his district. It need hardly be said that the joy of his friends was only equalled by the chagrin and surprise of his opponents.

Mr. Fenton's advent at Washington was made at a time that history has since marked as a crisis in the political career of the Democratic party. It was followed by the introduction of the Nebraska Bill, as a leading measure of the party and the President. Upon this rock the Democratic party split; and, as might have been expected, here Mr. Fenton came to the road which led him from the party organization with which his whole life had been identified. Throughout the succeeding struggle for freedom, he was one of the foremost and most devoted of its champions. His worth was readily acknowledged by his colleagues, who as readily availed themselves of his experience and business capacity. They made him one of the working members of the House, and relied upon his sagacity and uninterrupted attendance to insure them against defeat or surprise. Occupying a place on the Committee on Commerce, he necessarily became charged with the performance of burdensome duties of investigation and research, from which the vast majority were exempt. But this labor brought its corresponding reward in his prompt recognition as one to be trusted as a legislator, and advanced as a party leader, in which positions he was both appreciated and followed.

Mr. Fenton declining to be a candidate for re-nomination in

1854, the Democratic party presented the name of Mr. Angel, of Cattaraugus; and the Whigs Mr. Patterson, of Chautauque, both proclaimed and recognized as anti-Nebraska men, thus agreeing in sentiment and action with the course pursued by Mr. Fenton. Two days before the election, both these gentlemen declined, in the face of certain defeat, and insisted upon Mr. Fenton's accepting a nomination as the "People's candidate," in opposition to Mr. Edwards, the Know-Nothing candidate. It was with great reluctance that he consented to this programme; for he could well see that it was then too late to organize a new party, as it were, and carry the election. But the appeal was so strong that he did not feel at liberty to reject the entreaties of his friends. Forty-eight hours after, the election was decided against him — not unexpected — by a majority of more than sixteen hundred less than that given for the Know-Nothing general ticket.

In 1856, Mr. Fenton was again nominated for Congress by the National Republicans, running against Mr. Edwards, his competitor two years previous, and was triumphantly elected. In 1858, he was again nominated and elected; again nominated and elected in 1862, — each time by increased and increasing evidence of popularity, his majority ranging at times as high as 7,000. It is probably the only instance in which any district — politically organized as was his — has so often returned a Representative.

Our limits will not permit us to examine in detail the Congressional career of Mr. Fenton. As we said, he was known as a "working" rather than a "talking" member. But there were times, — when he deemed the occasion demanded it, — when he showed that he could speak, and speak well. His efforts were always marked for concise logic and clearness of expression, and he never left a subject until he had fully developed his own views, and what he believed to be the wishes of his constituents. A breadth of mature thought and practical application characterized all he said. This is well illustrated in the following extract from a speech made in 1855, on a bill regulating immigration to this country: —

"I freely admit the existence of evils growing out of the system of tactics adopted or practised by both political parties in their relations to our adopted citizens. Their prejudices, as a class, have too often been

appealed to, and their suffrages secured by means alike discreditable and pernicious; and, so far as this order may correct this and other evils of the old organizations, it has my approval and co-operation. The purity of our elective franchise depends on the influences that control its exercise, and therefore, all appeals to the cupidity, ambition or prejudices of the electors should be discountenanced by every friend of our institutions. But surely these good ends can be accomplished by open means, without infringing upon the acknowledged rights of any of our citizens, or doing violence to sentiments which recognize the brotherhood of man. The first general idea that has attracted my notice, said to be partially embraced in the designs of this party, is a restriction upon emigration to this country from other nations. That the emigration hither of the paupers and criminals of Europe, giving to us the dregs of a population which the reformatory laws and regulations of despotic governments have cast out even of their jurisdiction as unwholesome, should be prohibited, cannot, I apprehend, admit of a serious doubt. The Committee of which I have the honor of being a member, have had this subject under consideration, and have reported a bill carefully guarded, and of great stringency upon this subject, which, if adopted, I confidently hope will remedy to a considerable extent the growing evil. On the other hand, that obstructions should be placed in the way of the intelligent, industrious, sober and enterprising men who seek a home in this proclaimed 'land of the free and home of the oppressed, with the hope of bettering their condition, I cannot believe will be tolerated, on due reflection, by any liberal mind. Let us inquire, Mr. Speaker, if it would not be better, more in accordance with the spirit and genius of our institutions, that while we guard, so far as we may, against the evils I have referred to, we should turn our attention with renewed interest to 'Americanizing,' if I may be allowed the use of the term, the foreign population now among us, and those who may hereafter come to our shores. The foreign element is already here, and its magnitude and importance will be increased. Causes beyond our control have long ago settled this question. The manner in which these people are to be received and treated, presents a grave and important question which we must meet. Will they be likely to forget their early habits and impressions, to regard our country and its laws with favor, and become the earnest promoters of its interests in peace, and the defenders of its safety in war, if we close our hearts and our sympathies against them, and treat them as a proscribed and suspected people? Will they not remain among us, aliens in sentiment and feeling as well as in character and condition? Will not the unavoidable effect of an intolerant and exclusive policy be to unite and combine the foreign population in a community of feeling and of interest, and place them beyond the influence of the sentiments that fill our own bosoms as American citizens, proud of our country, and solicitous of its welfare? In this condi-

tion, would they not form in our social and political economy an element of weakness, if not of danger? These, it seems to me, sir, are interesting inquiries, and demand the honest investigation and conscientious action of every one who may be in a position to influence the direction of public affairs. The experience of the world may be safely consulted as a guide in this matter. The endless contests, in almost every other country on earth, between classes and conditions, the oppressed and the free, the privileged and proscribed, furnish lessons of instruction and warning; they serve as beacon lights to warn the thoughtless and indifferent of impending danger. Philanthropy instead of self-interest, wisdom and not passion, should influence our reflections upon this subject; and, thus actuated, we need not fear that we shall go very far astray. The intelligent judgment of a great and noble people, in whose veins courses the best blood of races, will settle the question in accordance with the rights of all the parties, the dictates of enlightened civilization, the best interests of the country, and the spirit of the age. I have regarded the mission of this country with somewhat different views than it would seem are cherished by the organization of which I have been speaking. We have claimed for ourselves the purpose of civilizing, Christianizing, and elevating the human race. These men are our brethren; for our common Father 'hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.' Let us, then, so far as practicable, elevate, disenthral and redeem those who are cast among us, from the vices and errors of their years in a foreign land, under governments and with people less just and less favored than our own; and, recognizing their common brotherhood, seek to give them a share in our common glorious inheritance."

In the explanation of measures pending before the House, he was exceedingly happy and universally successful. During the last four years of his Congressional life, Mr. Fenton was almost constantly in Washington. The war was then filling every portion of the Capital with sick and wounded soldiers. By natural affinity, he seemed to be attracted towards these maimed heroes, who were giving their lives in defence of the political rights of which he himself had been so early and so steadfast a champion. Whenever an hour could be snatched from the engrossing duties of legislation, it was given to the sick in the hospitals. Whenever a want was to be supplied, his purse was known to be open, and the calls were never made in vain. His name was a household word in the vast corridors of the hospitals in and around Washington, and the troops of New York always felt, "and did not vainly

feel," that they might not only greet him as a brother, but rely upon him as a father.

In 1864, while serving his fifth term in Congress, Mr. Fenton was nominated by the Union Convention as the candidate of that party for Governor. His opponent was the then Governor Horatio Seymour. After an animated canvass, he was elected by a majority exceeding the average majority of his party. He was inaugurated on the 1st day of January, 1865, and entered at once upon the discharge of the duties of his office. He was a comparative stranger to the working of the State Government, never having been a State officer, and yet he grasped the Executive helm with great steadiness and intelligence. The fidelity and purpose with which he has kept the ship in its course are known and approved by all, and it is little to say that few, if any of our Governors, have been less censured and more commended.

During all political conflicts, the fiercest and among the most memorable in the history of the State; and the formation of new organizations which resulted in the association together of those who had once been politically opposed "the gain of enemies and the loss of friends" — his feelings were never so embittered as to prevent polite interchanges of gentlemanly intercourse and regard with the most bitter and virulent of his opponents.

It requires no affectation on his part to thus deport himself: it is the impulse of an open and frank disposition, and a natural generosity of bearing; a consciousness of his own strength, and the justice of the cause he espouses, and the rectitude of his acts. And, while he is not averse to the honorable subjugation of his enemies or opponents, no one, perhaps, is more magnanimous and generous in his triumphs.

As Mr. Fenton's political life has been by far the most eventful and stirring, we have dwelt at greater length upon that portion of his career. But neither the extensive business operations that have engaged his attention, nor the exciting political scenes through which he has passed, have precluded him from devoting a share of his time to the more quiet and peaceful avocation of literary and agricultural research.

The noble science of agriculture has engaged much of his time

during the hours of relaxation from business, and those who have heard or read his agricultural addresses—finished literary productions—will not fail to perceive that this ennobling art has engrossed a due share of his attention and study. On the 6th of November, 1866, Mr. Fenton was re-elected Governor of New York by an increased majority.

Governor Fenton married Miss Elizabeth Scudder, and has three children: *Josephine, Jeannette, and Reuben Earle.*