

The Centuries in Elma

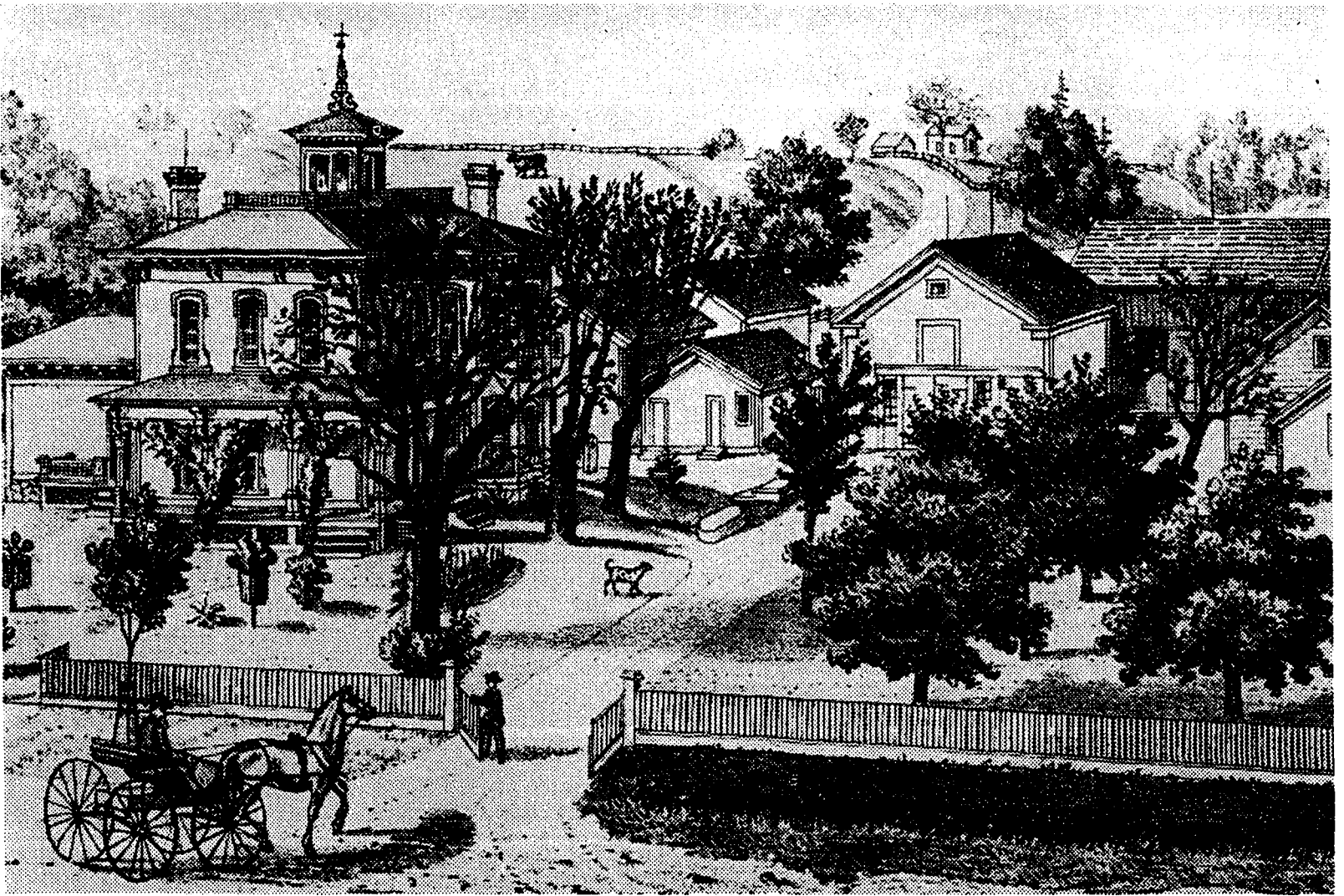
A Compilation of Historical Accounts by
many Authors relative to the History of the
Town of Elma, Erie County, New York.

Edited by
FRED IRVING SIGMAN, P.E.
Historian of the Town of Elma.

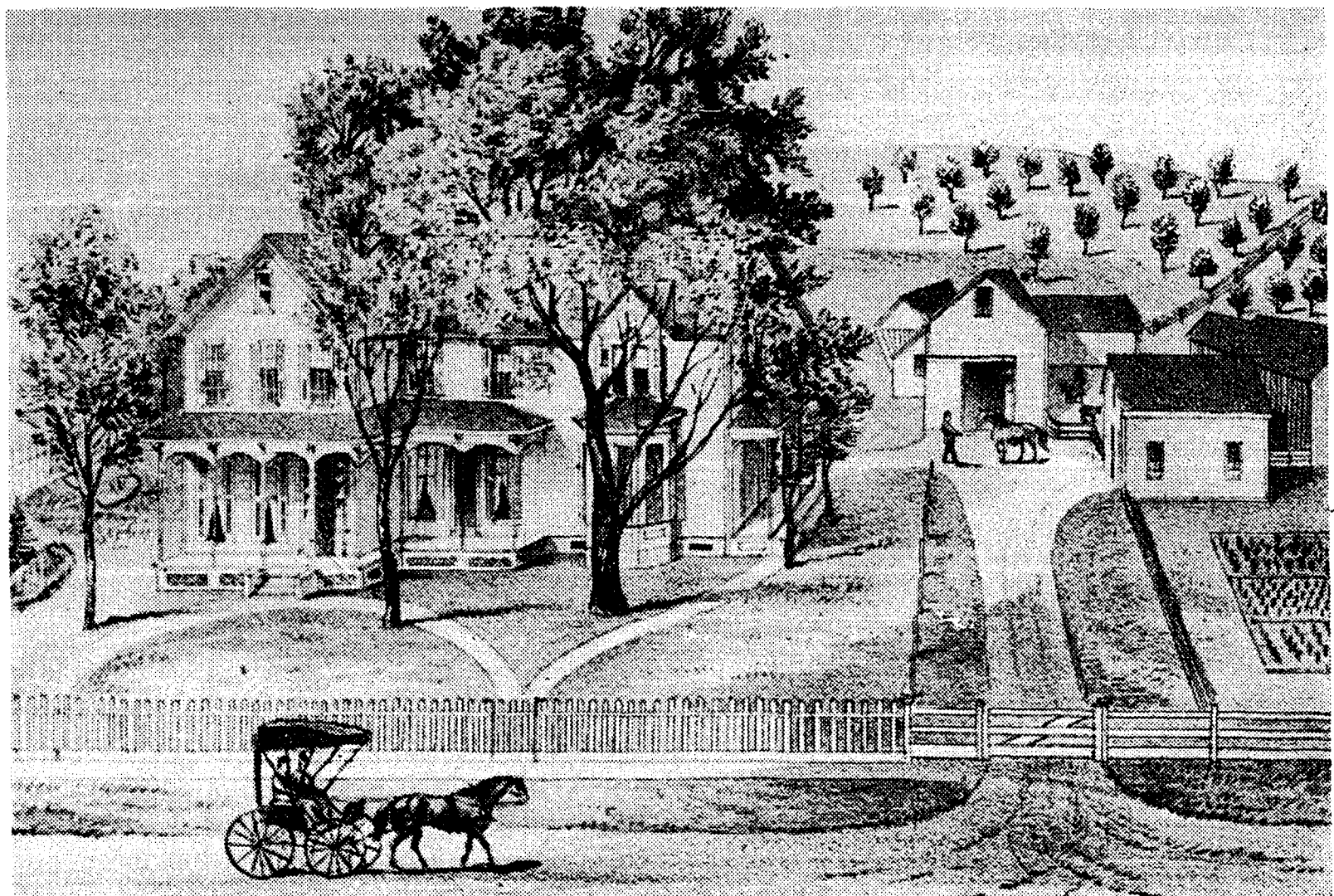
1956

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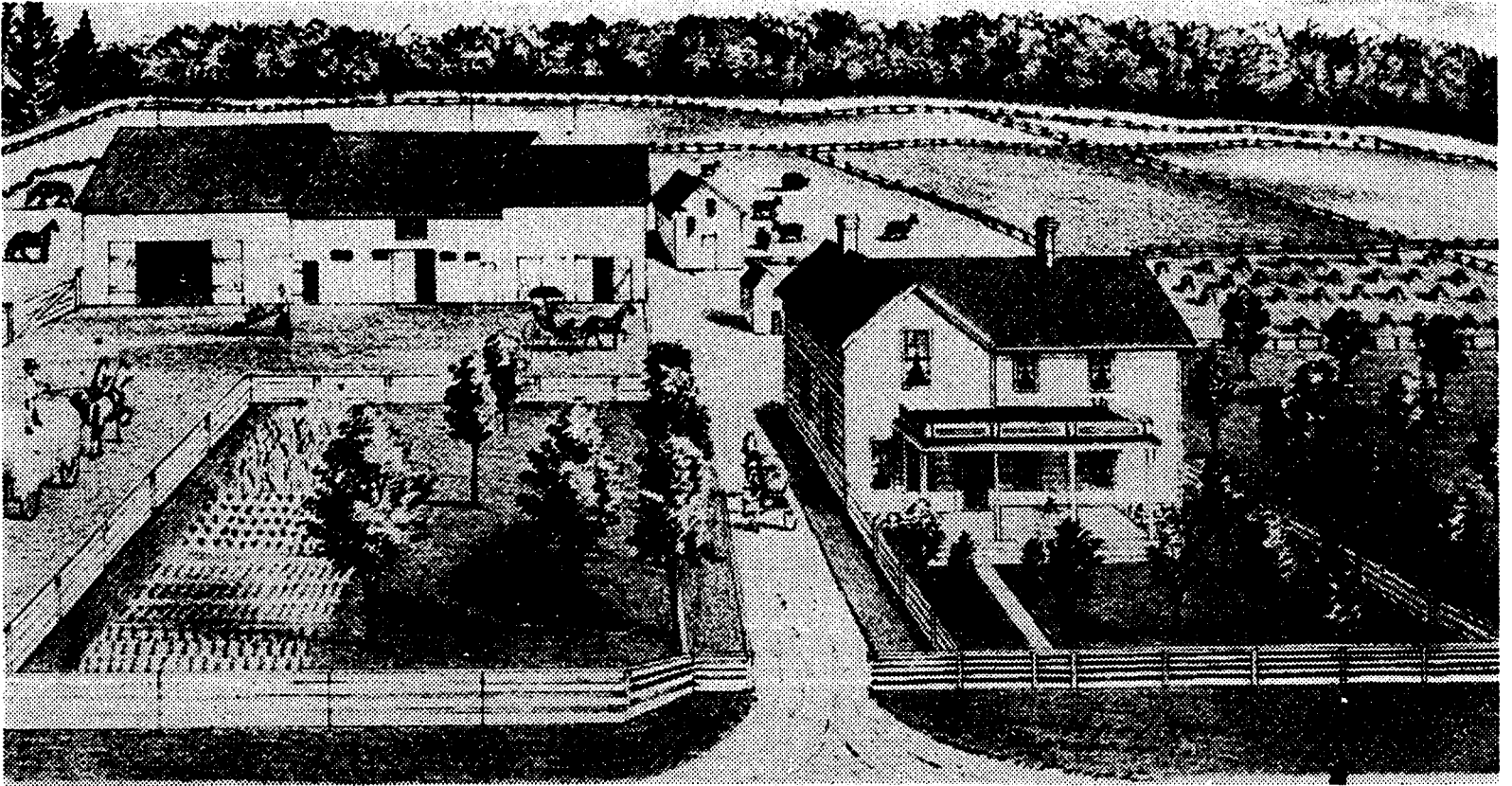
Price \$4.50



Res. of Capt. C. W. Hurd, built on East Side of Bowen Road in 1873, replaced Original House built in 1846, in which first Town Board meeting was held, March 3rd, 1857. Original House was moved to its present location north of Methodist Church, and is now the Methodist Parsonage.



Res. of J. B. Briggs, Esq., Built on West Side of Bowen Road in 1847.



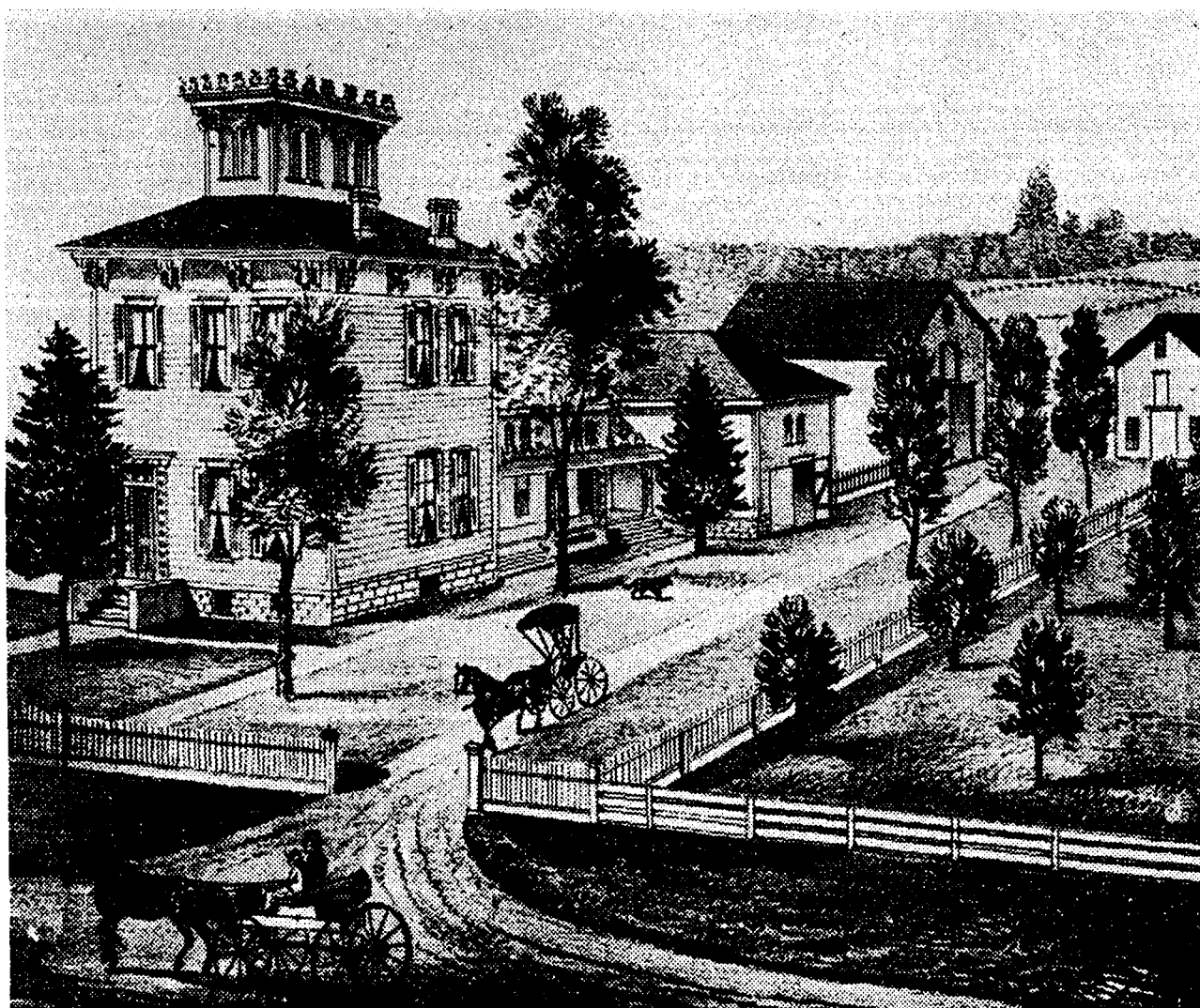
Farm south of Springbrook first occupied by Mr. Alfred Marvel in 1848.



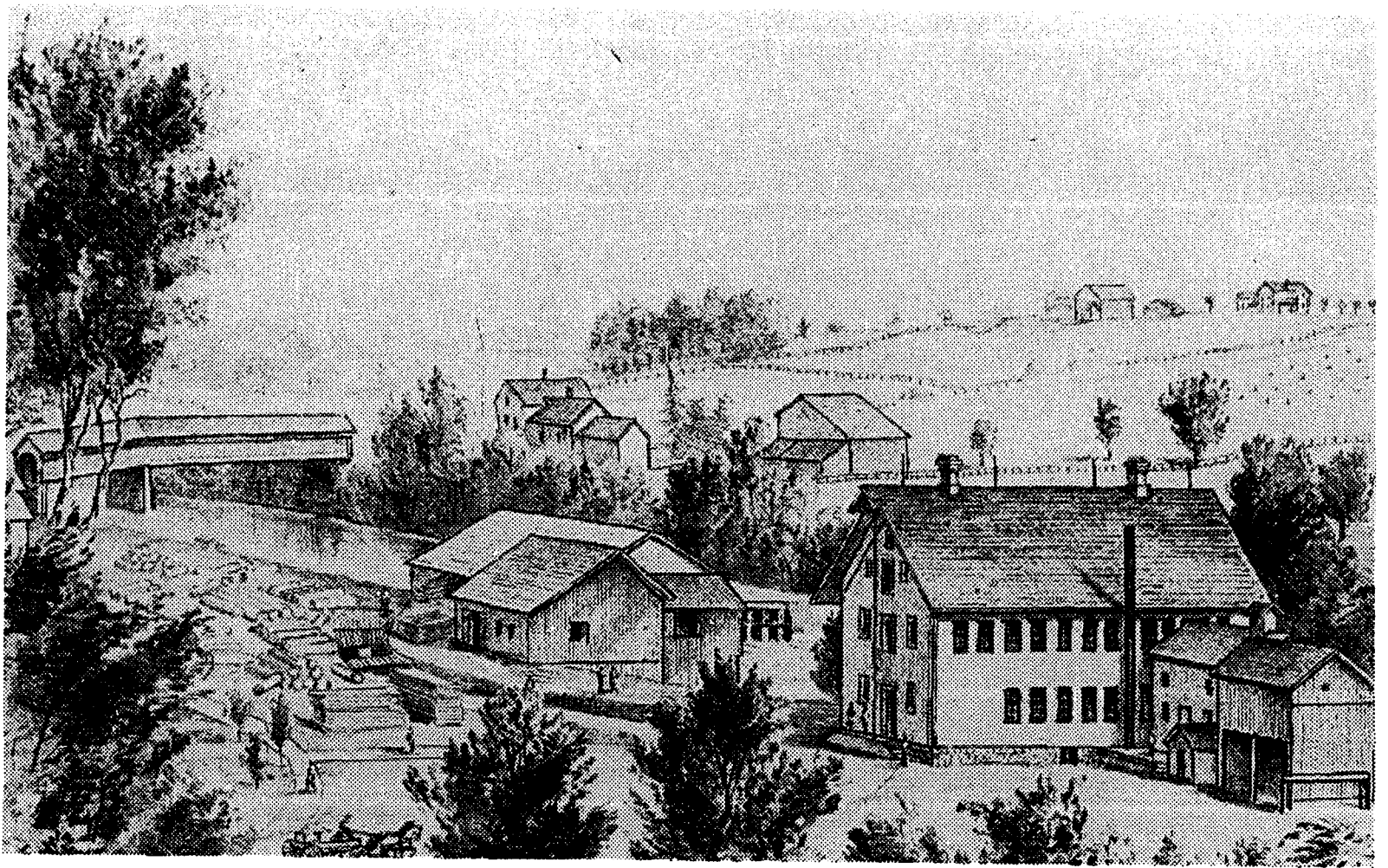
Northrup Road Bridge. 1861 — original bridge and mill at same site was built in 1845.



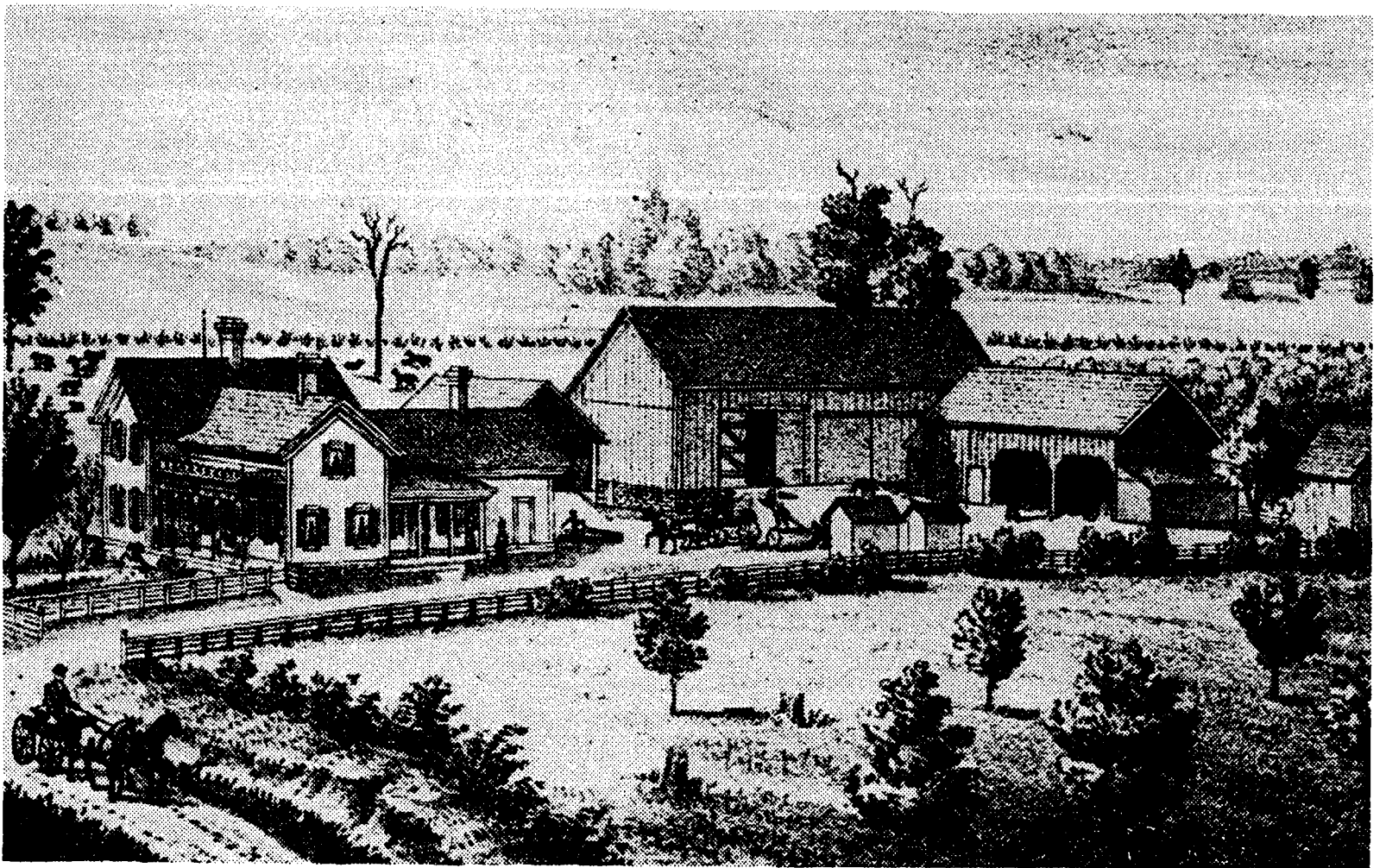
House built on Lot No. 45, north side of Woodard Road, in 1851 by the Ebenezers. First used as accommodation of log cutters, then used as a "Prison House". It is now located on the south side of the road.



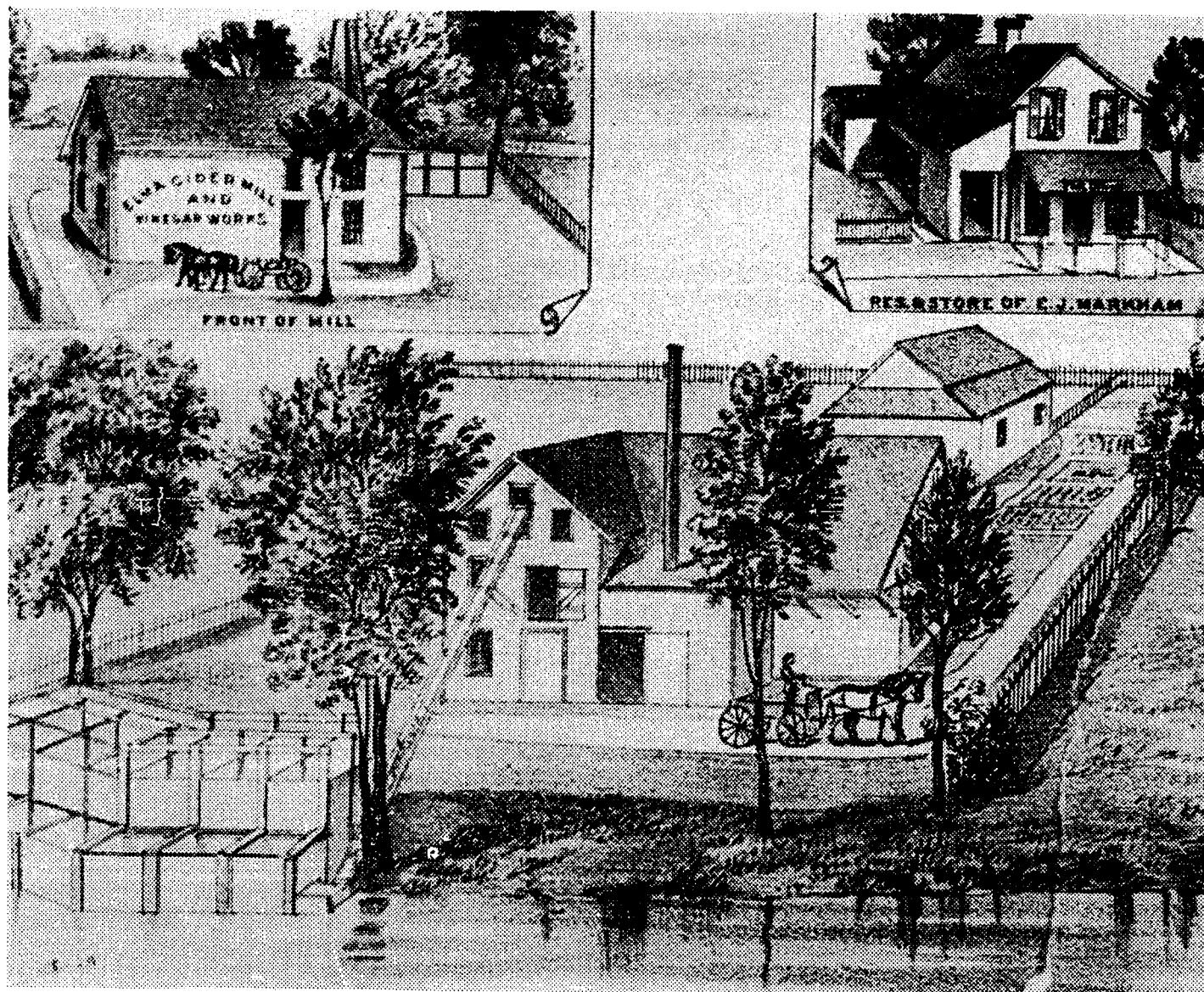
Res. built by Lewis Bullis on southeast corner of Lot 29 in 1859 at a cost of \$12,000. The house, owned by Henry Stitz, was destroyed by fire, Dec. 7th, 1939.



E. S. Allen Woolen Mill and Saw Mill, East Elma, 1866.



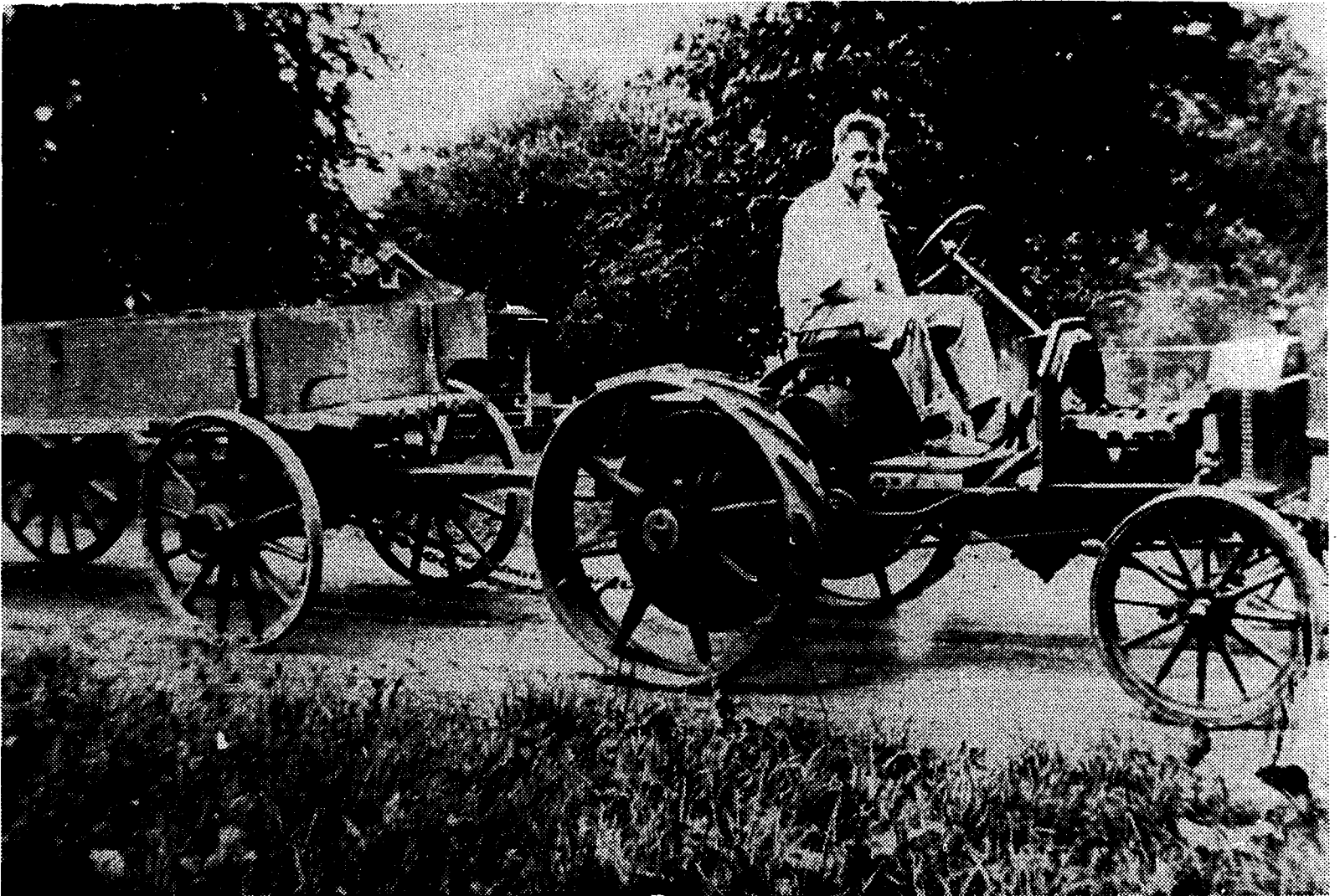
Res. of John Luders, Schultz Road, Lot 40. House built about 1867.



Cider Mill, Res. and Store of E. J. Markham, Cider Mill Built in 1880, Residence built in 1886.



Elma Center business section about 1913



First tractor used in Elma built by Lawrence W. Lee and John Klumpp in 1914 at "Bonnie Brook" farm, Bowen Road.



Elma Memorial Monument and Town Hall, originally District School No. 6

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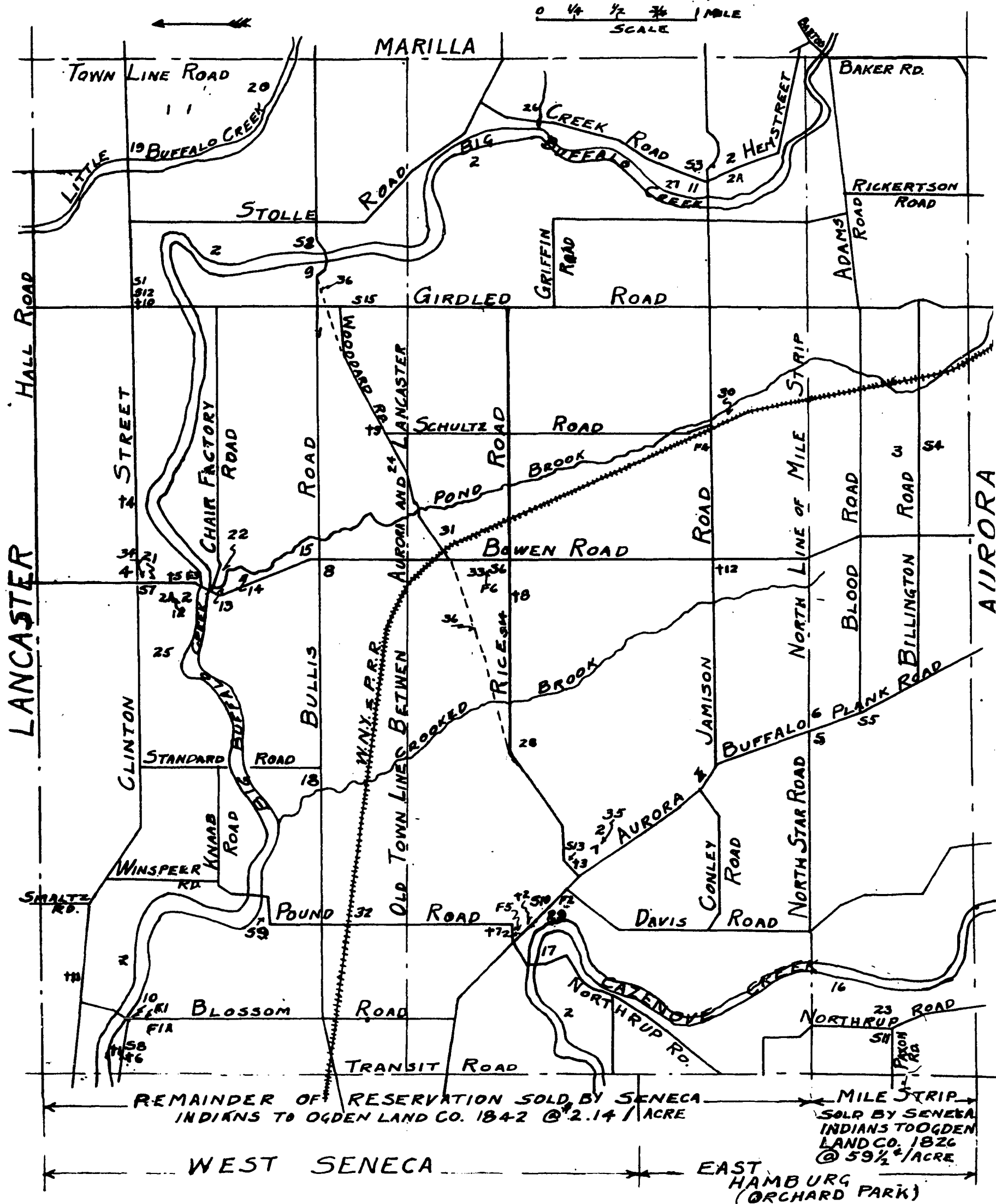
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TOWN Line Road



II

HISTORICAL MAP, TOWN OF ELMA, N.Y.



HISTORICAL MAP LEGEND

CHURCHES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> † 1. Ebenezer Society, 1849
German Evangelical Society, 1862
Present Church built, 1880
Weslyn Methodist, 1949 † 2. Presbyterian Society of Springbrook, 1851
Union Society, 1869 † 3. St. Vincent de Paul R. C., 1853-55
Present church built, 1874 † 4. Mother Freiberg R. C. Chapel, 1854 † 5. Elma Methodist Church, 1859 † 6. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1864
Present church built, 1872 † 7. Springbrook German Evangelical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society, 1872
Springbrook Methodist, 1893
Springbrook Community, 1937 † 8. Rice Road German Evangelical Society, 1874 † 9. St. John's Lutheran Church
Original building now Sunday School building, 1874
Present building, 1887 † 10. Annunciation B. V. M. Church
Present building, 1906 † 11. St. Gabriel's R. C. Church, 1925 † 12. Faith Lutheran Church, 1930. |
|--|--|

SCHOOLS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S 1 Cotton District, 1852 S 2 Bullis District, 1851 S 3 East Elma District, 1856 S 4 District No. 4, 1831, Emily Paine, first school teacher in Elma S 5 District No. 5, about 1832 S 6 Rice Road District, 1856 S 7 Elma Village District, 1847 S 8 Blossom District, 1849 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S 9 Winspear District, 1856 S10 Springbrook District, 1846 S11 District No. 11, 1833 S12 R. C. School, 1864 S13 R. C. School, 1908 S14 Iroquois Central, Rice Road Elementary, 1954 S15 Iroquois Central Elementary and High School, 1955 |
|--|---|

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F1 Blossom Volunteer Fire Company, 1893 moved to F I A in 1945 F2 Springbrook Volunteer Fire Co., 1925 F3 Reuther's Store and Hall, 1897
Grange Hall, 1912
Elma Volunteer Fire Company, 1937 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> F4 Jamison Volunteer Fire Company, 1950
Building originally Jamison Depot F5 I. O. O. F. Temple, 1894. F6 Elma Town Hall, 1956
formerly District School No. 6, 1875 |
|--|---|

MISCELLANEOUS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Three Indian Mounds (2) Seneca Indian Villages (2A) Seneca Indian Burial Grounds (3) First Log House, built by Lyman Chandler, 1828 (4) Large Elm Tree which gave the name to the town (5) North Star Tavern, 1831 (6) Taber Earl Tavern, 1829 (7) Chief Daniel Two Gun Log House, 1834
Mouse Nest Tavern, 1839
(Present Fred Becker Estate) (8) Hurd Tavern, Elma Center House, 1858 (9) Indian-Estabrook-Bullis Saw Mill, 1826 (10) Ebenezer Society Saw Mill, 1849 (11) Hatch and Riley, Hemstreet Saw Mill, 1936 (12) The American Tavern, 1845 (13) Bancroft Saw Mill, 1845 (14) Clark W. Hurd Saw Mill, 1854 (15) Standart Saw Mill, 1844 (16) Davis Saw Mill, 1830 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (17) Northrup Saw Mill, 1844 (18) Orr's Saw Mill, 1856 (19) Moore's Saw Mill, 1855 (20) Titus Saw Mill, 1856 (21) Hurd and Briggs Saw Mill, 1845 (22) Bancroft Chair Factory, 1852 (23) Davis Cemetery, 1856 (24) Prison House (now on south side Woodard Road) 1851 (25) Elma Cemetery, 1853 (26) Hanvey Saw Mill, 1854 (27) Allen Woolen Mill and Saw Mill, 1866 (28) Union Cemetery, 1867 (29) Oak Hill Cemetery, 1850 (30) Jamison Road Depot (31) Elma Center Depot (32) Springbrook Depot (33) Town Hall — Originally No. 6 District School, built 1876 (34) Capt. C. W. Hurd Residence, location first Town Board meeting, 1857 (35) Chief Daniel Two Gun Spring (36) Original Logging Corduroy Road |
|--|--|

Preface

This Book is largely a compilation of the work of many individual writers into a single volume or scrap book, designed to present the historical story of the Town of Elma, Erie Co., N. Y.

In 1902, a History of the Town of Elma written by Warren Jackman, was published. Mr. Jackman, a surveyor, came to Elma in 1851. He was the first Town Clerk and served in that capacity from 1857 to 1860. He also surveyed most of the roads and many of the lots in the town. He was also very active in church work and other public services. Thru these activities, he obtained a wide knowledge of the town and its people and hence, was remarkably qualified to write its early history.

The first fourteen chapters of this book, with the exception of a few corrections and additions, are taken verbatim from the Jackman History. Some portions of the Jackman book are not included in the present volume, since they deal with State and Federal history which is readily obtainable from other sources. Part of the statistical data contained in Chapters XXIII and XXIV are also taken from the Jackman History. Mr. Jackman did a very fine and commendable service for the town in this work which required four years time to compile and, which he gave to the people of the town without compensation.

Chapter XVII is a history of East Elma presented almost entirely as written by Henry L. Allen in 1938. Mr. Allen lived in East Elma as a boy and worked in the woolen mill there as a young man. He was very successful in the raising of race horses and went to Chicago where he wrote many articles for the "Horse World" magazine. He, also, served as a judge at many horse fairs and races throughout the country. I am indebted to Mr. Charles Simmons for the use of the Allen manuscript.

While I have retained all of the items of a personal nature written in the Jackman History, in the chronological items covered in Chapter XVI from 1901 to 1956, personal items have been omitted to a large extent. To have included them, would have made the book altogether too voluminous. It would also be impossible to gather all such items of interest and some would most certainly have been overlooked.

I am very grateful to my wife, Mrs. Ethel G. Sigman, for her co-operation in this work and for the use of her diaries and scrap books. She has made a hobby of scrap books and those covering the Town of Elma occurrences in the last thirty years, were very valuable in this undertaking.

I am also grateful to the Town Clerk, Joseph Ochler, and his wife and the Town Supervisor, Merle E. Reuther, for their assistance in obtaining data relative to the subject.

I also desire to thank the following individuals who have given me historical information; Mrs. Burton Allen, John Becker, Ernest Bleeck, Benjamin Buffum, Myron A. Clark, Benjamin Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hurd, Clair Persons, Lawrence Lee, Earl Hotwes, William Jasel.

I wish to thank the editors of all the churches and organizations who have co-operated in presenting the story of their respective institutions. It was felt that the most accurate and acceptable method of obtaining such data, was to let each organization write its own history.

I am disappointed that we were unable to obtain a list of World War I veterans and that the list of World War II veterans only includes those who lived in Elma at the time they entered the service.

Much that is written in the book is based on memories and some of it is based on traditions. Hence, it cannot be considered entirely correct. However, it is hoped that the imperfections will be overlooked and the book will help the people of Elma to appreciate the historical background of their town.

FRED I. SIGMAN, P.E.

Town of Elma Historian



CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY OF THE TOWN OF ELMA

THE Town of Elma lies a little northeast of the center of the County of Erie in the State of New York and is bounded by the following towns: on the north by Lancaster, on the east by Marilla, on the south by Aurora and on the west by Orchard Park and West Seneca. The Town of Elma extends six miles east and west and about five and two-thirds miles north and south. It contains 21,390 acres of land for assessment of taxes and is known on deeds and legal papers as part of the Buffalo Creek Reservation and also as Town 10 Range 6 of the Holland Land Company Surveys.

TOPOGRAPHY

No causes are known, or are supposed to have existed since the Glacial Period, that would produce any general or local changes in the face of the country in this locality. We may therefore conclude that the hills, the plains and the valleys are today practically as they have been for hundreds, and possibly thousands of years.

STREAMS

The principal streams in the town are the Little Buffalo, the Big Buffalo, the Cazenove Creeks and Pond Brook.

The Little Buffalo Creek enters the town from Marilla about one and one-half miles south from the northeast corner of Elma, in a channel about twenty feet wide and three to five feet deep in a valley sixty to eighty rods wide; has a general northwest course and passes into Lancaster about seven-eighths of a mile west from the northeast corner of Elma. The valley through which this stream flows is sixty to eighty feet below the general level of the country, with steep bluffy sides or banks.

The Big Buffalo Creek crosses the town line from Marilla about three-fourths of a mile north from the southeast corner of Elma in a channel eighty to one hundred and twenty feet wide and six to ten feet deep. This is a very crooked stream, its general, tortuous course being northwest for about one

mile, thence northerly through East Elma, and on for about three and one-half miles, thence westerly four and one-half miles passing through Elma village, thence north-westerly one and one-fourth miles through Blossom, into West Seneca about one-third of a mile south from the northwest corner of the town of Elma. The valley of this stream is sixty to one hundred rods wide with steep banks, generally perpendicular walls of shale on one or the other side. The bed of the stream is thirty to eighty feet below the surrounding country.

The Cazenove Creek, named for Theophilus Cazenove, agent for the Holland Land Company, crosses the Aurora town line about one mile east from the southwest corner of Elma, in a channel eighty to one hundred feet wide, and six to ten feet deep, takes a general north course for two and one-half miles to Spring Brook, thence westerly one mile crossing into West Seneca about two and one-half miles north from the southwest corner of Elma. The valley of this stream is sixty to one hundred rods wide, with generally steep banks sixty to one hundred feet high and perpendicular walls of shale on one or the other side.

Pond Brook has its name from large ponds at its head, which are in the town of Aurora just across the Elma town line and about one and one-half miles west from the northeast corner of Aurora. The general course of this brook is west of north for five miles, when it enters the Big Buffalo Creek at Elma village. Its channel is eight to twenty feet wide and two to four feet deep in a valley six to twenty rods wide, with banks eight to forty feet high.

GEOLOGY

The lowest rocks are the Hamilton Shales succeeded by Tully limestone and Genesee slate.

The Hamilton Shales form the bed and banks of the big Buffalo Creek from the west line of the town to where the Bullis Mills were located; the bed of Pond Brook, from the Big Buffalo Creek to where the William Standart saw mill was built, just north from the Bullis Road, and the bed and walls of the Cazenove Creek from the west line of the town to the Northrup Mills at Spring Brook.

The Tully limestone, so called because it is found near the top of the hills in the town of Tully in the south part of Onondaga County, is also called encrinal limestone because of the great number of fossil remains of Encrinites, the joints and stems of which are small calcareous disks, sometimes called fossil button moulds. This Limestone crops out in the Cazenove Creek at the Northrup mills, and in Pond Brook just north of the Bullis Road, and again in the Big Buffalo Creek just north or below the Bullis Bridge.

The Genesee slate, lying immediately above the Tully lime-

stone, forms the bed and walls of the Big Buffalo and Cazenove Creeks above the points named to the south and east parts of the town and frequently crops out on the hillsides in those places.

A ridge or elevation ten to twenty feet high extends in a northeast and southwest direction across the town a little north of the centre. That portion of the town lying north of this ridge is the same nearly level portion of the county that extends east and north from Buffalo, and in Elma is broken only by the valley of the Big Buffalo Creek and the gullies caused by its small branches. The soil is a clayey loam, resting on the Hamilton shales. South of this ridge the surface becomes more rolling; the highest hills in the southeast part of the town being one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet above the beds of the streams. The soil in this hilly part of the town is a drift formation of gravel and loose boulders. The soil in the valleys of the stream is alluvium.

FOREST

This town was probably for many centuries, and to a time within the remembrance of many persons now living, a dense forest or wilderness with a very heavy growth of timber and was the home of wild animals and the wilder tribes of savages called Indians.

TIMBER

The principal varieties of timber may be given as white and yellow pine, hemlock, white, red and black oak, white and black ash, sugar, rock, and white or soft maple, black walnut, butternut, shell bark hickory, basswood, whitewood, cucumber, bitternut, black cherry, iron wood and birch.

Pine and oak were found principally in the eastern, southern and central parts of the town. The other varieties were common everywhere.



CHAPTER II.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

WHEN the American Continent was first discovered, the voyagers everywhere, north, south, and east, on the coast, and in the interior, found the country occupied by a people they called Indians.

These Indians were generally roving tribes, changing their places of residence as wars or hunting made the change necessary. A few of the tribes were permanently located, had villages, cleared fields and orchards, and some of the villages were enclosed with palisades as a protection against any attacking enemy.

The State of New York, except what is now Erie and Chautauqua counties and the southeast corner of the State was claimed and occupied by five tribes, viz: Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas; known the world over as the Iroquois or Five Nations.

The Mohawks had their principal villages on the Mohawk River; their territory embracing the northern and eastern part of the State.

The Oneidas lived on and near Oneida Lake. The Onondagas occupied the territory around Onondaga Lake. The Cayugas had their villages around Cayuga Lake. The Senecas before 1780 had their chief village, Kan-a-de-sa-ga, just west of the present site of Geneva, at the foot of Seneca Lake. They were the most numerous, powerful and warlike of the Five Nations.

The question has often been asked: "When did these five tribes obtain possession of so much territory?"

ONONDAGA AND SENECA TRIBES

History tells us that when Champlain, the French explorer, came from Montreal into Lake Ontario and up the Oswego River in July, 1609, he found the Onondagas in full possession of all that country, and when the French first came to the Niagara River they found the Senecas there; but when they reached Lake Erie they found a small tribe at the foot of the Lake to which they gave the name of Neuters; and on the south shore of the Lake were the Erie or Cat Indians.

The Neuters and Eries were overpowered by the Senecas in

a war between them about 1645, and the result was that the Senecas came into possession of all the land and villages of the defeated tribes.

Some nations which have had no written language by which to keep a record of important events, have used pictures or characters as emblems carved on stone or metals. Other nations have made characters or figures of some sort on blocks of soft clay which when baked, become indestructible. These are now being found in excavations and ruins of long lost and buried cities in the east.

Other nations not so far advanced in civilization [the American Indians belonging to this class] have kept in remembrance some of their most important events by tradition; parents telling the story to their children and friends, and so on through many generations.

It is not at all strange that these stories from being told and retold many times may, in some respects, become changed and so tradition, as a rule, must be taken as rather uncertain and unsatisfactory evidence; but the main or leading thought can always be found.

TRADITIONS

The Onondagas and the Senecas were the only tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy that had any tradition of anything prior to the settlements made by the whites.

The traditions of the Iroquois nation since Champlain came into their country in 1609, accord exactly with the history that we have of them; and as there is this agreement between our history and their traditions so long as we have known them, it is fair to infer that their earlier traditions are nearly correct; and as they furnish the only, and therefore the best evidence we can obtain, we are obliged to accept these traditions as approximately correct.

The Onondaga tradition is that they were the oldest if not the mother tribe of the Five Nations.

That several hundred years before they ever saw a white man, they lived in Canada; and being defeated in wars with a superior tribe, they fled in boats across Lake Ontario and up the Oswego River to Onondaga Lake where they stopped. Here they lived and as they increased in numbers and extended their settlements, they found fortified villages of inhabitants who were acquainted with agriculture and had cultivated fields and orchards whom they overpowered and took possession of their lands.

They called them Mound Builders. The Onondagas have no tradition as to the time they overpowered this people, or as to the time when they organized their system of clans, or when they formed their confederacy of the Five Nations, all of which may have been 600 or 1000 years ago. We learn by this tradi-

tion that these Mound Builders were here before the Onondagas came from Canada. It is not necessary to follow their tradition since 1609, as we have a written history since that time. The Onondagas being the central tribe and probably the original stock of the Iroquois, to them was entrusted the care of the sacred council fires, and upon their territory were held the great councils of the Nation to decide all questions of great importance, wars, peace and all matters of general policy and interest.

The Seneca traditions make no mention of their coming from another country but that they broke out of the earth from a large mountain at the head of Canandaigua Lake. Thence they derive their name, "Ge-nun-de-wah," or Great Hill, and are called the Great Hill People.

They have a tradition that before and for some time after their origin at Ge-nun-de-wah, the country about the lakes and far away was thickly inhabited by a race of civil, enterprising and industrious people who had cultivated fields and large villages, and that they were totally destroyed by a great serpent, which also destroyed nearly all of the Senecas, only enough of whom were spared to replenish their tribe.

Mary Jemison, also called the White Woman, of whom we shall have more to say later on, thus gives the Seneca tradition of a people who were here before they came and, no doubt, they were the same people referred to in the Onondaga tradition, and the same race that have left mounds and forts all through the country from the Mississippi River to central New York. The tradition that they, the Senecas, broke out of the earth from a large mountain, probably refers to the fact that they settled there and built a fort on the top of the mountain, thus making it their home village.

We can hardly imagine what the serpent was that, they say, destroyed all the people who were there before they came, and which came so near destroying them also; producing such widespread desolation, unless it might have been some plague or contagious disease.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN 1956

Based on archaeological investigations, discoveries and studies, the first men appeared in America approximately twenty thousand years ago. They came to America by the way of Siberia and Alaska and eventually found their way down the west coast to Central America. From Central America, they gradually spread up through the Mississippi Valley to the north, and through the Ohio Valley to the east, and the Missouri Valley to the west. The movement, at first, was made up of families and clans which eventually grew and collected to form the various tribes. The first to arrive in Western New York were the more adventurous, migratory and war like

Algonkin tribes in search of better fishing and hunting grounds.

Of those who remained in Central America, the Mayas developed a more advanced culture, built cities and were the first to cultivate and grow corn. The Cliff Dwellers and Pueblos of the southwest and the Mound Builders of the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys were descendants of the Mayas and brought some of the Mayan culture to these sections of America. Archaeologists have uncovered many traces of these cultured people but their fate is one of the mysteries of pre-historic time.

Archaeological discoveries thus far, dates the first human inhabitant in America back to 20,000 years ago through the finding in Minnesota of the skeleton of a girl buried in clay deposited at that time. Artifacts found in Central New York similarly place the first inhabitant there at about 6,000 years ago. The recent development of radio active tests, known as the C14, is very helpful in accurately dating archaeological discoveries. Carbon 14 atoms are radioactive, similar to those of uranium. Cosmic rays, high in the atmosphere, react with nitrogen to create Carbon 14, which, as a component of carbon dioxide, are breathed in by humans and animals and absorbed by growing plants and trees. The radioactivity breaks down very slowly at a known rate and its present intensity can be readily measured. The amount of radio activity still remaining in a find, accurately dates the relic.

New archaeological discoveries are continually being made, largely by accident, in the excavations for basements, roads, etc. It is very important to notify the nearest archaeological authority of any find thus made, since such discoveries can be very valuable to archaeological history.

The Neuters, a peaceable tribe settled on both sides of the Niagara River, the Eries, a more warlike tribe settled along the south shore of Lake Erie and the Senecas, who eventually joined with the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas and Cayugas to form the Iroquois confederacy, occupied the region between the Genesee River and Lake Cayuga. These tribes were all later arrivals from the south than the Mound Builders and it is probable that the Senecas are responsible for the annihilation or assimilation of the Mound Builders. Recorded history in Erie County starts with the arrival of the French early in the 17th century. Father De la Roche Daillon, a French missionary visited the Neuter nation in 1626 and spent the winter with them. He was the first white man on record in western New York.

MOUND BUILDERS

These Mound Builders left nothing whereby their history can be learned, and only by the traditions of these two tribes

of the Iroquois, have we any intimation so as to enable us to even guess when they lived there—whether six hundred or two thousand years ago.

Two of these mounds or forts are on the tops of two hills near the northeast corner of the town of Aurora, and two were on Lot 2 in this town of Elma on land now owned by Mr. William V. Lougee, where several years ago in leveling the banks which comprised the fort, parts of several skeletons were found, the bones being of more than ordinary size, showing that they belonged to a race of people of large stature. These forts were east of the Big Buffalo Creek and about a fourth of a mile west from the east line of Elma.

One other fort was on the west side of the Big Buffalo Creek on lots 29 and 30, land formerly owned by Lewis M. Bullis. This fort like all the others was circular in form and enclosed about eight or ten acres of land; crossing the Bullis Road and extending to the south side of a dense thicket and swamp, taking in a large spring at the edge of the swamp. The embankment in 1852, before the land was cleared, was three to four feet high and eight to twelve feet wide at the base; large pine and other trees two to three and one-half feet in diameter were at that time growing on the top and sides of the embankment and in the ditch, of the same size and age as the surrounding forest. The only account the Indians could give of these forts or mounds is what is mentioned in the traditions of the Onondaga and Seneca tribes of the Iroquois.

INDIAN VILLAGES

The Tuscarora Indians, having been badly beaten in North Carolina in 1711, came north and the next year joined the Five Nations of the Iroquois, which was after that time known as the "Six Nations."

All through the Revolutionary War, the Six Nations were with the English, except about one hundred and fifty of the Oneidas and about two hundred of the Tuscaroras, who remained neutral. The English and their Indian allies wrought great havoc and destruction among the frontier settlements. To check these invasions, Gen. Sullivan, in the summer of 1779, invaded the country of the Onondagas, Oneidas and Senecas, as far west as into Livingston County, burned their villages, laid waste and destroyed their cornfields and orchards and made such destruction that they never completely recovered.

In the spring of 1780, a considerable body of the Senecas with three of their principal chiefs, Farmer Brother, Cornplanter, and Red Jacket, with a few of the Cayugas and Onondagas made their first permanent settlement in Erie County. The principal village of the Senecas was on the Big Buffalo Creek about three miles above its mouth, with smaller villages

at several places along the Creek; one at Jack Berry Town, now Gardenville; another, a small settlement, about half a mile above Blossom; another at Big Flats, now Elma village; another on the flats on Lots 14 and 15, for many years owned by Frank Metcalf, and on Lots 4, 11 and 12, south and east of East Elma, and a small settlement about one and one-half miles southwest from Marilla village. The Onondagas had their village on the Cazenove Creek, south and west of Ebenezer village, with scattering residents for six to ten miles further up on that creek.

The Cayugas were located on the Cayuga Creek, about five miles north from the Onondaga village.

At the close of the Revolutionary war, the United States government confiscated the lands previously claimed and occupied by the Iroquois nation, to punish them for the part they had taken during the war. Many of the Indians went to Canada with their English friends where they were given lands and bounties by the British Government, while the United States Government gave small reservations to those who chose to remain here. In September, 1794, at Canandaigua, the United States by treaty with the Senecas, secured to them all the lands west of the Phelps and Gorham purchase; being nearly all the lands in the State of New York west of the Genesee River, except the New York State Reservation of one mile in width from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, along the east side of the Niagara River.

Three years later, in September, 1797, Robert Morris bought the Indian title to all the lands in western New York except eleven reservations, containing in all, three hundred and thirty-eight square miles. The Buffalo Creek Reservation, containing one hundred and thirty square miles lying on both sides of the Big Buffalo Creek, was one of the eleven, and was about seven and one-half miles, north and south, and about eighteen miles east and west, taking in all of the towns of West Seneca, Elma and Marilla, the south part of Cheektowaga, Lancaster and Alden, and the north part of East Hamburg, Hamburg, Aurora and Wales. This Buffalo Creek Reservation was to be the home of the Seneca Indians, and it did so remain for more than sixty years after they first came here for a permanent home and until they sold their Reservation to the Ogden Company in 1842. That is how and why the Seneca Indians were here so long after the country north and south of this Reservation had been settled by the whites.

Since the Indians settled here in 1780 to the commencement of the year 1812 they had remained quiet and peaceable. Rumors of trouble between the United States and Great Britain caused much apprehension as to what the Seneca Indians would do in case war should actually break out, and the remembrance of the Indian massacres during the Revolutionary war was anything but pleasant.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS

The British had given lands to the Mohawks, and to some of the other tribes of the Six Nations who had gone to Canada after the Revolutionary war, and it was feared that those Indians would be ready to go on the war path as English allies.

The United States government had given lands to those Indians who chose to remain here and every effort was made by the government to have these Indians remain neutral.

WAR IN 1812

On May 26th, 1812, just before the war broke out, Supt. Granger held a council with the chiefs of the Six Nations who were in the United States, to induce them to remain neutral during the war. They partly agreed and said they would send a delegation to consult with their brethren in Canada.

The Canadian Indians at the same time sent a delegation to the Senecas to induce them to join the British during the war.

On July 6th, 1812, Supt. Granger called another council of the Indian Chiefs to be held in their council-house on the Buffalo Creek Reservation. He explained to them the cause of the war and urged them to take no part in the quarrel between the whites. He knew that many of the young braves were being influenced by the delegates from Canada and that they were desirous to engage in the war. He said to them, if they were really determined to fight, perhaps the United States government would accept the services of one hundred or one hundred and fifty of the warriors. Red Jacket did not want any of the Indians here to enlist as that would array brother against brother; and he hoped no warrior would enlist without permission from the great council. He asked of Supt. Granger leave to make another effort to persuade the Mohawks to abandon the warpath. The request was granted and a deputation of five chiefs left for Canada. Nothing favorable resulted from this visit as the Mohawks were pledged and determined to help the British. Under Red Jacket's advice, none of the Senecas joined the American army during 1812.

WAR IN 1813

Early in July, 1813, the General in command of the American forces at Buffalo enrolled between four hundred and five hundred Senecas under Farmer Brother who lived on the Buffalo Creek Reservation and was recognized, both by the whites and the Indians, as the greatest of the war chiefs. Red Jacket was as strongly opposed as ever to any of the Indians entering the American army.

On July 10th, 1813, General Porter having heard that the British were preparing to capture Black Rock, speedily sent word to all the inhabitants, and Farmer Brother gathered his warriors tellings them that now they must fight, that their country was invaded; and that they must show their friendship to the Americans by actual help and work.

The British regulars, without Indians, landed early in the morning of July 11th below Black Rock, but were repulsed by the Americans and their Indian allies, and many prisoners were taken. The Expedition was a failure, so far as the British were concerned, but was a brilliant success for the Americans, as the Senecas entered heartily into the whole affair.

The British attack upon Buffalo, December 30, 1813, with 1,000 regulars and 200 Canadian Indians, resulted in the capture and burning of Buffalo. The American volunteers, being raw militia and poorly officered, fled in every direction. The Senecas took up the cry of defeat and sent runners to the Cattaraugus and Allegany Reservations carrying the news that Buffalo was burned and that the British and Indians were coming.

WAR IN 1814

Stone's life of Red Jacket gives the account of a battle which was fought July 5th, 1814, on the Canadian side of Niagara River just above Chippewa, between the American army composed of one thousand three hundred militia and five hundred Senecas on one side, and the British army and their Indians on the other side.

Red Jacket had from the first, done and said all he could to hold the Senecas from entering the American Army, and he had of late been charged with cowardice, but now that it was certain that there was to be actual fighting, he joined the other Chiefs and the five hundred Senecas and took an active part in the battle. The Americans claimed the victory, taking many prisoners and drove the British and Indians from the field.

This was the first time since the Iroquois Confederacy was formed several hundred years ago, that the Senecas and Mohawks appeared as enemies, or that one tribe was in battle arrayed against another tribe, or that clan against clan fought a fierce hand-to-hand battle.

After the battle, Red Jacket arranged to have messengers go to the Mohawks to get their consent to a withdrawal of the Indians on both sides. No agreement was reached by this conference, but the Mohawks had suffered so much in the Chippewa battle that they did not again take the field. Red Jacket obtained permission for the Senecas to go home, promising that they would return if the British Indians should again join

the British army. This virtually ended the Indian part of the war. The Confederation was again weakened, but not destroyed.

IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY

Many have been the guesses, surmises and speculations as to what was the strong bond that caused the tribes that composed the Iroquois Nation to be always at peace among themselves, and that united them so firmly, that in war or in peace they were one nation.

Was it the league, offensive and defensive, that bound them so closely as confederates, or was it the system of clans, the principles of which were adopted, accepted and lived up to with most religious exactness, that was the binding force?

It is not now known, and probably never will be, whether the clan system or the articles of the Confederacy were first adopted or whether they were both accepted at the same time; nor is it known when the whole system was made complete and put into practice.

Judging, with the lights of history and experience to help us, we may say that it is almost a certainty that either one, the clan system or the confederate league by itself would have proved a failure; and that it required both—the clan part undoubtedly the stronger—to make the most perfect and successful confederation that had ever been formed, and a government that has existed for hundreds of years; the clan part continuing to this day and the confederation, although by force of other governing powers having been partly broken up, has not been entirely destroyed.

Their tradition names Ta-do-dah-oh, an Onondaga Chief, as the founder of the league; but they have no tradition of their Clan system. Whoever was the originator of the scheme showed such great skill and statesmanship that no nation on earth need be ashamed to follow example.

The Confederation was in many respects very similar to our Union of States. A congress or Grand Council of Chiefs and Sachems decided all questions of National importance, as of war and peace and gave direction to the affairs of the Confederacy.

Each tribe was independent by itself in its own tribal affairs, acts and privileges; had its own council and could call on the other tribes to join them in wars of defense or of conquest.

CLANS

Each tribe of the Iroquois Nation was divided into eight clans or families, viz: Wolf, Bear, Beaver, Turtle, Deer, Snipe, Heron, and Hawk.

By Indian law, all members of a clan were brothers and sisters whether of their own tribe or of any other, and anyone

of any clan was always welcome in any family of the same clan, in his own or in any other tribe. As a brother could not marry a sister, so a member of a wolf clan could not marry a wolf of his own or of another tribe, but a wolf could marry a member of any other clan, of his own or of any other tribe. This law of clan relation and marriage has been lived up to and enforced for several hundred years and is still strictly observed.

As this clan relationship extended through all the tribes, they were bound together by the strongest of family ties. No tribe of the Iroquois confederacy would go to war against any other of their tribes; as by that act, brother would be taking brother's blood, which by their law would be murder, even in war.

This explains why, during the French and Indian war, it was so impossible for the French to secure help from the Senecas after the English had enlisted the Mohawks; and also why all the tribes of the confederacy, if they took any part in the Revolutionary War, were on the side of the English, as the English at first, through the influence of Sir John Johnson had secured the Mohawks, and also why the Indians who resided in this state would not agree to enlist on the side of the United States in the 1812 war until they had heard from some of the tribes which had moved to Canada.

The rights of heirship was in the female line. A man's heirs were his mother's son, and his sister's son; never his own son. The child followed in the clan and tribe of the mother.

SALE OF INDIAN LANDS

By the treaty of August 31st, 1826, the Seneca Nation of Indians sold to Robert Troup, Thomas L. Ogden and Benjamin W. Rogers, known as the Ogden Co., eighty thousand nine hundred and sixty acres of land for \$48,216; (about sixty cents per acre), being the whole of some of the reservations and a part of the others. The part of the Buffalo Creek Reservation so sold conveyed thirty three thousand six hundred and thirty seven acres, being a strip from the north side of the Reservation one and one half miles in width, one mile wide on the south side, and about three miles in width across the east end, being all of the Reservation, excepting and reserving seventy-eight square miles or forty nine thousand nine hundred and twenty acres. By this treaty, what is known as the Mile Strip in the south part of the town of Elma passed out of the control of the Indians, and on this strip the first permanent settlement by the whites in this town was made.

By treaty of January 15th, 1838, the Seneca Nations of Indians sold to Thomas L. Ogden and Joseph Fellows for the Ogden Company, all the balance of their Reservations in this state, being one hundred and fourteen thousand eight hundred

and seventy acres which the Indians had excepted in the treaty and sale of August 31st, 1826.

By the terms of this treaty, the United States government was to donate to the Seneca Nation of Indians a reservation of 1,820,000 acres of land in the Indian territory, now Kansas, and build mills, shops, churches, schools, etc., on the lands; and the Indians were to cede to the Ogden Company all their reserved lands and improvements for \$202,000, being \$100,000 for the land, and \$102,000 for the improvements. The treaty was signed by forty-four chiefs, either actual or pretended, and head men and was certified by Mr. Gillett, Commissioner of the United States and by Gen. Dearborn, Superintendent for Massachusetts, and was sent to the United States Senate where it was declared to be defective. After the Senate had amended it by striking out the building of mills, shops, schools, etc., and in place thereof inserting a sum of \$400,000, it was sent back to be signed again and ratified by the Indians in Council. Mr. Gillett, the United States Commissioner, called the chiefs together on the Buffalo Creek Reservation on August 7th, 1838, to have them sign the amended treaty. By this time, an intense feeling of opposition to the treaty and to the deed had grown up among the Indians as they objected to being sent west. The treaty received the names of but sixteen chiefs, and at the same time sixty-three had signed a remonstrance. After much work and persuasion, twenty-six additional names were placed on the treaty, being forty-two out of the ninety seven claimed by all parties to be chiefs; but as some of the chiefs kept away, the commissioners decided that a majority of those present had signed, and the treaty thus signed was ratified by the United States Senate.

A majority of the Indians said neither they nor their chiefs had agreed to the terms of the treaty, and they refused to allow the Ogden Company to take possession. The Company knew that if they commenced an action in the courts, it would be a long and bitter contest, and there were doubts whether the courts would not decide in favor of the Indians. Each party seemed afraid of the other, and the company did not attempt to take possession, but they had the Reservation east of the Transit Line surveyed in July and August, 1840.

TREATY CONFIRMED

On May 20th, 1842, a treaty confirmatory and amendatory of the treaty of January 15 and August 7, 1838, was signed by fifty-three chiefs and head men of the Seneca Nation. By this treaty the Indians sold to the Ogden Company all the balance of the Buffalo Creek Reservation, viz.: forty-nine thousand nine hundred and twenty acres, with the whole of some of their reservations and parts of others, they retaining the

Tuscarora and most of the Tonawanda, Cattaraugus and Allegany Reservations.

The Indians of the Buffalo Creek Reservation received their money and the title to the balance of that Reservation was passed to the Ogden Company after the Indians had lived here sixty-five years. In 1844 most of them left; a few remained until 1848 when they joined their friends, most of them going to the Cattaraugus Reservation and a few to the Allegany Reservation. The following will explain as to the treaty of January 15th and August 7th, 1838, and the Kansas lands.

(By Associated Press)

Washington, Nov. 18, 1898—"The court of claims rendered a judgment of \$1,961,400 in favor of the New York Indians who entered suit against the United States to recover the value of certain lands donated to them in Kansas and subsequently disposed of by the United States. The award is in pursuance of a mandate from the United States Supreme Court. The case has been pending in the courts about five years. These lands had been set apart as a reservation for them by the treaty of 1838, but the lands were never occupied by them, and were sold by the government and the proceeds placed in the United States treasury.

The court of claims originally decided against the Indians, but the supreme court reversed that judgment and directed the award in their favor of the net amount actually received by the government for the Kansas lands, less the amount to which the Tonawandas and Senecas would have been entitled and less other just deductions."

INDIAN VILLAGES IN ELMA

At this time, 1842, there were three Indian villages or settlements in the town of Elma; also many scattering residents. One village was about half a mile east of Blossom on the north side of the Creek where they had a church or small council house.

At Elma Village there were 12 or 15 families who had their residences on the flats and on the high banks on both sides of the Creek. The Indians called this "The Big Flats." Here they had a burying ground, located a little west of Mr. Joseph B. Brigg's house.

Another village was at the bend of the Creek on Lots 14 and 15 which were for many years owned by Mr. Frank Metcalf, and there were scattering residences east into the town of Marilla and south on both sides of the Creek for a mile or more. Here resided Chiefs Big Kettle, Sundown, and Jack Johnny John. East of this village and near the line between Elma and Marilla was the home of a son of Mary Jemison (so reported by the early settlers), and it was here he died, and

he was probably buried in the Indian Cemetery about one-third of a mile southeast from East Elma on the north bank of the creek, just west of a clump of pine trees on a high bank. Names of other Indian families will be given later.

In 1846, just before leaving the town for the Cattaraugus Reservation, the Indians of the "Big Flats" held a war dance in Mr. Clark W. Hurd's barn, Messrs. Hurd & Briggs furnishing the provisions for the feast. Some sixteen to twenty warriors took part in the dance, dressed and painted in strict war style, viz: entirely naked, except mocassins and breech-cloth, the chiefs with feathers to form a head gear. This was late in the fall and the next spring they left for their new homes. This was the last gathering the Senecas held in the town of Elma.

PROMINENT INDIANS

In the Seneca tribe of the Iroquois Nation were four persons who by the position they occupied and their influence in the Nation deserve especial notice here. They were Farmer Brother, Cornplanter, Red Jacket and Mary Jemison.

FARMER BROTHER, the oldest of the four, a chief loved, honored and respected by all who knew him, had his home on the Buffalo Creek Reservation. Notwithstanding the force and power of Iroquois law and the opposition of Red Jacket, he succeeded in having five hundred or six hundred of the Senecas enlist in the American army in 1813. This had the effect of uniting all the Seneca tribe, including Red Jacket, on the American side, and was the means of driving the Mohawk and other Canadian Indians from the British army in Canada after the battle at Chippewa. The old Chief was at that time over eighty years old and he was over ninety years old at the time of his death.

CORNPLANTER, a Seneca Chief, residing on the Allegany Reservation, was with the British during the Revolutionary War. He was one of the great leaders of the Senecas and became very friendly with the Americans after General Sullivan had invaded their territory, and he took an active part with Farmer Brother in the 1813 war. He was strongly opposed to the use of liquor and was one of the most eloquent temperance lecturers of the Country.

He died in 1836, aged one hundred years.

We have all heard and read about RED JACKET and his history has been written in full.

By his oratorical powers he was able to exert a great influence in his tribe. Always true to Confederate and Clan law, he opposed to the last, any of the Senecas joining the American army in the 1812 war after the Mohawks had joined the British; but not being able to overcome the influence of Farmer Brother and Cornplanter and the general sentiment and determination of the other Seneca chiefs and warriors, he

finally entered the army and did good and faithful service at the battle of Chippewa and was influential in causing the Mohawks to withdraw from the British army. He died near the Mission Church on the Buffalo Creek Reservation January 20th, 1830, at the age of seventy-five years. His remains now rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo.

MARY JEMISON, called also "THE WHITE WOMAN." By reason of many extraordinary circumstances and strange experiences, Mary Jemison, by marriage and by choice a member of the Seneca tribe, and that one of her sons lived and died in this town, a brief sketch of her life is here given. She first saw the light of day in mid-ocean, her parents having left the land of their birth, Ireland, to better their fortunes in the new world. They settled in Pennsylvania where they lived until the breaking out of the French War in 1754. In 1755 the family, with neighbors, were taken prisoners by the Indians and all but Mary were killed. She was carried captive to the Ohio River and at 12 years of age was adopted by two Indian sisters who treated her with great kindness and gave to her the name, Deh-he-wa-mis. She married a brave of the Delawares, and after several years she decided to take her children and go on foot hundreds of miles from the Ohio River and take up her residence with the Senecas in this state, her husband agreeing to join her. He died before he met her.

She was twice married and had three sons and five daughters. Her crops and cabin were destroyed by Sullivan's army in 1779. She then had five children.

In 1797, when Robert Morris bought the Indian title to all the Indian lands in Western New York, except eleven reservations, she managed to have one of these, the Gardeau Reservation containing twenty-eight square miles, or seventeen thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven acres, lying on both sides of the Genesee River, set off to her. Upon this tract she and her descendants resided until 1816, when she sold all but two square miles on the west side of the river. In 1831, at the age of 88 years, she sold the two square miles and came to make her home on the Buffalo Creek Reservation near Buffalo, where she died September 19th, 1833, aged ninety years. She was buried with Christian rites in the Indian Cemetery, near the Seneca Mission Church or Council House, and over her grave was placed a marble slab with appropriate inscription. In March, 1874, her remains were disinterred by Hon. Wm. P. Letchworth, under the immediate supervision of her descendants, and with other articles found in her grave were placed in a black walnut coffin and deposited in a marble sarcophagus on Glen Iris, at Portage Falls, Livingston County, N. Y., six miles from her former home at Gardeau Reservation. Through all her Indian life and travels she retained her knowledge of the English language. She was greatly beloved by the Indians,

and highly respected by the whites who became acquainted with her.

Having been with the Indians all but 12 years of her life and for more than sixty years with the Seneca tribe, she had time and opportunity to learn all that could be learned of their traditions and early life. The traditions of the Senecas as herein given, are from her statements, so we take them as being as nearly correct as anything we will be likely to get from any source.

INDIAN CHARACTER

The character of the Indian has been given by different writers, as cruel, vindictive, jealous, full of bitter hatred, revengeful and murderous; bitter enemies, never forgetting any injury or insult; on the other hand as true friends, never forgetting a kindness or favor.

The men were lazy, never performing any labor if they could find any way to avoid it; but they would help to build the house, and were always ready to hunt and fish, and ready for a wrestle, foot race, game of ball in summer and drive the snake in winter.

The women cleared the land and raised corn, beans, and other crops for family food. All labor and drudgery was hers to perform and endure; in fact, she was little, if any better than a slave.

CONFEDERACY NOT DESTROYED

Mention of some of the events of the war of 1812 has been made because a part of the Buffalo Creek Reservation was in this town, and the Reservation was the home of the Seneca Nation and three of their villages were in the town; that probably some of the Elma Indians were in the Chippewa battle; and to show the strong hold Iroquois law had on all the Indians. This unwritten law has held the members of the different tribes together through all the trying changes of probably more than eight hundred years; and was the strong bond from which they were so slow to break away. In fact, the Senecas would not enter into any treaty or transact any important business without calling a general council of the Great Chiefs of the Iroquois Confederacy. While the results of the Revolutionary war had the effect to scatter the tribes which have since been broken into pieces and the parts widely separated; yet the Confederacy is not destroyed, and the clan system exists in all the tribes to this day. In the summer of 1896, a Grand Council was called at Tuscarora Village to elect and install into office a new Tuscarora Chief.

As the Seneca Nation had possession here for nearly two hundred years and had three or four villages in this town for sixty-five years, and for more than fifty years were the actual owners of the soil, the history of the town of Elma should have this record of its early inhabitants.

CHAPTER III.

RIGHTS AND JURISDICTIONS OF NATIONS. INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS BY PURCHASE. ABSTRACT OF TITLE

IT IS a question of first and greatest importance to a person intending to purchase a piece of land to know that the party with whom he negotiates has the right to sell and convey. Can he give a perfect title?

Individuals obtain these rights to lands by gifts, by inheritance and by purchase; and the question of title goes back to first purchaser or owner, and then comes the question, "Of whom did he purchase?" So a thorough search of the records of transfer and a certified statement or abstract showing that the claim of title is perfect, is required. This search often reaches back to state, and even to national rights.

Nations claim rights of sovereignty and jurisdiction over territories by discovery, by conquest and by purchase; and we must know by what means and when, the nation became possessed of the rights as claimed.

It is proposed in this chapter of the history of the town of Elma, to make a search of the records of claims and rights of sovereignty, jurisdiction and ownership, and thus, to make out such an abstract that the question whether there is, in fact, such a town as Elma; and to show how, when and why, and the authority, if any there shall be, by which the town was originated.

For hundreds of years before this country was discovered it had been the rule and practice among the rulers in the old world for one king to make war against a neighboring or weaker king for the purpose of executing punishment for an actual or pretended insult or injury, or to compel the payment of tribute, or for conquest. The right to thus make war was claimed by the conqueror because he had the power to enforce his demand; and it was conceded by the conquered, simply because he had to. It was the old rule: that might makes right.

A new system of extending control over territories was started in 1492, when Columbus upon landing on the western hemisphere, took possession in the name of and for the use of his sovereigns, the King and Queen of Spain.

France, Holland and England each acknowledged, accepted and adopted this new way of acquiring territory.

Spain in this way, by her navigators, took possession of Florida, Mexico and South America, and claimed the territory extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but they never, by settlements, tried to hold on the Atlantic coast north of Georgia.

French explorers by the same rule claimed from Florida to Labrador and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The French soon relinquished the Atlantic coast south of Nova Scotia and occupied the region of the St. Lawrence, extending their forts and trading posts along the lakes and along the Mississippi River, and claiming all the territory drained by the great lakes and the Mississippi and its branches. These branches embraced western, central and northern New York and all west of the Allegany mountains.

HOLLAND

Henry Hudson, of the Holland service, sailed along the Atlantic coast in 1609, from Virginia to New York Bay and up the Hudson River as far as Albany, claiming east to the Connecticut River and west and north indefinitely.

England, by John Cabot, navigator, in 1498, claimed from Florida to Nova Scotia and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

All these powers recognized the rights of the resident Indians, and by all grants and charters issued to individuals, companies, or corporations, they were compelled to negotiate with the Indians for the privilege to occupy and use the soil.

England tried for many years to establish colonies on her claimed territory and thus to hold possession against the other claimants. To do this, charters were granted to individuals and companies, giving to them the right to settle and occupy the described territory. These charters were given to several colonies along the Atlantic coast, but we shall now generally refer only to those that covered and included western New York, as these grants and charters are a part of the claim of title to our lands. By the foregoing, it will be seen that the Indians, the Dutch, English and French claimed western New York at the same time and we will trace the claim of each.

On September 9th, 1609, Henry Hudson, a Dutch navigator, sailed into New York Bay and thence up the Hudson River as far as Albany and claimed the country for Holland. In 1613 they built a fort on Manhattan Island. In 1621, the Dutch West India Company, having received a charter from the Holland Government, took possession and colonized New Amsterdam, (now New York) and also Fort Orange, (now Albany) and claimed all of what is the State of New York and east to the Connecticut River.

It is here not necessary to enumerate the troubles that sprung up by other settlements being started on this territory

that had not received permission from the Dutch Company, nor to mention their system of grants to owners of lands, as these are fully stated in the histories of the United States.

The Dutch continued in possession and occupancy until August 27, 1664, when an English man of war entered New York Bay, which was followed the first and second day after by three more all under command of Col. Richard Nichols.

On August 30, Col. Nichols, demanded of Peter Stuyvesant, Gov. of the colony, the surrender of "all forts, towns or places of strength which are now possessed by the Dutch and also the town on the Island of Manhattan, with all the forts thereunto belonging", offering to secure to every man his estate, life and liberty who shall readily submit to this demand.

On September 5th, 1664, Gov. Stuyvesant made the surrender and the State of New York passed from the Dutch. The treaty of Breda, July 31st, 1667, between England, France and Holland, ceded New York and New Jersey to England, and effectually wiped out the Dutch claim to all of New York.

FRANCE

In 1609, the French entered the State of New York via Lake Ontario and by that act claimed the country. They moved on west even to the Mississippi River and down that river, establishing forts and trading posts; they claimed all the country drained by the Mississippi and its branches and by the Great Lakes which includes western New York. So now we have as claimants here, the French, English and the Indians.

This condition continued for more than one hundred and forty years and war between England and France was declared May 18, 1756. Then followed in this country what is known as the French and Indian war. Result: All the French strongholds, here and in Canada, are captured, and at the treaty of peace at Paris, February 10, 1763, between England, France and Spain; France cedes all her claimed territory east of the Mississippi River to England. This clears western New York of France as a claimant and gives to England all the Atlantic coast north of 31 degrees north latitude and west to the Mississippi River.

ENGLAND

England based her claim to territory in North America on the discovery by John Cabot in 1498, and by that, claimed the country from Florida to Nova Scotia and from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and grants were made by the king to individuals and companies. These grants carried with them certain privileges as to the laws that the colonists were permitted to make.

These grants were often made to overlap or interfere with grants previously made, and so, many times troubles arose between the colonies as to certain rights and jurisdictions.

The first charter granted by King James I. that covered the town of Elma was in 1620, to the Plymouth Company, to embrace all the territory between latitude forty degrees and forty-eight degrees, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. At that time, Western New York was claimed by the Dutch and the French, but the Dutch claim was wiped out by the treaty of Breda July 31st, 1667, and the French claim was removed by the treaty at Paris February 10th, 1763. Thus, after one hundred and forty-three years of counterclaims, the charter of 1620 is the authority that will remain.

Another charter, covering most of the territory conveyed in the charter of 1620, was granted to the Duke of York by Charles II. in March, 1664. The territory covered by this grant at that time, was in the possession of the Dutch, but the surrender by the Dutch, September 5th, 1664, which was confirmed by the treaty of Breda, July 31st, 1667, made it all right for the Duke of York as to the Dutch. So the contest was between this charter and the charter by James I to the Plymouth Company in 1620. England's right as a nation to sovereignty and jurisdiction is now undisputed to territory east of the Mississippi river, only so far as the charters would conflict.

In 1683, the Duke of York sends Thomas Dungan as Governor of the New York Colony, with instructions to call an assembly which passed the act entitled, "Charter of Liberties and Privileges granted by his Royal Highness to the inhabitants of New York and its dependencies," by which legislative powers were granted to the colony.

The troubles between the Colonies and England from this time to September 5th, 1774, when fifty-three delegates from the twelve colonies—Georgia not present—met in Philadelphia, as the First Continental Congress, are fully set forth in our histories and need not be repeated here. The Convention adjourned October 20th, agreeing to meet again on May 10th, 1775, if the grievances continued.

The battle of Lexington, April 19th, 1775, was the beginning of the Revolutionary War. The Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, May 10th, 1775. John Hancock, president. The delegates resolved to resist further tyranny. June 15th, they voted to raise an army of 20,000 men and elected George Washington as Commander in Chief of all colonial forces.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE—REVOLUTIONARY WAR

June 7th, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a resolution into Congress declaring that "the United Colonies are of right and ought to be free and independent states." June 10th a committee, consisting of Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John

Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert Livingston of New York, was chosen to draw up a declaration in harmony with the Lee resolution. The Declaration of Independence was the result and received the unanimous support, and on July 4th, 1776, it was signed.

The Revolutionary War followed for nearly eight years and on November 30th, 1782, preliminary articles of peace were signed at Paris by Richard Oswald on the part of Great Britain, and John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay and Henry Laurons on the part of the United States. April 11th, 1783, Congress proclaimed cessation of hostilities, and on April 15th ratified the preliminary treaty.

On September 23d, 1783, a definite treaty was signed by David Hartley on the part of Great Britain, and Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Jay on the part of the United States. England conceded the independence of the American States, with boundary north by Canada, west by the Mississippi river, south by thirty-one degrees of latitude. This passed all rights claimed by Great Britain to the United States and leaves the thirteen states with their rights and powers.

May 14th, 1787, the Constitutional Convention assembled at Philadelphia. On September 17th, thirty-nine of the fifty-five delegates signed the new Constitution, and it was sent by Congress to the States for their sanction; in 1787 and 1788, it was adopted by the thirteen states, and became the supreme law of the land.

This Constitution binds the states together and forms and puts before the world a nation with full authority and power of sovereignty and jurisdiction over all its territory.

ABSTRACT OF TITLE

Having gone through with the claims of England, France and Holland to rights of sovereignty and jurisdiction, until in 1787, these rights are vested in the United States, being the thirteen states which comprised the Federal Union. An abstract showing how and when each colony, state, company and corporation obtained their rights, and to have this abstract continued until 1842. will present a continuous chain of title and show on what right the claim of ownership is now based, and to what transfer of title each person can turn as his authority for present ownership. This, with explanatory notes, will make up that part of the history of Elma known as Abstract of Title.

England—Claim by discoveries in 1497 and 1498, by John and Sebastian Cabot. The Atlantic coast from Florida to Nova Scotia, and west to the Pacific Ocean.

France—Claim by discovery in 1504, of New Foundland and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and later occupancy of all territory drained by the Great Lakes, and Mississippi river, and its branches, including western, central and northern New York.

Holland—Claim by discovery 1609, Delaware Bay and Atlantic coast, New York Bay, Hudson River to Albany, east to the Connecticut River, including Long Island, west and north indefinitely.
Holland by State's General to The Dutch West India Co. Grant in 1621, from straits of Magellan to farthest north, and to take possession of New Netherlands in 1622.

England to The Plymouth Co. Grant, in 1620, all between 40° and 48° north latitude, and east and west from sea to sea.
The Plymouth Co. To John Endicott et al. Grant, March 19, 1628. Territory from three miles south of the river Charles, to three miles north from the northern-most part of the river Merrimac, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

England by James I to Endicott Co. Charter, March 4, 1629, to the Endicott Company as the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay, in New England; above territory and to constitute a body politic with Governor.

Deputy and eighteen assistants to be elected by the people annually and a General Assembly of Freemen with legislative powers to meet as often as necessary.

Endicott Co. to Massachusetts Bay Colony Assign above August, 1629, to the Colonists, thus forming an independent provincial government, and in October John Winthrop was elected Governor.

England by Charles II To Massachusetts Bay Company Above charter confirmed, February, 1662, giving liberty of conscience.

England by Charles II To James, Duke of York Charter, in March, 1664, territory to include New Jersey, Long Island, east to the Connecticut river, north and west indefinitely.

Dutch W. India Co. To Duke of York by Rich. Nickols Gov. Surrender, September 5th, 1664, of all forts, towns, and occupancy of all territory claimed by the Company in New York and Connecticut.

Holland To England Treaty of Breda, July 31st, 1667, cedes all territory in New York et al.

Duke of York
To
Colony of N. Y.

In 1683, the Duke of York sent Thomas Dungan as Royal Governor of New York, with instruction to call an assembly, which, on October 17th, 1683, passed the act entitled "Charter-of Liberties, granted by his Royal Highness to the inhabitants of New York and its dependencies," by which act, legislative powers were granted to the Colony with a charter of liberties and toleration to all Christians.

France
To
England

Treaty of Peace at Paris, February 10th, 1763, between England, France and Spain. France cedes Canada and all claims and territory east of the Mississippi river and north of 31° of latitude to England. This gives England sovereignty over Canada and the thirteen colonies.

New York General Committee—April 20th, 1774, call a Provincial Convention, which asks Massachusetts to issue a call for a Colonial Convention, and name a time and place for the Congress to meet.

Massachusetts, General Court, May 24th, 1774, resolves that a Colonial Congress is necessary and suggests that it be held in Philadelphia on September 1st, 1774.

Other Colonies were notified.

First Colonial or Continental Congress of fifty-three delegates meets in Philadelphia, September 5th, 1774. Adopt a Declaration of Colonial rights; claim right of self government; specify the wrongs that England puts upon the colonies; agree to resist what they consider unconstitutional assumption of governmental power by England; and on October 20th adjourn to meet in Philadelphia May 10th, 1775, if a redress of grievances is not made by England.

Battle of Lexington, April 19th, 1775, begins the Revolutionary war.

Second Constitutional Congress meets in Philadelphia May 10th 1775; the delegates resolve to resist further tyranny. June 15th, vote to raise an army of 20,000 men, and elect George Washington Commander in Chief of all colonial forces.

The Revolutionary War continues.

The State of New York adopts a State Constitution, April 20th, 1777; amended in 1801, 1821, 1846, 1867, 1894.

The United States. On November 15th, 1777, the Continental Congress adopts articles of Confederation.

State of New York, February 5th, 1778, ratifies the articles of Confederation.

State of Massachusetts, in 1779, adopts a State Constitution.

England	Treaty of Paris, September 23d, 1783, Eng-
to	land concedes the independence of the thirteen
The United States.	American States, with boundary north by
	Canada, west by the Mississippi River, south
	by 31°, north latitude, with all rights of
	sovereignty, jurisdiction and territory.

SETTLEMENT BETWEEN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

Massachusetts. Note—Massachusetts claimed all of New York north of 42° of latitude, by her charter of 1620 and 1628. New York, by her charter of 1664, claimed all of New York and east to the Connecticut river, including Vermont. This crossing of claims was a continual source of trouble between the states, and with the individual settlers. Soon after the Revolutionary war closed, Massachusetts made several attempts to have the difference settled; and, to have a boundary line established, and to settle her claims to jurisdiction. Committees appointed by both states in 1783 failed to come to an agreement and Massachusetts applied to Congress to have her rights under the charter of 1628 recognized.

New York, also, went to Congress with her claim under the charter of 1664.

Congress December 2d, 1785, appointed Thomas Hutchins of New Jersey, David Ritterhouse of Pennsylvania, and John Ewing to run the line between Massachusetts and New York, which they did. But this did not settle the claim of Massachusetts to the lands west of the line. So Congress appointed James Duane, Robert R. Livingston, Robert Yates, John Haring, Melancthon Smith and Egbert Benson, Commissioners, on the part of New York; and John Lowell, James Sullivan, Rufus King, and Theophilus Parsons, Commissioners, on the part of Massachusetts, to meet at Hartford, Conn., and settle the controversy.

DEED BETWEEN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

State of New York Mutual deed, dated December 16, 1786, re-
 to
State of Massa- corded in Erie County Clerk's office, in Liber
 chusetts
 and 26, Page 469. [Note—This deed being a settle-
 ment of title to all lands in Western New
 York, the part especially referring to those
 lands is here given.]

State of Massa- 1st. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 chusetts
 to doth hereby cede, grant, release and confirm
State of New York to the State of New York, all the claim, right,
 and title which the Commonwealth of Massa-
 chusetts hath to the government, sovereignty,
 and jurisdiction of the land and territories so
 claimed by the State of New York as herein-
 before stated to wit:

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachu-
setts, claiming among other things all the ter-
ritory described as all that part of New Eng-
land in America which lieth and extendeth
between the great river called Merrimac and
a certain other called the Charles river, being
the bottom of a Bay called Massachusetts Bay,
and also all the lands lying within three Eng-
lish miles to the southward of the southern-
most part of the said Bay, and extending
thence northward in latitude to the northward
of every part of the said river Merrimac, and
in breadth of latitude aforesaid extending
throughout all the main-land in longitude
westward to the Southern Ocean, as the just
and proper right of the said Commonwealth;
and as the State of New York has set up a
claim to a part of the land above mentioned,
to wit: bounded on the north by above line of
northwest part of Merrimac, and south by the
southmost part of Massachusetts Bay, and on
the west by the limits between the United
States and the King of Great Britain, and
the cession from the State of New York to the
United States and east by the line agreed on
and established between the late colony of
New York and the Massachusetts Bay in the
year 1773, and from the northern termination
of the said line, then bounded on the east by
the west bank of the Connecticut River.

2. That the State of New York doth hereby
cede, grant, release and confirm to the said

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to the use of the Commonwealth, their grantees, and the heirs and assigns of such grantees, forever, the right of pre-emption of the soil from the Native Indians, and all other, the estate right, title and property (the right and title of government, sovereignty and jurisdiction excepted), which the state of New York hath of, in and to 230,400 acres to be located by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be situated to the northward of and adjoining to land granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Daniel Cox and Robert Litten Hooper and their associates and between the Rivers Oswego and Chenango, and also the lands and territories within the following limits and bounds, that is to say: Beginning in the north bounds, the State of Pennsylvania in the parallel of 42° north latitude, at a point distant eighty-two miles from the northeast corner of the state of Pennsylvania, on the Delaware River, thence, on a due meridian north, to the boundary line between the United States and the King of Great Britain, thence, westerly and southerly along said boundary line to a meridian which will pass one mile east from the northern terminus of the strait or waters between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, thence east along said meridian to the south shore of Lake Ontario, thence on the eastern side of the said strait, by a line always one mile distant and parallel to the said strait to Lake Erie, thence west to the boundary line between the United States and the King of Great Britain, thence along the said boundary line until it joins with the line of cession from the State of New York to the United States, thence, southerly along the said line of cession to the north-west corner of the State of Pennsylvania, thence east along the north boundary line of the State of Pennsylvania to the place of beginning, and which said lands are a part of the territory claimed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

3. The State of Massachusetts doth hereby cede, grant, release and confirm to the state of New York, and to the use of the state of New York, their grantees, and the heir and assigns

of such grantees, forever, the right of pre-emption of the soil from the native Indians, and all and other estate, right, title and property which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hath in, or to the residue of the lands and territories so claimed by the state of New York herein before stated and particularly specified. [Then follow several sections not necessary to mention here.]

10. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts may grant the right of pre-emption of the whole, or any part of the said lands and territories to any person or persons, who, by virtue of such grant shall have good right to extinguish, by purchase of the claims of the native Indians, by any such grantee or grantees, unless the same shall be in the presence of, and approved by a superintendent to be appointed for such purpose by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and having no interest in such purchase and unless such purchase shall be confirmed by the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Signed by John Lowell,
James Sullivan,
Theophilus Persons,
Rufus King,

Commissioners for and in behalf of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

James Duane,
Robert R. Livingston,
Robert Yates,
John Harring,
Melancton Smith,
Egbert Benson,

For and in behalf of the State of New
York.

Done at the City of Hartford, Conn., the
16th day of December, 1786.

The State of Massachusetts, February 7th, 1788, ratifies the
Constitution of the United States, by a vote of 187 to 168.

The State of New York, July 26th, 1788, ratifies the Constitu-
tion of the United States, by a vote of 31 to 29.

State of Massachusetts
to
Oliver Phelps
and
Nathaniel Gorham

By authority of deed, December 16th, 1786, State of New York to Massachusetts.—Sold right of soil and pre-emption from the Indians, of the whole Massachusetts tract of 6,000,000 acres, but Phelps & Gorham failing to make payment; by settlement made November 21st, 1788, they, Phelps & Gorham, retain 2,600,000 acres from the east side of the tract.

Phelps & Gorham
to
State of Massachusetts
3,400,000 acres

November 21st, 1788, the balance of the tract, by settlement, reverts back to the State of Massachusetts. The east line of the Phelps & Gorham tract by this settlement begins in the north line of the State of Pennsylvania, 82 miles west from the north-east corner of Pennsylvania. The west line of the Phelps & Gorham tract, begins in the north line of Pennsylvania, 126 and 78-100 miles west from the northeast line of Pennsylvania, thence due north to the forks of the Genesee River and Conawango Creek—thence west 12 miles, thence north 24° east to Lake Ontario. This line has since been known as the west line of the Phelps & Gorham purchase.

In the fall of 1788, a council of the Seneca Nation was held on Buffalo Creek, at which Mr. Phelps bought of the Indians their right and title to the 2,600,000 acres that Phelps & Gorham had bought of the State of Massachusetts. The price as agreed upon at that council was \$5,000 cash in hand and an agreement to pay \$500 annually forever. This was about half a cent per acre.

State of Massachusetts
to
Samuel Ogden

Agreement, May 11th, 1791, Recorded in Erie County Clerk's Office in Liber 24, Page 408, to convey all of the Massachusetts lands west of Phelps & Gorham's tract.

Samuel Ogden
to
State of Massachusetts

Release May 11th, 1791—Recorded in Liber 24, Page 413, release from above agreement.

State of Massachusetts
to
Robert Morris

Deed May 11th, 1791. Liber 24, Page 415, conveys the soil and pre-emption right to all the balance of Massachusetts' lands in the State of New York, 3,400,000 acres west of Phelps & Gorham's tract.

Robert Morris
to
Agents of Holland
Land Co.
Names of members
Wilhem Willink
Jan Willink
Nicholas Van Stop-
horst
Jacob Van Stop-
horst
Nicholas Hubbard
Peter Van Eeghen
Isaac Ten Cate
Hendrick Vollen-
hoven
Christina Koster,
(widow)
Jan Stadnitski
Rutger J. Schim-
melpennick

July 20th, 1793.—Robert Morris reserves from the east side of his purchase from Massachusetts of May 11th, 1791, about 1-7 of the whole tract, so that the west line of his reserve, and east line of Holland Land Company's lands, begin at a point in north line of Pennsylvania, 12 miles west from south-west corner of Phelps & Gorham tract and 138 78-100 miles west from the north-east corner of the State of Pennsylvania at the Delaware River, thence, due north to near the center of the town of Stafford in Genesee County, thence due west 2.07875 miles being 2 miles, 6 chains and 30 links, thence due north to Lake Ontario. Morris agreed to extinguish the Indian title to all, except the New York Reservation of one mile wide on the east side of Niagara River. Conveys about 2,625,000 acres.

United States to
Seneca Nation of
Indians

Treaty, September 1794, at Canandaigua, secures to the Indians, their right in all the lands in the State of New York west of Phelps & Gorham purchase except New York State Reservation.

INDIAN RESERVATIONS

Seneca Nation of
Indians to
Robert Morris

Treaty, September 15th, 1797, at Big Tree, now Geneseo, conveys pre-emption right to all above lands, except 11 Reservations, containing 338 square miles, conveys 2,625,000 acres. Price paid, \$100,000. The Buffalo Creek Reservation is one of the eleven reserved.

These eleven Reservations are as follows.

	ACRES
Big Tree or Little Beard Reservation, in Livingston Co., 4 sq. miles,	2,560
Conawangus " " " " 2	1,280
Squawky Hill " " " " 2	1,280
Gardeau (Mary Jamison) " " " 28	17,920
Canadea " Allegany " 16	10,240
Oil Spring " Cattaraugus " 1	640
Cattaraugus " " " 42	26,880
Tuscarora " Niagara " 1	640
Allegany " Cattaraugus " 42	26,880
Tonawanda " Genesee " 70	44,800
Buffalo Creek " Erie " 130	83,200
	<hr/>
	338
	<hr/>
	216,320

Robert Morris, by Sheriff to Thomas L. Ogden Deed, May 12th, 1800. Liber 24, Page 406, conveys all W. of Morris reserve except the New York State Reservation.

Thomas L. Ogden to Wilhem Willink, et. al. Deed, February 18th, 1801 (in Erie Co. not recorded). Conveys same as Robert Morris to Agents of Holland Land Co., July 20th, 1793, 2,625,000 acres, and carries right of pre-emption to the eleven reservations.

Wilhem Willink, et. al. to David A. Ogden Deed, September 10th, 1810. Liber 1, Page 68, conveys right of pre-emption to the reservations containing 197,835 acres.

Note—This carries the title of lands in Western New York, except the New York State Reservation one mile wide, from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, to the Holland Land Co.; also, except to the eleven Indian Reservations of which David A. Ogden has the pre-emption right or right to purchase the Indian title.

The Holland Land Company, soon after its purchase in 1801, surveyed its lands into Ranges six miles wide, numbering from the east line of their purchase toward the west, and then surveyed these Ranges into towns six miles north and south, numbering from the Pennsylvania State line toward the north.

The line between the 4th and 5th Ranges is the present east line of Erie County, and this town of Elma comes in the Holland Survey as Town 10, Range 6, and is also known as a part of the Buffalo Creek Reservation.

SALE BY SENECA INDIANS TO THE OGDEN COMPANY

David A. Ogden to Robert Troup, Thomas L. Ogden and Benjamin W. Rogers. Trust deed, February 18th, 1821. Liber 6, Page 396. Forms co-partnership with 20 shares, to enable the members to buy of the Indians—their title to the eleven reservations.

The Seneca Nation of Indians to Robert Troup, Thomas L. Ogden and Benj. W. Rogers. Treaty August 31st, 1826, Liber 10, Page 138. As this purchase includes a part of Elma, the treaty is given in full. At a treaty held under the authority of the United States at Buffalo Creek in the County of Erie, State of New York, between the Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors of the Seneca Nation of Indians on behalf of said Nation, and Robert Troup, Thomas L. Ogden and Benjamin W. Rogers of the City of New York, in the presence of Oliver Forward, Esq., Commissioner appointed by the United States for holding said treaty and Nathaniel Gorham Superintendent, in

behalf of the State of Massachusetts, know all men by these presents that we, the said Sachems, Chiefs and Warriors, for and in consideration of the sum of \$48,216, lawful money of the United States to us in hand paid by the said Robert Troup, Thomas L. Ogden and Benjamin W. Rogers or immediately before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, quit-claimed and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, quit-claim and confirm unto the said Robert Troup, Thomas L. Ogden and Benjamin W. Rogers and their assigns forever, all that tract of land commonly called the Canadea Reservation in Allegany County, containing sixteen square miles, also—then follows other reservations and exceptions—the exceptions making a sale of 80,960 acres of land, being about two-fifths of all the land in the eleven Reservations for \$48,216, about 60 cents per acre.

By this sale all the eleven Reservations were sold except:

49,920	acres	of the	Buffalo Creek	Reservation.
12,800	"	"	Tonawanda	"
21,760	"	"	Cattaraugus	"
1,920	"	"	Tuscarora	"
30,469	"	"	Allegany	"
<hr/>				
116,869				

SENECA INDIANS TREATY WITH THE OGDEN COMPANY

(Note—This sale conveys 33,637 acres of the 83,557 of the Buffalo Creek Reservation.)—That part of this sale which is within the bounds of the Town of Elma is a strip one mile in width on the south side of the town, and is known as the Mile Strip; and on this strip, in Elma, the first settlement of white people in the town of Elma was made. The part of this Reservation not sold by the terms of this treaty was to contain seventy-eight square miles or 49,920 acres, and this reserved part is described as follows:

Beginning on the north line of said Reservation at a point one and one-half miles east of the Cayuga Creek, running thence south one and one-half miles, thence east parallel with the north line so far that a line to be drawn from the termination thereof south, to a point one mile distant from the south line of the said Reservation, and thence west parallel with

the said south line to the west line of the Reservation, and thence along the west and north lines of the same to the place of beginning will contain the said quantity of seventy-eight square miles or 49,920 acres.

Note.—This treaty conveys a strip of land one and one-half miles wide on the north side of the Reservation, about three miles wide across the east end, and one mile wide the length of the south side. This takes all of the town of Marilla east of the two-rod road, passing north and south through Marilla village. All of the town of Elma is in the reserved part of the sale, except the Mile Strip on the south side of the town.

TREATY SIGNED

The treaty was signed as follows:

YOUNG KING, YOUNG CHIEF, CHARLES O'BEAL, CAPT. SHINGO, POLLARE, BAREFOOT, TUNIS WOLFAOUN, GEO. RED EYE, LITTLE BILLY, CAPT. CROW, LOHN JOHN, JIMIE THUDSON, CORNPLANTER, JONES COUSIN, BLUE EYES, STIFF KNEE, STRONG, BIG KETTLE, LITTLE JOHNSON, RED JACKET, CHIEF WARRIOR, JACK SNOW, DOESTADA, JOHN FOPP, SENECA WHITE, JOSEPH LEGNANY, GREEN BLANKET, JOHN SNOW, LITTLE BEARD, WM. BLACKSNAKE, WHITE BOY, THOMPSON, TALL CHIEF, TALL PETER, ISAAC, JAMES STEVENSON, JR., CAPT. SNOW, JAMES ROBISON, HENRY TWO GUNS, JOHN SNOW, TWENTY CANOES, WHITE SENECA, STEVENSON, SILVER HEELS, DESTROY TOWN, JOHN PIERCE; 46 in all.

ROBERT TROUP,	by his Attorney John Greig.
THOMAS L. OGDEN,	“ “ “ “
BENJ. W. ROGERS,	“ “ “ “

Signed and Sealed in the presence of

JASPER PARISH, Indian Agent.
HORATIO JONES, Interpreter.
LEVI HUBBELL, “
JACOB JIMSON, “

Certificate of Nathaniel Gorham, Sup't for Massachusetts.
“ “ Oliver Forward, Com. for United States.

Treaty ratified by United States Senate.

Abram Ogden and Wife, et. al. 1st part, Wm. Short, et. al. 2d part, Robert Troup, et. at. 3d part.	Deed of Partition, January 10th, 1828. Liber 11, Page 56, to divide above premises to individual stockholders as per Trust Deed of February 18th, 1821.
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TREATY OF 1833 AND 1842.

The Seneca Nation
of Indians
to
Thomas L. Ogden
and
Joseph Fellows.

Treaty January 15th, 1838, Lib. 82, Page 1. Sale of all the Indian lands which were excepted from the treaty and sale of August 31st, 1826, conveys 114,869 acres for \$202,000, signed by forty-four chiefs and head men of the nation, certified by Mr. Gillett, Commissioner for the United States; certified by Gen. Dearborn, Superintendent for Massachusetts. Treaty amended by United States Senate and sent back. So much dissatisfaction and opposition was made by many of the Chiefs and Indians that another Treaty was made August 7th, 1838, and was signed by forty-two who claimed to be chiefs. This last treaty was ratified by the United States Senate.

Josh. Waddington,
Benj. W. Rogers,
Abraham Ogden,
Duncan P. Campbell,
Isaac Ogden,
Robert Tillotson,
Gabriel Shaw
(by Attorney)
to
Thomas L. Ogden
and
Joseph Fellows,
Trustees.

Deed of trust July 16th, 1840, liber 67, page 198. To purchase such of the Indian Reservation as they can by treaty and then to convey and make partition of Indian lands.

The Seneca Nation
of Indians
to
Thomas L. Ogden
and
Joseph Fellows,
Trustees.

Treaty, May 20th, 1842. Liber 106, Page 194. Treaty confirmatory and amendatory of the treaty of January 15th, 1838, and of August 7th, 1838, conveys several tracts, among them the balance of the Buffalo Creek Reservation as reserved by the treaty of August 31st, 1826, contains 49,920 acres.

Signed by

GEO. BLACK SNAKE, JOHN SENECA, IRA HURBACK, JOHN DICKEY, JAMES STEVENSON, JACOB BENNETT, GEORGE FOX, GEORGE BIG DEER, JOHN PIERCE, GEORGE TURKEY, PETER JOHNSON, WM. PATTERSON, DANIEL TWO GUNS, JACOB STRONG, SAMUEL GORDON, BULLY SHANKS, JOHN KENNEDY, TONE HALF TOWN, JAMES PIERCE, ABRAM JOHN, WHITE SENECA, ROBERT WATT, JOB PIERCE, YOUNG CHIEF, THOMPSON S. HARRIS, GEORGE BIG DEER, THOMAS JIMERSON, MORRIS HALF TOWN, GANA WAN, TALL PETER, SIMON WHITE, ISAAC HALF TOWN, JOHN KENNEDY, JR., JAMES SHON, JR., MORRIS STEVENSON, WM. JONES, JAMES SPORING, JONAH ARMSTRONG, SAMUEL LOGAN, MORRIS H. PIERCE, GEORGE DEER, GUY JAMESON, JOHN TALL CHIEF, DANIEL SNOW, N. T. STRONG, BLUE EYES, JOHN BARK, JABEZ STEVENSON, SAMUEL WILSON, GEO. KILL BRUSH, LITTLE JOHNSON, WM. KROUSE, GEO. DENNIS, 53 CHIEFS AND HEADMEN.

Witnesses:

Benj. Finney, O. H. Marshall, Orlando Allen,
Elam R. Jewett, Asher Wright, Cortland B.
Stebbins, Joseph S. Watson,
Thomas L. Ogden.

Joseph Fellows.

Ambrose Spencer, Com. on behalf of U. S.

Samuel Hoar, Supt. on behalf of Mass.

A. Dixon, Com. on behalf of N. Y.

This treaty was not ratified by the U. S. Senate.

PARTITION DEED OF OGDEN COMPANY

Wm. L. Wadding- Deed of Partition December 29th, 1852.
ton, Liber 147, Page 279, in which principals et al.,
Jeremiah Van were set off.
Renssaeler,
Executors of
Josh. Waddington,
Rich. H. Ogden, Ex.
of Thos. L. Ogden,
Louisa Troup, et al
to
Gabriel Shaw and
Melville Wilson.

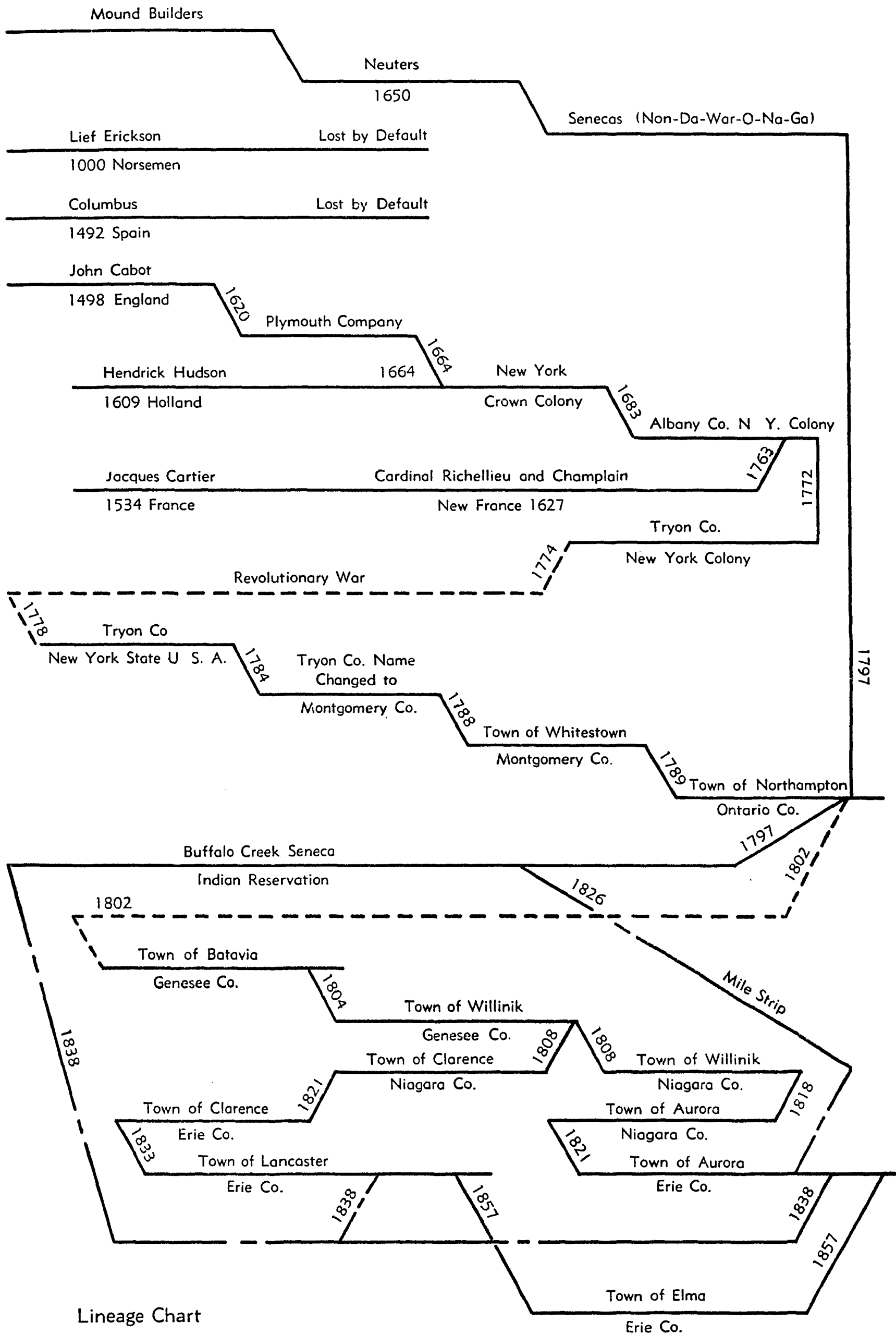
Other deeds of Partition, Liber 77, Page
231; Liber 51, Page 279; Liber 118, Page 323.

This brings the chain of title to 1852, and partitions the lots to the various members of the Company, giving to them individually the right to convey.

It will be seen by the foregoing that the town of Elma was wholly included in the Buffalo Creek Reservation; that by the treaty of August 31st, 1826, the Ogden Company bought a strip one mile wide in the south part of Elma, the south line of this Mile Strip being the south line of the town.

That by the treaty of May 20th, 1842, the Ogden Company bought the remainder of the Buffalo Creek Reservation, of which the remaining portion of the town of Elma was a part. The north line of this last purchase forms the north line of the town.

That, by the deeds of partition, the stockholders of the Ogden Company became individual owners of the several lots as surveyed and numbered, and from these individual owners, purchases were made and the settlement of the town was begun, first, on the Mile Strip in 1828 and in 1844, and later throughout the remaining portion of the town.



Lineage Chart
Town of Elma
Erie Co., N. Y.

F. I. Sigman
Town Historian

CHAPTER IV.

STATE JURISDICTION.—NEW YORK STATE DIVIDED INTO COUNTIES

Massachusetts claimed jurisdiction, as well as sovereignty over all of Western New York under the Charters of 1620 and 1628.

New York claimed the same under the Charter of 1664. Naturally, trouble between the governing authorities of the two colonies, as well as with the inhabitants, grew out of these conflicting claims; and these troubles grew to be more and more bitter, as settlements were extended by each colony until actual hostilities were threatened on both sides.

The settlement was finally made on December 16th, 1786, by a commission appointed by Congress, which gave to New York jurisdiction over all the disputed territory in this State. The acts of New York will now be considered in this matter of State jurisdiction.

The New York Assembly, having been called together by Gov. Dongan, then the Colonial governor of New York, among other acts, on October 17th, 1683, passed the act entitled "Charter of Liberties, &c.," and on November 1st, 1683, the governor signed the act dividing the territory of New York into nine counties.

Kings, Queens and Suffolk on Long Island were organized with practically the same boundaries as at present.

The southeast part of the State, east of the Delaware River, was divided into Westchester, Richmond, Dutchess, Ulster, Orange and Albany Counties.

The first post-office in New York City was established in 1775.

COUNTIES ORGANIZED

Albany County, as organized at that time, extending south from Albany about fifty miles, then west and south-west to the Delaware River, then south to the Pennsylvania State line, and embraced all of the west and north part of New York and the whole of Vermont—quite a fair sized county, containing over 40,000 square miles. Elma was then and for nearly ninety years in Albany County.

Tryon County, formed from Albany County, March 12th, 1772, embraced all the State west of the Delaware river and a line extending from the head of that river, northeast through what is now Schoharie County, and along the east line of Montgomery, Fulton, and Hamilton Counties, then north on a straight line to Canada.

This placed Elma in Tryon County.

Montgomery County.—The name of Tryon County was changed to Montgomery, April 2d, 1784, the people at that time having a greater love and respect for a noble general than for the old British governor.

This placed Elma in Montgomery County.

Ontario County was formed from Montgomery County, January 27th, 1789, to embrace all of the Massachusetts tract and the New York State reservation on the east side of the Niagara River, being all west of a meridian line passing due north from the eighty-second mile post in the north line of the State of Pennsylvania, through Seneca Lake to Sodus Bay on Lake Ontario. Contain 6,000,000 acres of land. County seat at Canandaigua.

This placed Elma in Ontario County.

TOWNS AND COUNTIES

Genesee County, formed from Ontario, by act of legislature, March 30th, 1802, the east line of the County being the Genesee River and a line from the junction of Canaseraga Creek, with the Genesee, south to the Pennsylvania State line. All west of this line is the new County of Genesee. By the same act the County was divided into four towns; Northampton (later the name

changed to Gates), Southampton, Leister and Batavia, the county seat to be at Batavia. By this act, the town of Batavia consisted of the whole of what is now Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara Counties, and nearly all of Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming and Alleghany Counties—about 4,000,000 acres.

This act placed Elma in the town of Batavia, Genesee County. The surveys of the Holland Company's land being complete, settlers came, and the Holland Purchase was talked about everywhere.

April 11th, 1804, by act of the Legislature, Batavia was divided into four towns. Batavia was to consist of the 1st, 2d and 3d Ranges of towns of the Holland Company's surveys; the west line of Batavia being the east line of Darien, and that line north and south from the Pennsylvania State line to Lake Ontario; Willink to consist of the 4th, 5th and 6th Ranges, making the west Transit line the west line, and extending from the Pennsylvania line to Lake Ontario; Erie to consist of the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Ranges and New York Reservation; Chautauqua to contain all of what is now Chautauqua County.

This placed Elma in the town of Willink, Genesee County.

In the early part of 1808, settlements had been made in every part of the large county of Genesee, and the inhabitants found it very inconvenient to attend the town meetings and elections; thus a reorganization of the county and of the towns seemed to have become a necessity. Towns eighteen miles wide and one hundred miles long were well enough when the inhabitants were few, and all at or near one end; but now all this was changed, for the people living at Olean to go to Vandeventers in the new town of Clarence—eighty miles—to attend town meetings and elections was a little too much.

The same conditions existed in the towns of Batavia and Erie.

Genesee County.—March 11th 1808, by act of the Legislature, the line between the 4th and 5th Ranges was to be as it is now, the West line of Genesee County.

Niagara County was formed by the same act to embrace all the territory west of Genesee County to Niagara River and between the Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Ontario; being the present counties of Niagara and Erie.

Cattaraugus County by same act was formed with present boundaries.

Chautauqua County by same act was formed with present boundaries.

Cambria, a new town, by same act was formed from Willink and Erie, to comprise all of Niagara County north of the center of Tonawanda Creek.

Clarence, a new town, all of Niagara County, between the centre of Tonawanda Creek and the centre of the Indian Reservation, including the village of Buffalo and Grand Island.

Willink, to include all of Niagara County, between the centre of the Reservation and the Cattaraugus Creek. This wipes out the town of Erie, and places the town of Elma partly in Willink and partly in Clarence, in Niagara County; the line between Willink and Clarence, is the lot line about sixty rods north of Elma railroad station.

Buffalo as a town was formed by act of Legislature February 8th, 1810, from the town of Clarence, taking all west of the Transit line, viz.:—what is now the city of Buffalo, also Grand Island, Tonawanda, Amherst, Cheektowaga and north part of West Seneca.

Willink changed to Aurora. Name changed by act of Legislature, April 15th, 1818.

Erie County, formed April 2d, 1821, from Niagara County; the Tonawanda Creek being the dividing line, giving to both Erie and Niagara their present limits. Erie County is twenty-three miles from the centre of Niagara River at the foot of Lake Erie to the Range line between the 4th and 5th Ranges of the Holland Company's survey; this Range line is one and a quarter miles east of the east line of Marilla. Erie County is forty-three-and a half miles north and south.

This places Elma partly in Aurora and partly in Clarence, Erie County.

Lancaster, formed March 20th, 1833, from Clarence, the new town comprising Township eleven, Range six of the Holland Company's surveys and south to the centre of the Reservation.

This places Elma partly in Aurora and partly in Lancaster, Erie County.

The Legislature of the State of New York, from the first organization of the Colonial Assembly on October 17th, 1683, had organized and made all changes in the size and boundaries of the towns of the State until 1849, when by Chapter 194 of the laws of 1849, entitled an Act to vest in the Boards of Supervisors certain legislative powers, etc., was passed April 3, 1849, as follows, :

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

“Chapter 194 of Laws of 1849.”

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1—The Boards of Supervisors of the several counties of this State (the county of New York excepted) at their annual meeting, shall have power within their respective counties by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected, to divide, or alter in its bounds any town, or erect a new town, but they shall not make any alteration that shall place parts of the same town in more than one assembly district. Upon application to the board as hereinafter provided (of at least twelve freeholders of each of the towns to be affected by the division), and upon being furnished with a map and survey of all the towns to be affected, showing the proposed alterations, and if the application be granted, a copy of said map with a certified statement of the action of said board thereunto annexed, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to cause the same to be printed with the laws of the next legislature after such division takes place and to cause the same to be published in the same manner as other laws are published.

Section 2—Notice in writing of such intended application, subscribed by not less than twelve freeholders of the town or towns to be affected, shall be posted in five of the most public places in each of the towns to be affected thereby for four weeks next previous to such meeting of the board of Supervisors and a copy of such notice shall also be published for at least six weeks successively immediately before the meeting of the board of Supervisors at which the application is to be made, in the newspapers printed in the county, not exceeding three in number.

Section 3—Whenever the board of Supervisors shall erect a new town in any county, they shall designate the name thereof, the time and place of holding the first annual town meeting therein, and three electors of such town whose duty it shall be to preside at such meeting, appoint a clerk, open and keep the polls, and exercise the same powers as Justices of the Peace when presiding at town meetings, and in case any of the said

electors shall refuse or neglect to serve, the electors of the said town present at such meeting shall have power to substitute some elector of said town for each one so refusing or neglecting to serve. Notice of the time and place of such town meeting signed by the Chairman or Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall be posted in four of the most public places in said town, by the persons designated to preside at such town meeting, at least fourteen days before holding the same. They shall also fix the place for holding the first town meeting in the town or towns from which such new town shall be taken, but nothing in this act shall affect the rights or abridge the term of office of any Justice of the Peace or other town officer in any such town whose term of office has not expired."

In accordance with the foregoing act of the Legislature, the following notice was duly posted and printed:

NOTICE

Is hereby given that an application will be made to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Erie, New York, at their next annual meeting, to erect a new town in said county from the north part of the town of Aurora, and south part of the town of Lancaster to be composed of all that part of Township No. 10 in the Sixth Range of Townships lying east of a line commencing at the north-west corner of the town of Marilla, and running westerly to the Transit line, forty-five rods north of the northeast corner of the town of West Seneca, containing all the lands in said bounds.

LANCASTER

William Winspear,
Henry F. Pate,
Frederick Hinemann,
John Wolf,
Daniel Christ,
Jacob Knab,
George Standart,
Edward Healey,
Frederick Metzel,
Washington Standart,
Matthias Baker,
Thomas D. Tiffany,

AURORA

John Barnet,
David J. Morris,
Henry M. Guptill,
William M. Lockwood,
Robert M. Miller,
Horace Keyser,
Zenas M. Cobb,
James Davis, 2nd,
Lewis Northrup,
Noah Wertman,
J. H. Aylesworth,
John Morris.

October 29th, 1856, Mr. Harris, Supervisor from the town of Aurora, presented to the Board of Supervisors a petition of William Lockwood and others of Aurora for the erection of a town from parts of Aurora and Lancaster. Referred to Committee on Erection and Division of Towns.

November 24th, 1856, Mr. Harris presented petition of Z. A. Hemstreet and others, in reference to erection of a new town, from parts of Aurora and Lancaster.

Mr. Bingham presented petition of Henry T. Jett and others in reference to the same matter. Both petitions were referred to Committee on Erection and Division of Towns.

November 27th, 1856, Mr. Carpenter presented a remonstrance of Warren Jackman and others against a division of this town of Lancaster. Referred to Committee on Erection and Division of Towns.

November 28th, 1856, Mr. Rowley presented the petition of D. J. Morris and others to have the new town from Aurora and Lancaster named Spring Brook. Referred to Committee on Erection and Division of Towns. Also the petition of Erasmus Briggs and others to have a new town erected from Lancaster and Aurora. Referred to same committee.

Mr. Bingham presented a remonstrance of Edward Holmes and others against the proposed north line of the new town which petitioners ask to have erected from Lancaster and Aurora. Referred to same committee.

Thursday, December 4th, 1856. Report of the Committee on Erection and Division of Towns.

Mr. Morgan, from the Committee on Division and Erection of Towns, made a report as follows:

“Your Committee, to whom was referred the petitions and remonstrances of different persons of the town of Lancaster and Aurora, have had the same under consideration and, after examining all the petitions and remonstrances both for and against the erection of a new town from parts of the towns of Lancaster and Aurora and, finding that all the notices and affidavits required to be given by the act passed by the Legislature of April 3d, 1849, have been furnished on the part of the petitioners, are of the opinion that the prayers of the petitioners should be granted.

We therefore offer the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved, That all that part of the towns of Lancaster and Aurora in the County of Erie described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of the town of West Seneca, running thence east on the line of lots to the west line of the town of Marilla and to the northeast corner of Lot No. 1; thence south on the said west line of the town of Marilla to the southwest corner of said town; thence westerly along the Reservation line to the Transit line; thence northerly along the said Transit line to the place of beginning, is hereby erected into a separate town to be hereafter known and distinguished by the name of Elma.

2nd. Resolved, That all the remaining part of Lancaster, shall be and remain a separate town by the name of Lancaster, and all the remaining part of Aurora shall be and remain a separate town by the name of Aurora.

3rd. Resolved, The first annual town meeting in the town hereby erected shall be held at the house of Clark W. Hurd, in said town, on the first Tuesday of March, 1857, and thereafter the same shall be held on the same day that other towns hold their annual town meetings in said county of Erie.

4th. Resolved, That Joseph B. Briggs, Deforest Standart and Lewis Northrup are hereby appointed to preside at the first town meeting to be held in said town of Elma; to appoint a clerk; open and keep the polls and shall exercise the same powers as Justices of the Peace when presiding at town meetings. All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL MORGAN,
NILES CARPENTER,
O. G. ROWLEY,
MARTIN KELLER,
THOMAS O'DWYER,
Committee."

Mr. O'Dwyer moved to lay the report on the table and make it the special order for Monday afternoon, immediately after the reading of the minutes.

Mr. Taylor moved to amend, by making it the special order for this P. M. at 3 o'clock.

The question taken by ayes and noes, resulted as follows: Ayes,—Z. C. Allen, Barnard, Bingham, Ballou, Buffum, Covey, Clark, Carpenter, Cunningham, Dayton, Grove, Morgan, Patterson, Rowley, Sherman, Smith, Taylor, Winslow—19.

Noes—O. Allen, Brooks, Bellinger, O'Dwyer, Diebold, Edmunds, Fish, Harris, Hecox, Hall, Keller, Loveland, Marvin, Richmond, Sterns, Welch—16. The motion as amended was put and carried.

Thursday, December 4th, 1856—Afternoon session.

The report of the Committee on Division and Erection of Towns having been the special order it was taken up.

Mr. Taylor moved that the report be adopted. The question being taken by ayes and noes resulted as follows:

Ayes—Z. G. Allen, Barnard, Bingham, Ballou, Buffum, Covey, Clark, Carpenter, Cunningham, O'Dwyer, Diebold, Dayton, Edmunds, Fish, Grove, Harris, Hall, Keller, Morgan, Patterson, Rowley, Richmond, Stevens, Sherman, Smith, Taylor, Welch, Winslow—28.

Noes—Brooks, Loveland, Marvin—3. Report adopted.

December 9th, 1856—Mr. Brooks moved that the town of Elma be made a part of School Commissioner District No. 2.

Mr. Allen moved that the said motion be referred to a committee of three to be appointed by the chairman. Carried. The chairman appointed as said committee, Messrs. Covey, Cunningham and Welch.

Mr. Bingham presented the petition of John Wright and others to have the new town, now called Elma, called Clyde or London. Referred to a committee on Erection and Division of Towns.

December 10th, 1856—Mr. Morgan from the Committee on Erection and Division of Towns made the following report:

ELMA THE NEW TOWN

“Your Committee, to whom was referred the petition of the inhabitants of the town of Lancaster for an alteration in the name of the new town of Elma, have had the same under consideration and beg to leave to make the following report:

That in the opinion of your Committee, we have no right to alter the name and should not be disposed to do so if we had such right. All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL MORGAN,
NILES CARPENTER,
O. G. ROWLEY,
MARTIN KELLER,
THOMAS O'DWYER.
Committee.”

Report adopted unanimously.

December 12th, 1856, Mr. Cunningham from the Committee on School Committee District No. 2 made the following report:

“The Committee to whom was referred the subject of altering the boundary of the Second School Commissioner District have had the same under consideration and offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the boundaries of the Second School Commissioner District in the County of Erie be and is hereby extended so as to include the town of Elma within its limits. Adopted.

L. D. COVEY,
NELSON WELCH,
H. S. CUNNINGHAM,
Committee.”

Thus was the Board of Supervisors authorized to erect the new town; and the Town of Elma with full power and authority became one of the towns of the Empire State.

CHAPTER V.

LOOKING BACKWARD

THE residents of the town of Elma in the year 1900, being in the full enjoyment of their pleasant and comfortable homes, many with expensive and luxurious furnishings and surroundings, with well cultivated fields and farms and well-filled barns, with villages, churches, postoffices and schools near by; with railroad and telegraph stations within easy reach; with good roads everywhere, and having been, for many years in the full possession and use of all these evidences of prosperity, and in the every-day life passing easily, almost imperceptibly from one day or week or month or year to another, if asked about these surroundings would be likely to reply they were that always so, but with a second sober thought they would hesitate and say, that great changes had taken place in Western New York since the first white settler moved upon the Holland Purchase; and even since this Reservation was vacated by the Seneca Indians.

Some writer has truthfully said, "That a person in a boat floating down a rapid current, by looking at the water at his side can form no ideas as to how fast he is going; and only when he looks at the shore or at some stationary object can he realize the velocity of the stream."

As a people and nation we are on the high tide and moving rapidly on. Shall we take a look towards shore and see what rapid strides we have made? We all know, or ought to know something of the early history of our country and of the hardships and dangers through which the early settlers passed; of the oppression which was forced upon the colonies by the home government; of the spirit they had with which to oppose the wrongs which they suffered, and which were increased until armed resistance became a necessity; of the great men of the country whose united patriotism and wisdom placed before the world our "Declaration of Independence," followed by the eight years Revolutionary War, and the acknowledgment by England by our Independence which compelled the governments of

Europe to recognize the "United States of America" as a nation among nations.

Then were we, as a nation, like a little child, hardly able to toddle along; but now like a strong, fully developed man we claim to be, and are, second to no nation on the face of the earth.

We have our 4th of July celebrations, when we have the Declaration of Independence read and appropriate orations delivered, and we fill out the day with patriotic songs. Why do we do this? Because we are by these exercises, taken back in thought to the time of Colonial troubles, the times that tried men's souls; and we receive great pleasure and profit in reading and reviewing the early history and later growth of our country, our spirit of patriotism and national pride is thereby strengthened; and by these celebrations we keep the fires of patriotism and love of country burning, so that our children and all citizens may learn and remember something of the struggles and hardships of the early settlers during the infant days of our republic. As national and individual independence and prosperity is today the heritage of all the people, so by the review we are made to realize when and how the great change and growth has come to pass, and love of country is made to take deeper root in the hearts of all the people.

As we turn back the pages of our national history and read about the great men; their labors and achievements in the affairs of the nation, the boys of today are thereby encouraged to do their best that they too, may have their names on their country's roll of honor.

As we read about the first steamboat, the first railroad locomotive, the first cotton loom, the first school, the first sewing machine, the first telegraph, and about a thousand other great inventions what interesting subjects of thought they are for us.

How proud were the men who gave them to us, and how we honor them, and cherish their memory; for they were the first to open a path through what had before been an unbroken wilderness, and they have opened the way for the inventive spirit to operate until today we have all these inventions brought to such great perfection that they are marvelous in our eyes. It is the great desire of our people to be forever pressing on, and so far as possible, to stand at the head of the class in all inventions that tend to make national and individual prosperity.

At the time the Colonists made their efforts to resist the tyranny that was forced upon them by the English government, had they been possessed of only ordinary intelligence and determination or in other words, less backbone; or if such strong outside influence had been used against them as to crush their efforts for Independence; or if the Colonists had been satisfied to continue under British rule, we today, would

be a second down-trodden and oppressed Ireland instead of the great United States nation.

Suppose that inventors had been satisfied with the steamboat which John Stevens set afloat in 1804, we would today be going around in just such a craft as that, instead of the splendid palaces that plow through the waters of our great lakes and the greyhounds and merchantmen and warships that traverse all oceans.

The first railroad engine which was built in the United States was placed on the track in 1830; a crude kind of engine with four wheels, no cab, no cover for engineer or fireman, wood for fuel, and able to go only a few miles in a day.

Christian Smith stepped on board as the first railroad engineer. Suppose that had satisfied the world as being the climax of railroad engines, what would the world be today as compared with the present railroads, crossing and recrossing every state and almost every civilized country of earth; with Empire Express passenger trains with a speed of sixty miles per hour and great freight trains, each carrying 600 to 2,000 tons of produce or merchandise 20 to 30 miles per hour? And so of each and all of the other great inventions of today which have been brought so nearly to perfection by American inventive genius.

As we trace these back to their early days, we can truly say that the push and the determination of our people to "get there" have, from very small beginnings and many unfavorable surroundings, produced marvelous results; and from taking this backward look we are prepared to give honor and praise where they are due; being better able to realize the changes that have been made, and so are encouraged to press forward to complete victory in all possible things, our motto being "Excelsior," always upholding the flag of our Union, with its Stars and Stripes, singing as we go, "Long may it wave, over the land of the free and the home of the brave."

As a people, we have much of praise and honor for those who have been the prime movers in all the great events of our national affairs and as we receive such inspiration and hope and strength by a review of our early and later national history, may we not have these same impressions increased toward the first settlers in the town of Elma, by a review of their early labors. A very large proportion of the families who resided in the town of Elma when the town was organized in 1856, came from the Holland Purchase, where they or their families were among the first settlers on that tract. By taking a look back to that time we shall see what Western New York then was, how the people labored, with what tools and implements they worked, what were their surroundings, and the difficulties, dangers, and hardships of their early lives.

This review of the frontier life of the early settlers on the

Holland Purchase may not be a history of the town of Elma in the strict meaning of that term; but it is a history of the early life of the fathers and mothers, of the boys and girls who were the first or early settlers of this town. Among their number are many who now reside here, and who have been and are numbered among our best citizens, and to take a brief review of their early lives is to place them in the position where we can give to them the respect and honor that is their due; for by their early acts and labors they laid the foundation for, and made possible the present conditions and surroundings. It is but fair that they and their early acts should be remembered, and that we by this review may realize the changes that have been made, and the difference there is between Western New York in 1808 and in 1900.

To pass by the purchase on July 20th, 1793, of the lands west of the Genesee River by the Holland Land Co. except the eleven Reservations, and the settlement of the eastern part of that tract with a settler here and there miles apart in the western part, we come to March 11th, 1808, when Niagara, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties were set off from Genesee county, and Niagara County embracing what is now Niagara and Erie was made into three towns, Cambria now Niagara County and Clarence and Willink, now Erie County.

FIRST SETTLERS ON HOLLAND PURCHASE

The dividing line between Clarence and Willink was the centre, east and west line of the Buffalo Creek Reservation. This line remained when Willink was changed to Aurora and when Lancaster was set off from Clarence as the line between Lancaster and Aurora.

At this time, 1808, there were about twelve families, a store, a sawmill, and a gristmill, in what is now Aurora, with scattering families in Wales, Colden and Hamburgh, and in the present town of Lancaster there were about twelve or fifteen families, a saw-mill, and a store. After 1808, settlers came in more rapidly but they were nearly all very poor.

As a rule, but few were able to pay more than five, ten or fifteen dollars as a part payment on a one hundred acre lot; and so many were not able to make that small payment that finally six shillings was the price required by the Holland Land Company for an "article" as the contract was called.

Generally, if the family came in the summer, it was with oxen and cart; if in winter or spring, with oxen and sled, and if not too poor, they would have with them a cow, a few sheep and a supply of clothing, a small stock of household furniture with sufficient provisions to last the family until they could raise some corn, potatoes and wheat.

The first thing after selecting a lot was a shelter. If there

were no near neighbors, the man would fix up a cabin of small logs that he and the other members of the family could handle and the body of the house was thus constructed. If there were four or more neighbors within two or three miles, they would come on a set day, and a log house of suitable size for the family would be constructed, having a roof of bark or shakes, a puncheon or earth floor, a fireplace built in one end of the house with common stones for materials, plastered and laid up in clay mud for mortar, with stick chimney laid up cob-house fashion and plastered outside and inside with clay mud when the house was ready.

POTATOES AND POINT

Every man needed to bring with him, as his outfit of tools, an axe for himself and one for each of his boys, a hand saw, a drawing knife, one inch and two inch auger, a gimlet, one or two iron wedges, hoe, sickle, and sap gouge; and for the house, andirons, fire-shovel and tongs, trammel and hooks and chain for the fire place, a one pail iron kettle or pot, tea-kettle, spider, bake-kettle, skillet, and a two or three pail kettle for washing days, one or two wood pails and a few keelers. The table furniture was neither extensive nor expensive; very few earthen dishes, the pewter plates, or plates of wood called trenchers, pewter platter for the center of the table, a few pewter or iron spoons, iron or steel knives and forks, made up the list. At meals the meat, if they had any, would be cut into small pieces or mouthfuls and put in the platter in the center of the table, and each person would reach to the platter with his work for a piece of meat or to sop a piece of bread as they would individually want. When the family had no meat they would prepare their potatoes and salt on the trencher, and while eating, occasionally point with their forks toward the platter, and in that way make the motion for meat; they would call the meal "potatoes and point." This with the early settlers was a common dish.

The principal meat was pork, with an occasional change to bear, deer, partridge, pigeon or fish. The steel and flint, with punk and tinder were a necessity; for the fire in summer would sometimes go out, and there were no matches in those days, and neighbors were not near enough so they could go to them to borrow fire.

With the few tools brought along the man could make the stools, benches, bedsteads, tables, and other necessary things as the time and requirements came along. After 1808 and 1810, saw-mills were built so that people could have boards for their floors and roofs and doors of their houses. None other than log houses were built for several years.

The men and boys were busy chopping, clearing, making

fence; and raising such crops as they could of potatoes, corn, wheat, rye, beans and flax; caring for the oxen, cows, sheep, hogs and horse, if they had one, for not more than one family in ten had a horse before 1816 in all Western New York, and that was only used for horse-back riding, or to take a grist to the mill. The three-cornered drag was made from the crotched part of a tree, each prong about seven or eight inches in diameter flattened to a proper thickness, with two inch auger holes at proper distances apart in which would be inserted wooden teeth, made from hard, strong wood; generally hickory, oak, or iron wood. The oxen would drag this over the ground among the roots and stumps of the newly cleared field, and thus scratch up enough of soil to partly cover the grain that had been sown by hand broadcast; or this dragging would prepare the ground to be planted to potatoes or corn. The first crop of corn on a newly cleared field was generally planted Indian fashion; that is, strike the axe into the ground where the hill was wanted, drop in four or five kernels of corn and step on the hill.

PLOW AND SICKLE

The plow, when one was used, was of rude construction and in later years, the share and mould-board were of cast iron with large wood beam, known as "Wood's Bull Plow," a heavy clumsy thing to handle, but it was strong and, with enough of team strength, would break the roots and tear up considerable soil.

The wheat, rye and oats were always cut with the sickle, and where several hands were in the harvest field, the head man would cry out, "Band O!" and every man would cut a handful of the grain, and tie the knot to make the band, and lay it on the ground; then they would cut the grain by handfuls, lay them on the band, and when enough was so placed to make a bundle, then the head man would sing out, "Bind O!" and every one would bind his bundle; then "Band O!" and so on across the field. To reap, bind and set up one-half acre of common grain was a good day's work.

SUGAR MAKING—FLAX DRESSING

Of the wheat, rye, and oats stored in the barn, enough would be threshed with the flail in the fall for immediate use, if needed; the balance would be threshed in the winter. Men and boys learned to use the flail, and two or three hands, keeping stroke with flails—tap, tap, tap, so as not to hit another flail, made the winter music in the barn; the straw and chaff being fed to the cattle. If, for any reason, there was not enough straw and hay for the cattle in winter or spring, the men would go to the woods and chop down elm, birch, beach, or basswood trees, and the cattle would eat the small twigs and

many times the entire stock would be carried through the winter on this browse.

Making sap troughs, tapping the maple trees, and work in the sugar bush was the gala time and to make a year's supply of sugar and molasses for the family was part of the early spring work.

On pleasant days in March, the men and boys, if they had flax would use the flax-break, then the swingel to separate the shives from the flax, followed by the hatchel to separate the coarse part of the fibre or tow from the fine part, which was to be used for thread and fine linen cloth; then the flax and tow were ready for the mother and girls. They kept the house, did the cooking over the fire in the Dutch fireplace that occupied one end of the living room, and it was in many houses the veritable living room, being used for kitchen, pantry, dining-room, reception room, bedroom and parlor so far as they had need for a parlor.

There were no cook stoves in those days and not a piano on the Holland Purchase before 1824, and there was no good place in the house to put one, and no time nor use for cheap novels, embroidery or fancy work.

WOMEN SPIN AND WEAVE

The mother and girls carded the wool and tow into batts with hand cards and from these they spun yarn on the big wheel. Every girl then learned to spin, not street yarn or on a bicycle, but the real yarn from wool and tow, and it was their pride to see how evenly they could draw out the thread, and get off their day's work of four skeins of filling or three skeins of warp. The warp was spun cross banded, and was hard twisted, and so required more work. Each skein contained ten knots of forty threads each, and each thread to be two yards in length; so each skein consisted of a continuous thread eight hundred yards, or twenty-four hundred feet in length. The four skeins made nine thousand six hundred feet, nearly two miles in length of thread, for a days work; but a smart spinner would get off her day's work by 3 o'clock p. m. From the wool yarn thus spun, then colored and woven, would be made the best dresses for the women, and the best clothes for the men, and from wool spun for that especial purpose were knit the stockings for the family.

From the tow thus carded and spun, they would make cloth for the girls' summer dresses, and frocks, pants and shirts for the men and boys.

The flax, after being thoroughly hatched and nicely placed on the distaff would be spun on the little wheel, and thread be thus prepared for sewing, and to be woven into fine linen cloth for family use. The big wheel, the little wheel, and the reel

were a part of the furniture of nearly every house. Of course, the weaver had in addition, the loom, the swifts, the quill-wheel, quills and spools, the warping bars, and sets of coarse and fine reeds.

CANDLES

The fire in the fireplace would generally give out light enough. If, for any ordinary purpose more light was required, a tallow candle in an iron candlestick would supply the need, but for especial occasions, as when they had company and wanted to show that they could put on more style, two tallow candles would be brought out. The tin lantern, with a piece of tallow candle furnished the light for going around on dark nights and to do the chores in the barn.

The oxen and cart or wagon for summer and the oxen and sled for winter were the means of conveyance.

While the whole country was covered with one dense forest, the conditions were not favorable for sudden changes of weather; thaws in winter were not common and generally, November snows would remain until April. There were no snow-drifts, for the windstorms passed over the tops of the trees, as the snow remained where it fell, a road once broken through the woods would remain good all winter.

MERCHANTS—SHOEMAKERS

Boots and shoes were for winter and special occasions only. Many were the boys and girls who never had a shoe for every day wear before they were twelve years old, and very often not then.

On going to the village or to church they would carry their shoes to within half a mile of the village or church, put them on there, wear them to where they were going, and back to the same place, then take them off and carry them home, thus prolonging the serviceability of the shoes.

The country or village stores did not have boots and shoes as a part of their stock in trade. In every village, you would find the shoemaker and in almost every neighborhood would be a cobbler who would mend shoes and sometimes make a pair. In the fall and winter, the traveling shoemaker with his shoe-bench and small kit of tools and lasts would go from house to house and as they called it, "whip the cat," and stay with the family while he made or mended their boots and shoes for the winter's supply.

After 1818, a tannery was started in nearly every village on the Holland Purchase, and from these the necessary supply of leather was obtained.

The merchants obtained their goods from New York or Albany; the goods being hauled from Albany with four or six horse teams; the teams taking potash to Albany, and loading

back with merchandise and iron. The iron was necessary for the blacksmith who in addition to his regular trade, was a nailmaker; and from the nail-rod he made the nails used in his neighborhood. The long distance from which the iron was brought, made nails very high even at the low price of labor. In 1820, a few merchants in the larger villages brought in a few cut nails, coarse and clumsy things as compared with the nails of 1900. Eight and ten penny nails were then sold for sixteen cents per pound, while wheat at that time was worth only thirty cents per bushel at the village mill. A bushel of wheat then would not buy two pounds of nails, while in 1900 a bushel of wheat at eighty cents will buy at retail thirty pounds of very nice steel nails. Farmers in 1900 complain of hard times; how was it in 1820?

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

Schools were started in every neighborhood where a dozen or more children could be found. The schoolhouses were generally log buildings with a Dutch fireplace in one end. Later, in the villages and occasionally in the country you would find a frame school house. Education was what every parent wanted his children to have; not the high school education of 1900, for that was not known on the Holland Purchase for many years; but a good, liberal education, consisting of a fair knowledge of the three Rs, as "Readin, Ritin, and Rithmetic," was called, and to this education the children generally attained.

Churches were built in the villages with forenoon and afternoon services summer and winter. No fire was kept in the churches until 1824, as there were no box stoves until about that date.

ERIE CANAL

The completion of the Erie Canal from Buffalo to Albany in 1825, caused a great boom in the Holland Purchase. On October 26, 1825, at 10 o'clock a. m., the Seneca Chief left Buffalo for Albany with Governor Clinton and others on board. The departure from Buffalo was announced by the discharge of a thirty-two pound cannon. Other cannon along the canal at convenient distances repeated the shot, and in that way the news was telegraphed to Albany. That was the best way to telegraph in those days.

The opening of the canal enabled people to come into Western New York with less expense and hardship, and the merchant was able to get his goods from New York at less cost, and very much quicker than the old way of having everything hauled from Albany by teams. It also opened a better market for the farmer for his surplus product. Horses were required to haul the boats and they required feed, so horses, hay, and oats

found a ready market on the canal. After this date most of the houses which were built in the older part of the Holland Purchase were frame houses, only a few log houses remaining, except in some back or newly settled portion. The pewter plates and trenchers gave place to crockery and all kinds of tin ware, with better buildings, farm tools, and better cultivation and better crops and roads. The whole face of the country shows that the infant stage has passed.

FROM POVERTY TO COMPETENCY

We can readily see that with the early settlers in Erie County, for many years, improvements came very slowly, as only the actual necessities of life were to be had, or were expected, while luxuries were not to be thought of. It was only by slow, hard labor, persistently followed, that change was made from poverty to competency, by the people who by their crude surroundings were forced to their severe manner of living. Their very existence demanded and forced upon them industry and rigid economy—that sharp, strict, close economy which in these days of extravagance and luxury would be called niggardly meanness. This is a fair statement of the mode of life of a great majority of the early settlers on the Holland Purchase before 1826, in what is now Erie County. A goodly number of persons who were born and raised to manhood and womanhood under exactly such conditions and surroundings as have been here stated, are residing in the town of Elma in the year 1900, and they have been and are today among the best and most highly respected citizens of the town and county. There can be nothing but honor and praise for those honest, hardy toilers, who, by their industry and perseverance overcame so many obstacles and discouragements, and opened the way so that the present pleasant and prosperous conditions of the people in the town of Elma were made a probability and possibility and later, a certainty.

CHAPTER VI.

WESTERN NEW YORK IN 1797—SETTLEMENT OF THE MILE STRIP

ONE hundred years ago, viz.: in 1797, there were not a dozen families of white persons residing on all of the Massachusetts lands west of the Phelps and Gorham tract. A few hundred of the Seneca, Tuscarora and Cayuga tribes of the Iroquois or Six Nations had about a dozen Indian villages several miles apart and a few huts or wigwams between and near these villages with one to ten acres of cleared land near the wigwam or village, on which the squaws raised corn, beans, and gourds. The footpaths or trails from wigwam to village, and between the villages were all the signs that showed that any part of this territory was occupied by human beings.

The 7,000 square miles of territory bounded by the Genesee River on the east, and Niagara River and Lake Erie on the west was to be known as Western New York. The mountains, valleys, hills, plains, rivers, creeks and streams were practically the same as we find them today but it was all an unbroken forest, except the small patches of Indian clearings which were the homes of the Indian, the bear, the wolf, the panther, the deer, and other wild animals.

The Seneca tribe of Indians was the undisputed owner of all this great tract of country (except the New York Reservation, which was a strip one mile in width from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie along the east bank of Niagara River) the title having been confirmed and guaranteed to them by treaty with the United States. This whole forest region was covered with a heavy growth of oak, pine, hemlock, hickory, ash, black walnut, butternut, sycamore, maple, beech, elm, basswood and many other kinds of timber, and was an ideal home and hunting-ground for the native Indian.

WESTERN NEW YORK IN 1900

One hundred years have passed, and in 1900 we find in this same Western New York that these Indians have sold all their lands to the white man, except four small reservations, a few thousand acres in all, and in the place of a few hundred Pagan

Indians there are more than 1,000,000 civilized Christians, intelligent and industrious white people. We find the great city of Buffalo and several smaller cities and hundreds of villages and hamlets dotted here and there over the whole territory. It is hardly possible to tell the number of miles of paved and asphalt streets and roads in the cities and villages and between them; or the number of miles of street railroads which are spread across and around these cities and villages, and that reaching miles into the surrounding county form a great iron and steel net on which the cars run, being propelled by that subtle power, electricity, of which we see and hear so much, and really know so little. The steam railroad, the steel tracks of which cross and recross almost every town, with trains coming and leaving the cities almost every minute of every day of the year, the steamboats arriving and leaving the city wharves; the hum and whir of 10,000 machines in the factories, the hundreds of palatial residences, the churches, schools, public and office buildings, the more than 1,000,000 of busy hurrying people are in such marked contrast with everything 100 years ago that the mind is filled with wonder and amazement.

In the place of the scattering Indian huts and half acre clearings in the great forest, we find everywhere well-cultivated farms with fine buildings, the houses finished and furnished with all the modern appliances, the homes of a prosperous and happy people.

Instead of the foot path or Indian trail from and between the Indian villages with a tree fallen across the stream for a bridge, we have the whole country crossed and recrossed with well worked highways, with iron and steel bridges across the streams. These are only a few of the many things that come to the mind of persons residing in Western New York in the year 1900. The mind wanders when we attempt to take in all the changes of the 100 years, and we can only say this is truly an age of wonders, if not of miracles, and we are ready to ask if some magic wand was passed over this region, that produced this change, this transformation from Pagan barbarism to Christian civilization.

HOLLAND LAND CO.—OGDEN CO.

The purchase, July 20th, 1793, and survey of this 7,000 square miles of territory, by the Holland Land Co. was the first step to bring about this change. Next came the hardy pioneer as magician with axe in hand as the magic rod with which he made a few motions and passes towards the trees of the forest which caused them to tremble and fall at his feet. The fire and smoke from the burning brush and log-heaps were his

burnt offering; the thanksgiving for the harvest followed which was the next step.

These acts of persistent labor and strict economy, continually and intelligently applied, changed the forest to the farm and village on the Holland Purchase.

Twenty-five years of such work brought the white man's cleared fields to the North, east and south sides of the Buffalo Creek Reservation.

The Ogden Company, a syndicate of capitalists, tried for several years to purchase of the Indians all their lands in Western New York. Finally, by the treaty of August 31st, 1826, they purchased the whole of a few of the Reservations, and a part of some of the others. That part of the Buffalo Creek Reservation which lies in the town of Elma and was a part of this purchase was a strip of land one mile wide, and is known as the Mile Strip, and after having been surveyed by John Lamberton, was opened for settlement as an addition to the Holland Purchase. This was the third step in the progress of Western New York.

THE MILE STRIP

The south side of this Mile Strip is the south line of the present town of Elma, and the Elma part of this Mile Strip was divided by survey into thirty-seven lots of about one hundred acres each.

Lot No. 1 was at the southeast corner of Elma. Lot No. 2 next north of Lot No. 1, and as each lot was half a mile in length, the two lots reached across the Mile Strip in this town. The lots were numbered North and South as the ranges extended to the west until Lots 35, 36, 37, which form the west range in the town lying west of the Cazenove Creek, brings Lot 37 at the southwest corner of Elma.

The first settlements made by white people in this town of Elma were on this mile strip in the then town of Aurora, and the settlers came mostly from Aurora, Wales, Colden and Ham-burgh; all coming from the Holland Purchase, where they or their families had been among the early settlers of that tract and had there learned by experience what it meant to go into the woods to begin for a home.

At that time, 1828, sawmills, gristmills, villages, postoffices, churches and schoolhouses had become common on the Holland Purchase so that many articles of necessity and convenience were within easy reach, and friends and neighbors were near by. To leave these and go into the woods meant many privations and much hard work for all the members of the family. It meant a repetition to a certain extent of the labors, difficulties and dangers through which they had passed during the last few years. They knew and realized what was before them. It meant the same hard work, the same strict economy, small

returns for much hard labor, and the result has proven that they were in every way prepared and fully competent for the task.

The old Indian trail from the Allegany Reservation in Cattaraugus County to the Seneca village near Buffalo via Machias, Holland, Aurora, Spring Brook, and Ebenezer village crossed this mile strip and today the mainly traveled road through these places is very nearly on the old trail, and by this trail and road the travel went from Wales and Aurora to Buffalo before the Ogden Company made any purchase of the Seneca Indians.

The lots on the Mile Strip in Elma were offered for sale by the Ogden Company on January 1st, 1828.

EARLY SETTLERS ON THE MILE STRIP

The following named persons and their families were the first settlers on the Mile Strip in the year and as nearly in the order here given as can be ascertained:

Taber Earl,	on Lot 24, bought	January 2nd,	1828.
Lyman Chandler,	" 16,	" February,	1828.
Isaac Williams,	" 15,	moved on April 10,	1828.
Russell Brooks,	" 19 & 20,	moved on April 10,	1828.
Timothy Treat,	" 17,	May,	1828.
Daniel F. Cole,	" 26,	May,	1828.
Hiram Pattengill,	" 2,	January 1st,	1829.
Jacob R. Davis,	" 35,	May 5th,	1829.
John Divens,	" 21,		1829.
John Fones,	" 24,		1829.
Salathiel Cole,	" 32,		1829.
Chester Adams,	" 33,		1829.
Jas. & Willard Fairbank,	" 13,		1830.
Anasa & Luther Adams,	" 11,	(Cousins)	1830.
John Adams,	" 20,		1830.
James Davis,	" No. part 35,		1831.
Martin Taber (N. Star),	" 29,		1831.
Jacob Pattengill, }	" 2 & 3,		1831.
Taber Pattengill, }			
Zina A. Hemstreet,			1831.
Wilder Hatch,	" 1,		1832.
Joshua & Wm. Mitchell,	" 23 & 25,		1832.
Seth M. Bullis,	" 37,	March,	1833.
Samuel Harris,	" 24,	Sept.,	1834.
Thomas Coverdale,	" 18,		1834.

There were probably other families living on the Mile Strip before 1835, but their names and the year of their moving on could not be positively learned.

Settlers continued to come and in 1842 when the Ogden Company by treaty, obtained the balance of the Buffalo Creek

Reservation, forty-two families had found homes on the Mile Strip and about three-fourths of the lots had been purchased of the Ogden Company and had become farms with what was then called comfortable buildings and surroundings.

FIRST SETTLERS ON THE MILE STRIP

Taber Earl was the first purchaser of lands on the Mile Strip. On January 2, 1828, he bought Lot 24 of Josiah Waddington. The next year Earl and Blair built a tavern on the north side of the trail, and near the northwest corner of the lot where the house still stands in 1900. Samuel Harris bought this lot of Taber Earl on September 16th, 1834, and kept tavern there for several years. December 31st, 1849, Hiram Harris bought the place and lived there until he died on July 26th, 1889. He was supervisor of the town of Aurora, when the Town of Elma was formed from Aurora and Lancaster in 1856.

Lyman Chandler, in February, 1828, bought of Susan Ogden Lot 16. He was unmarried but built a small log house and his deed is dated September 8th, 1830. He disposed of seventeen acres from the northeast corner of the lot where James Blood has resided for many years. The title to the balance of the lot, eighty-three acres, remained in Lyman Chandler to the time of his death in October, 1889, at the age of eight-nine years. The Chandler heirs still hold the title.

Isaac Williams moved with his family on Lot No. 15 April 10, 1828, built a log shanty on the low ground south of where he was to build a house, and lived in the shanty that summer. During this time he made a small clearing and erected the upright part of a frame house. That frame house is still there, and is the front part of the house now and for many years occupied by the son, Thomas D. Williams. Thomas, born February 18, 1827, was one year and a month old when the family moved on the lot and that has been his home all these years. He died December 1, 1900.

Timothy Treat moved on Lot 17, in May, 1828, where he built a log house and lived there several years, when Horace Blood became the owner and lived there when the Town of Elma was organized. That lot is now owned by William H. Williams, a son of Thomas D. Williams, and grandson of Isaac Williams. The north and south road from the Aurora town line to the Jamison station on which these Williams families have for so many years resided is known as the Williams Road. The east and west road from the Girdled Road to the Aurora Plank Road on which Horace and James Blood resided for so many years is known as the Blood Road. These roads were laid out April 21, 1832.

Russel Brooks moved on the west part of Lot 19 April 10, 1828, built a log house in which he lived several years. The

place, in a few years, passed into the hands of Stickney Billington and remained in the Billington family until two or three years ago, when John Arndt, the present owner, came into possession of Lot 19. A part of Lot 20 is now owned by C. J. Hamlin as a part of his Aurora Village Stock Farm. The east and west road from the Aurora Plank Road to the east terminus on Lot 13, and on which road the Billington family lived for so many years is known as the Billington Road and was laid out April 21, 1832.

Daniel F. Cole moved on Lot 26, in 1828 into a log house. Members of that family reside on the old homestead; the title always remaining in the family.

Hiram Pattengill moved on Lot 2, January 1, 1829, where he lived in a log house. Trouble with a brother and a threatened law suit so worked on his mind that in March, 1846, he cut his throat with a razor, thus being the first suicide on Elma soil.

Jacob R. Davis moved into a log house on Lot 35, May 5, 1829. The son, William R. Davis, who now resides about one and one-half miles southwest from Spring Brook, was born May 4, 1827, and so was two years and one day old when the family moved on the Mile Strip. Jacob R. Davis built a sawmill on the Cazenove Creek on the end of Lot 35 in May, 1830. This was the first and only sawmill ever built on the Mile Strip in the town of Elma. In 1831, Jacob R. sold the north half of Lot 35 to his brother, James, where he and his family lived for many years. Albert Davis, the youngest son of Jacob R., now owns and for all his life has lived on the south half of said Lot 35.

Chester Adams built a log house and moved on Lot 33 in 1829, where he lived until a few years ago when he moved into the village of Aurora, where he now resides.

Salathiel Cole settled on Lot 32 in a log house in 1829. John Divins settled in Lot 21 in a log house the same year. James and Willard Fairbanks settled on Lot 13 in a log house in 1830.

Horace Scott Fairbanks, son of Willard Fairbanks, was the first white child born on the Mile Strip, May 27, 1831.

The south part of Lot 13 is still owned and occupied by descendants of Willard Fairbanks. H. Scott Fairbanks resides on the Bowen road, one-fourth mile north from Aurora Plank Road in the town of Aurora.

John Adams, in 1830, bought the east part of Lots 19 and 20, where he spent the remainder of his life, and his descendants now reside there.

Amasa and Luther Adams, cousins, settled on Lot 11 in 1830. John Q. Adams, son of Luther, is the present owner. The east and west road from the Girdled road to the Marilla town line on which Luther and John Q. Adams lived is known as the Adams Road and was laid out April 21, 1832.

Martin Taber erected a frame building in 1831 on the north-

east corner of Lot 29 across the road from the Taber Earl tavern. This new building was to be a tavern by which name all places kept for the entertainment of travelers was known. Tavern was the name — no hotel in those days and both houses did a good business, being on the mainly traveled road from Aurora to Buffalo and close to the line between the Mile Strip and the Indian lands.

This Martin Taber tavern was given the name of "North Star," and it has always been kept as a tavern and known as the North Star.

Joshua and William Mitchell built log houses and settled on Lots 23 and 25 in 1832, where they lived and where William died, January 26, 1836. Some of their family now live with John P. Cole on Lot 26.

Seth M. Bullis built a frame house on Lot 37 and moved in March, 1833. Marion was born January 16, 1834; later she became the wife of John W. Cole. She, in 1900, lives with her son, Bordan J. Cole, on the old Cole homestead on Lot 26.

Thomas Coverdale bought of Joseph Fellows Lot 18 and settled on the Mile Strip in 1834; sold the lot to Caleb Foster February 6, 1849. Caleb Foster and his family resided there all the balance of his life and his descendants now own and occupy a part of the lot.

CLEARING THE LAND

The work was of the same old kind and carried on in the same way as in the past twenty years on the Holland Purchase. It was chop, burn, clear, fence, raise wheat, corn, potatoes and flax. The same "Wood's Bull plow," but they have iron drag teeth. The grain cradle, introduced in 1830, slowly took the place of the sickle for harvesting grain. Before 1842, more than three-fourths of the wheat, rye and oats raised on the farms was threshed with the flail; the threshing being done by the farmer and his boys or threshed for every tenth bushel, by some man who wanted work and had no threshing of his own to do. Eight horse-power, open-cylinder threshing machines had been introduced that would thresh one hundred and fifty bushels of wheat and two hundred bushels of oats in a day if the grain was good, but as there was no separator or fanning mill attachment, the straw was separated from the grain and chaff by three or four rakings, and when quite a pile of the grain and chaff had accumulated in front of the thresher, all must stop and get this grain and chaff out of the way. Then they threshed another pile and so on—the fanning mill to be used later to separate the grain from the chaff. Improvements came later, but slowly.

The flax was prepared for the women, and they worked it into cloth, etc., in the same way as was done twenty or forty

years before. They had better conveniences for cooking over the fire and doing the house work; a few cookstoves had come into use after 1832, but they were not much used in the log houses. Carding machines, to convert the wool into nice rolls, were then within easy reach of the settler. This saved the handcarding of the wool, but they had plenty of work in hand carding the flax and tow, and in spinning and weaving the various kinds of cloth needed by the family, and in making their clothes and stockings.

Most of these early settlers have passed away; only a few remaining with us in 1900, but they made their mark in the world while here. We can see the result of their labor; and their industry, economy and perseverance is before us, as a lesson for us to learn, if we shall finally be successful in our various callings.

We honor them for the examples they have set before us, and that by their labors and their lives they have made the present high civilization and pleasant surroundings a possibility and certainty.

FINANCIAL STORM

Every person must be prepared for the trials, difficulties, labors, the hopes and fears, that are certain to be encountered through life, which as an individual or as a family or community, or, in a general way, as a nation, are to be met with and overcome if success be gained.

Whether the individual, family, community or nation shall be able to pass safely through and overcome these obstacles, or whether he or they shall be overcome by them, depends largely on the conditions, surroundings, perseverance, and will-power put into operation.

An obstacle, so great that a feeble person cannot stir it, can be readily removed by one of greater strength. A financial load, so great as to bankrupt a person of limited means, can be safely and with profit taken up by a person financially strong. But when the thing to be carried is so great that neither individual or national strength is sufficient, then disaster, if not ruin, is for every person to face, and only the most careful and persevering will be able to outride the storm in safety.

Signs that such a storm was near were to be seen, clouds were gathering and the political sky was gradually growing dark. Occasionally the mutter of distrust, and the low rumble as of distant thunder was heard. This occurred soon after the first settlers moved on the Mile Strip, and the prophecy was that "the first few years with the early settlers on the Mile Strip were to be years of hardship and trial," which proved true.

The Act of Congress, to re-charter the United States Bank, which passed both houses with considerable majority and was

the clap of thunder that told the people that the storm was here, was vetoed by President Jackson in 1830. This bank had, by its charter, been made the repository of the public moneys. In 1832, rumors were started that the deposits were not safe, and the Secretary of the Treasury caused an examination to be made of the condition of the bank. The report showed a surplus of \$42,297,000, over all liabilities, and that the security of the public money was above question.

The tariff did not produce sufficient revenue to meet the expenses of the government, and the proceeds from the sales of the public lands were used to meet the deficiency; but these sales were so large that the surplus was continually increasing.

A surplus in the United States Treasury was with President Jackson, as later with President Cleveland, a dangerous condition and must not be allowed to continue. So on September 18th, 1833, he directed the Secretary of the Treasury to withdraw the deposits from the United States Bank and place the money with state and local banks. The removal occurred October 1st, 1833. The United States Bank then began to curtail its loans, and to make arrangements to gradually close up its business.

Soon a severe money pressure pervaded the whole country. To overcome this financial embarrassment in every State, a great number of State Banks were chartered; many of them with little or no real capital, by which to secure the redemption of the great amount of paper which they put into circulation. This flood of money induced speculation, and wild-cat money and city lots had a great run.

In 1836, the deposit banks were hoarding all the gold and silver they could obtain, to enable them to meet the government calls. The local banks, being crowded for specie, were all over the country thrown into a panic, and most of them suspended specie payment, while many failed entirely. Money matters were fast coming to a crisis and every speculator and business man tried to get clear before he should be buried in the financial ruin which was sure to come soon, and might come any day.

The climax was reached in Erie County in August, 1836, when the forgeries of Benjamin Rathbun were exposed, and his failure was announced. As banker, capitalist, builder, speculator and boomer, he had been the leading business man in Buffalo, having had almost unlimited credit. It was found when the crash came that he was owing hundreds of men, who by his failure were in a day reduced from wealth to poverty; the acting and reacting influence extending to almost every man in western New York. This business failure was especially severe upon many of the settlers on the Mile Strip, as they had trusted Mr. Rathbun to lumber, etc.

The election of Martin Van Buren as President of the United

States in November, 1836, brought no financial relief, and all through 1837, prices of real estate as well as of all other property continued to go down. Banks continued to fail, counterfeit money and broken bank bills were causes of fear and distrust with every business man, and "Thompson's Bank Note Reporter and Detective," a weekly paper published in New York City which described counterfeit bills (which were legion) and reported broken and suspended banks, with the rates of discount at which the bills would be redeemed, was the constant companion of the business man, and even then he might go to bed at night with his pocket full of money and not be sure that he would have a dollar the next day which would help him to pay a debt, or to buy food for his family. These hard times continued with greater or less severity, generally greater for several years, and many families were forced to sell their homes, or have them sold by the Sheriff, when they would take the little they had left and go to Michigan, Illinois or Wisconsin, where they could find government land at ten shillings per acre, and begin again for a home in a new country.

MILE STRIP IN 1840

This caused many changes of ownership in real estate on the Mile Strip, and was a great hindrance in making improvements, especially on the new farms where the owners were forced to observe strict economy in all their expenditures.

The Patriot War, so called, commencing in December, 1837, was no help to the farmer.

The balance of trade between the United States and foreign nations in the eight years, 1832 to 1840, being the excess of imports over the exports of \$111,000,000, an average of about \$14,000,000 for each year, had drained the country of gold and silver; nearly all the State banks had suspended specie payments, and the manufactories had largely shut down because of the operations of the tariff of 1828, and business generally was about as bad as it could well be.

The financial condition being nearly the same in 1840, the presidential campaign of that year under the log-cabin, hard cider, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" enthusiasm served to secure to the Whig candidates a victory, and Wm. H. Harrison and John Tyler were duly elected as President and Vice-President of the United States and were inaugurated March 4th, 1841.

The population of Buffalo in 1840, was 18,213, and of the balance of Erie County 34,252, and of the Mile Strip in Elma about 180 persons of all ages.

These persons, with occasionally a family taking a lot, or part of a lot, continuing their struggles against all these difficulties made progress slowly, but all the time they moved ahead. Their land was cleared in the same old way, by chopping and burning. They worked up the best of the pine, ash

and whitewood trees into lumber for the Buffalo market and after 1850, other kinds of timber as well as some cordwood was taken to the same market.

PLANK ROAD TO BUFFALO

In 1849, a plank road was completed from Aurora to Buffalo. This road crossed the Mile Strip, and so furnished a good road all the year for the people to haul their heavy loads of lumber, wood and surplus farm produce to Buffalo.

The Davis Cemetery on Lot 36 of Mile Strip was laid out in 1854.

Notwithstanding that thousands of people were going west, and continued to go, the lands of the Mile Strip were, in 1856, practically all occupied by the sixty-five actual resident owners, only three hundred acres being non-resident land at that date. Improvements in the buildings and on the farms were being made. In 1856, the log house had nearly disappeared from the Mile Strip, having been generally displaced by the frame building, often painted white, and in many cases the windows were protected with green blinds, so that a white farm house with green blinds was not uncommon. Occasionally a farm house painted red with white trimmings would be found on some back road. Frame barns had taken the place of the log barn. The farms were gradually being cleared of stumps, so that the Mile Strip when the town of Elma was formed in December, 1856, had every appearance of being a long while settled and prosperous part of the country.

RESIDENTS ON THE MILE STRIP IN 1856

At that time, many of the first settlers who came before 1842 were still residents and in addition, we find the names of Thomas Aldrich, John Q. Adams, D. K. Adams, Harmon Bullis, Salem Baker, Warren Brown, William Bates, John W. Cole, Salathiel Cole, Charles P. Cole, Stanlius Chicker, James Davis, William H. Davis, Isaac Ellsworth, James Ellis, Edward Fowler, James Head, Paul B. Lathrop, William Paine, George Peek, Christopher Peek, John W. Peek, Whipple Spooner, Harvey D. Paxon, John Scott, William Thompson, Robert Wiley, William D. Wallace, and others.

Some of these names will appear later as having held important offices in the town of Elma, and as having been leaders in public improvements, and as true and tried patriots when the country was threatened by the tornado of secession, and torn by that great cyclone, Civil War, in 1861-1865, when we, at the north had to meet friend and foe in our every day business, and the country was nearly split in twain and our existence as a nation was in jeopardy. Then was needed the public spirit and patriotic expression, which was given by most of the residents of the Mile Strip. All honor to their names! May their memories ever be held in sacred remembrance!

CHAPTER VII.

ESTABROOK MILL—LANCASTER PART OF ELMA

THE "Indian Mill" also known as the "Estabrook Mill," and later as the Bullis Mill, with the house and barns for the mill hands and teams, were the first buildings erected by a white person in the town of Elma and as writers of the history of Erie County differ as to the year the mill was built; an effort was made to ascertain the exact date and accordingly, correspondence was carried on with persons most likely to know.

The most authentic data was received from Mr. John Estabrook, lumber dealer in Saginaw, Michigan, who, in response to information desired, replied by letter dated October 18th, 1897, as follows:

"My father, Seth Estabrook, was born in Bath, N. H., in 1785, married in Lebanon, N. H., in 1812, to Hannah Alden Hebard, daughter of Deacon Moses Hebard, whose wife was an Alden, a lineal descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Moline, of May Flower fame. (See Miles Standish's courtship, by Longfellow). In 1810, my father came to that part of the Holland Purchase, then known as the town of Clarence, in Niagara County, to look over the country, and he finally decided to stop in that part of Clarence, now Alden.

In 1816, he brought in a cart load of groceries, etc., with which he opened the first store in the town of Alden in a log house about three-fourths of a mile east from the centre of the present village of Alden. He was engaged as merchant and trader about fifteen years, and was always active in all that pertained to the welfare of the locality, and when a new town was set off from Clarence, March 27, 1823, it was at his suggestion and request named "Alden" in honor and memory of the original John Alden.

MILL BUILT IN 1826

The northeast corner of the Buffalo Creek Reservation was about half a mile directly south from Alden Village and the Indians who resided near there, with Chiefs from other parts of the Reservation were frequent visitors at his store. Being always friendly with them, in the fall of 1825, by an agree-

ment or contract with Chiefs Green Blanket, George Young, Thomas Jimeson, a descendant of Mary, the White woman, White Seneca, Big Kittle and others, he obtained the privilege to build and run a sawmill on the Big Buffalo Creek, and to cut any timber that he should want within certain limits, for and during a term of ten years; the mill and buildings to revert to the Indians at the end of that term. Under this contract, in the spring and summer of 1826, he built the house of boards for the mill owner and his family, about ten or fifteen rods below where the mill was to stand; the milldam, and the sawmill and several board houses for the men and families who worked in the woods, cutting and hauling logs and for the hands about the mill, with board barns for the teams. After a few years these houses and barns were torn down and better ones built. These were built on a table-land ten rods east from the mill. These buildings were put up and occupied before the Ogden Company made their first purchase and two years before any building was put up by a white person on the Mile Strip in the south part of Elma; and sixteen years before the Ogden Company bought that part of the Reservation where the mill was located, and seventeen years before any building was put up, by a white person, in that part of the town of Elma, not included in the Mile Strip. This saw-mill was for many years known as "The Indian Mill," and "The Estabrook Mill," and later, as the "Bullis Mill."

I, John Estabrook, was born in Alden, Erie County, N. Y., January 22d, 1826, and have always been told by my mother and older brothers that I was born the same year that the Indian Mill was built, and from that, and books and papers of my father that I have often seen, and which were for many years in the possession of my oldest brother, Experience Estabrook, I am certain that the mill was built in 1826.

My father operated the mill during the term of ten years, when in 1836, he made another contract with the Indian Chiefs, to continue for another term. He had delivered large quantities of lumber to Benjamin Rathbun, of Buffalo, whose failure in 1836 greatly embarrassed him, and he sold a share of his interest in the contract, to Lewis M. Bullis of the town of Hamburg. They operated the mill together until my father's death in 1840, after which Mr. Bullis had sole charge, but Bullis had Ballou and Trivett as partners.

Before the contract for this second term expired, the Ogden Company, by treaty with the Seneca Nation of Indians, secured the balance of this Reservation, and by some arrangement this second contract was cancelled." From the foregoing, it seems settled that the mill was built in 1826.

James Sperry surveyed that part of the Reservation east of the Transit Line in July and August, 1840, while the Indians were in possession.

In 1842, the Ogden Company sent agents to appraise the value to the Indians of the Estabrook Mill so they could sell that property.

A contract was made with Bullis, Ballou and Trivett who operated the mill together until the fall of 1845, when Bullis bought out the Ballou and Trivett interest, and then Bullis bought of the Ogden Company the mill and lot on which the mill was located, also several other lots, the deed being from Joseph Fellows to Lewis M. Bullis, dated July 18th, 1846; the bargain and contract having been made some time before. Mr. Bullis retained the property and operated the mill to the time of his death in 1869.

ROADS FROM THE MILL

The "Indian Mill" being located near the centre of a great pine forest, people came to it from Attica, Cowlesville, Leroy, Batavia, Alexander, Alden, Newstead, and Clarence for their pine lumber which made a good market for the products of the mill while the remainder of the product was sent down the Creek in rafts to Buffalo. Great quantities of pine shingles were made in the woods and sent to these markets. Whichever way the lumber went, there were several miles to go through the woods between the sawmill and good roads on the Holland Purchase; the way being marked and chopped enough to allow teams to go between and around the trees. High and dry ground was selected as far as possible for these roads and where directness of route required the passing over of low places, across brooks and swales or swamps they were covered or bridged by placing logs or poles side by side close together, across the road, thus affording a fairly firm roadway over these low places. This was called causeway or corduroy. These roads through the woods were rough, and in ordinary summer weather would be muddy, and in rainy seasons would be almost impassable. This condition of the roads continued for several years, and until the Ogden Company had made the purchase of the entire Reservation, and the survey into lots had been completed, and the lots sold to actual settlers. During these years most of the lumber taken from the mill to all these places was hauled in the winter.

The road from the mill, by which the lumber was hauled to Buffalo for several years, was to cross the creek 60 or 80 rods below the mill, then by a westerly and south westerly course reach the high ground west of the mill, then by a woods road over nearly the same ground as the present highway, to near the Woodard house on the Bowen Road, then on through the woods to near where the William Rice house is located, then on a general west course to the road or trail from Aurora to Buffalo at Springbrook. After a few years, a bridge was built just

below where the present Bullis bridge is located, and a road made up the hill where the road is located in 1900. From the mill to Marilla, the way was south through the mill yard to the foot of the hill at the east end of the present bridge, thence southeast, in a dug way up the bank, and along and near the bank of the creek for nearly a mile, then a general east course to Marilla village, then called Slab City, and Shanty Town, to a point just south of the Methodist Church, then east to the Four Road Road, then north and east to Colesville. At the top of the high bank south of the mill was a fork in the road, the north road taking a general northeast course, crossed the Little Buffalo Creek about a mile from the Indian Mill, thence on the same general course crossing the Two Rod Road about one and a half miles north from Marilla Village, then on to the Four Rod Road about a mile south from Bolt's, formerly Peck's, saw mill on the Cayuga Creek, then across the flats and up "Mud Hill," very near where road now is, to the Main Road about two miles west from Alden Village; distance from the mill to Alden village about eight miles.

OGDEN COMPANY MAKES SECOND PURCHASE

The treaty between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Ogden Company on January 15th, 1838, for the purchase by the Company of all the Indian lands in Western New York, which was signed by forty-five reputed chiefs and certified by the Commissioner from Massachusetts, and the United States Indian Agent, was rejected by the United States Senate on account of serious defects. A strong opposition to the treaty was being manifested by many of the Indians. The United States Commissioner called the Chiefs of the Senecas together August 7th, 1838, at the Buffalo Reservation to have a new and amended treaty signed. At this meeting, only sixteen Chiefs would sign, while sixty-three signed a remonstrance. It was claimed that a large part, at least forty-eight of these had no right to sign. This left the treaty as being favored by sixteen, and opposed by fifteen. There were at this time seventy-five actual Chiefs in the Seneca Nation, and there were ninety-seven who claimed to be Chiefs. Later, twenty-six more of the Indians signed the treaty, thus giving forty-two names; but many of the Indians claimed that only twenty-nine of this number were really Chiefs. This treaty was finally ratified by the United States Senate. The Indians showed such a determined resistance and hostility to the terms of the treaty, it was clear to the Ogden Company, that it would be a long and costly process to gain possession through the courts, so they hesitated: but the prospects of the Company to gain possession of the Buffalo Creek Reservation were so good, that they set

James Sperry to survey that part east of the Transit line, the Lancaster and the Aurora parts being surveyed and numbered separately, the old centre line of the Reservation being retained as the line between Lancaster and Aurora. The surveys were made in July and August, 1840.

The survey beginning at the northeast corner of Aurora, and the southeast corner of Lancaster, as the towns then were, the lots, in the east range in the Aurora part, were numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, the south line of Lot 4 being the north line of Lots 2 and 3 of the Lamberton survey of the Mile Strip. The lots in all the ranges were numbered from the north to the south, bringing the last lot, No. 102 in the southwest corner of the Aurora part of this purchase, and joining Lot 35 of the Mile Strip. By this survey, the centre line of the Aurora & Buffalo road was made the division line between the lots in this town.

The same plan was followed in surveying and numbering the lots of the Lancaster part; Lot No. 1 being at the northeast corner of the now town of Elma, the east range along the Marilla town line being 1, 2, 3, 4, reaching to No. 1, of the Aurora part, then back to the north line of the last purchase, always numbering from north to south, brings the last lot, number 106, to the Transit line and southwest corner of the then town of Lancaster, joining Lot 96 of the Aurora part. For survey of the Mile Strip see Chapter 6. So there are in the town of Elma three sets of lots numbered from one to thirty-seven: viz: on the Mile Strip and on the Aurora and Lancaster parts of the town, and two sets numbered from one to one hundred and two; viz., in the Aurora and Lancaster parts, and all deeds refer to the particular lot, as being on the Mile Strip, or the Aurora or Lancaster part of the town of Elma, or as being in Town 10, Range 6, of the Holland Land Company's survey. The Indians retained possession and the Ogden Company made no move to have the Indians leave, so no sales were made under that treaty.

BOWEN ROAD LAID OUT

The Legislature, by act of May 4th, 1841, authorized the Board of Supervisors of Erie County to appoint three Commissioners to lay out a highway across the Reservation, and under that authority the Supervisors appointed T. S. Hopkins, C. B. Parkinson, Leonard Wasson as such Commissioners, and on October 23d, 1841, they laid out a four rod road, commencing on the north line of Lot 20 of the Mile Strip, at the corner of Lots 51 and 55 of the Reservation; thence north on the line of lots to a point five chains north of corner of lots 54, 55, 59 and 60 on the Lancaster part, just north of the present Bullis road, thence northwesterly where the present road is traveled on lot 59 and 58. and on same course over the high bank to and across the Big Buffalo Creek; thence northeast to where they took

the course to the north to where the present road is laid out, being near the centre north and south line on lots 57 and 56, to the south line of the first purchase; and to connect with the south end of a road laid out running south from James Clark's sawmill, now Bockman's mill. Later in 1843, an alteration was made from a point on the top of the hill south of the Big Buffalo Creek, to where the road is now worked down the hill, and across the creek, and to intersect the line of the first survey, at the southeast corner of a lot later sold to William H. Bancroft, now Jerge Brothers, in Elma Village.

To this road was given the name "Bowen Road," which is still retained. The Commissioner of Highways of the town of Aurora on October 29th, 1841, continued this Bowen Road across the Mile Strip and on south to the Aurora and Buffalo road. This was the first regularly laid out road across the Reservation in the town of Elma, and was to be the mainly traveled road between the villages of Lancaster and Aurora.

GIRDLED ROAD—GEORGE STANDART, SR.

The "Girdled Road," the second road across the Reservation, was laid out on line of lots, and as now traveled, by the Commissioner of Lancaster, on November 10th, 1841; and by Commissioner of Aurora on June 13th, 1843.

Mr. George Standart, Senior, hired the sawmill at Jackberry-town, now Gardenville, of Chief John Seneca, for a term of four years, to commence at the expiration of the lease held by Leonard Hatch and Robert McKean, which date was October 22d, 1836. Standart's four year term would have ended on October 22d, 1840, but, through loss of time required to make repairs, he held possession until the spring of 1841; when he made a bargain with the Chief, to rebuild the mill and have the use of it four years for his rebuilding, dating from the time the mill would be completed, which would take to August or September, 1845. So Standart was running the mill when a council was held May 20, 1842.

At this meeting of the Indians of the Seneca Nation and the representatives of the Ogden Company, and Commissioners to represent the United States, Massachusetts and New York, fifty-three Chiefs, warriors and headmen of the Seneca Nation signed a compromise treaty, which was witnessed by seven representative business men of Buffalo.

By this treaty, dated May 20th, 1842, recorded in Liber 106, Page 194, the Ogden Company secured the balance of the Buffalo Creek Reservation with other lands, but the Indians, by the terms of the treaty, were to have possession of their improvements until April 1st, 1846, and were to be paid a price for these improvements, to be fixed by appraisers to be named by the Secretary of War of the United States. They mostly

left in the spring of 1846 to make their homes on the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations but a few remained until the spring of 1847.

John Carman came to Elma in May, 1842, and worked for Mr. Bullis eight or nine years.

EBENEZER SOCIETY

Soon after the Company secured the right to occupy the Reservation, they had a chance to sell a 5,000 acre tract in one body to agents of a society known as Ebenezers; but calling themselves "The Community of True Inspiration." The agents chose their location, and this included Jack-berry-town, and they wanted the sawmill with the land. The Ogden Company were desirous to make the sale, but the lease of the sawmill to Standart was in the way, and to get rid of him, so that they could close the bargain with the Ebenezers, the Company gave to Standart a nice sum in gold and gave him the privilege of having three lots of land anywhere on the Reservation that he should choose, either as a present outright, or at a mere nominal price. Standart, in February of 1843, gave up the sawmill at Jack-berry-town.

EBENEZER'S PURCHASE

The Secretary of War appointed Thomas Love and Ira Cook as appraisers, and the Ogden Company settled with, and paid the Indians, so they could have possession of the tract they wished to sell to the German company, and by agreement made in February, 1843, and April 11, 1843, the Company sold to the Ebenezers the 5,000 acre tract, consideration \$50,000; and a little later other lands, in all 7622 acres. The deed is dated August 20th, 1844, recorded in Lib. 77, Page 34. Blossom Village in the town of Elma is on this tract.

Immediately after this sale, the Company had the remaining lands, west of the Transit line surveyed; and then advertised that "on and after August 14th, 1844, they would sell certain lots," including nearly all the lots in the town of Elma.

George Standart in the last part of February, 1843, made his selection of lots, viz.: Lots 50, 54, 57 in the Lancaster part and one other not now known. In March of that year, he built a log house on Lot 54, about twenty rods from the south line of the lot, and about fifteen rods from the west line, and near the west bank of Pond Brook. This was the first house built by a white man on his own land in the town of Elma, on that part of the Reservation known as the last purchase. Deed for Lot 54 dated October 19th, 1844, recorded in Liber 78, Page 14.

April 10th, 1843, Standart moved with his family into that log house; just fifteen years to a day after Isaac Williams and

Russel Brooks, the first families moved on to the Mile Strip. April 10th ought to be called, known, and remembered, as Settlement Day for the Town of Elma.

STANDART BUILDS BARN AND SAWMILL

That summer, Standart cleared off the southwest corner of Lot 54 and built a 30x40 foot frame barn near the south line of the lot, a little west from Pond Brook. Elisha Cotton, carpenter, put up the building. The barn is still there in May, 1900, but the log house was burned about forty years ago. During the winter and spring of 1844, Standart built a sawmill on Pond Brook, a few rods below his house. The Estabrook mill on the Big Buffalo Creek, built in the summer of 1826, was the first sawmill in the town of Elma, and this Standart mill was the second sawmill in the Lancaster part of the Reservation, and on the east side of the Bowen Road. Standart had employed a carpenter and millwright by the name of Fulford to build his sawmill, and to pay him for this work, he gave Fulford that part of Lot 57 lying west of the Bowen Road, and to a near relative by the name of Benjamin Plummer, he gave or sold the part of Lot 57, lying east of the Bowen Road.

The Bowen Road, which was laid out October 23d, 1841, was underbushd by Clement Wakeley, the Lancaster Commissioner of Highways, across the Lancaster part of the Reservation in the summer of 1843, and the contract to chop and clear out this part of the road four rods wide, put in the necessary sluices across the road, make causeways through the low and swampy places, and dig down the hill north of the Big Buffalo Creek so that teams could go with light loads, was let by Wakeley to Mr. Eleazer Bancroft, in the summer of 1843, for four hundred dollars, the work to be done in 1843 and 1844.

One piece of causeway road that was built was about forty rods in length, being from near the top of the school house hill, north of Elma Village, to near the Clinton street Road, this being over wet, swampy ground.

Eleazer Bancroft built the first bridge in the summer of 1844 across the Big Buffalo Creek on the Bowen Road, at the place where the present bridge is located, contract price \$196. It was carried away by high water and ice the next spring, and was rebuilt by Bancroft in the summer of 1845.

People living in the town of Elma in 1900 can hardly realize that only a little more than fifty years ago, the last purchase made by the Ogden Company, of which this town was part, was a vast wilderness; that a section of country five miles in width extended from Marilla Village on the east to the City of Buffalo and Lake Erie on the west; seventy-eight square miles of forest, with Indians as residents, the only road that

could be traveled being the Aurora and Buffalo road across the southwest corner of the town, and George Standart, the only family of white people as resident owner, and the Estabrook, Hatch and Standart sawmills, the only mills on this last purchase in this town.

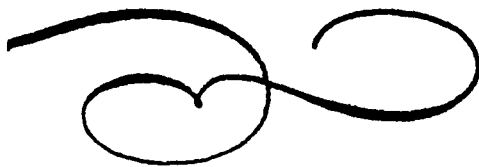
THE RESERVATION IN 1844

This was the condition when the Ogden Company advertised that on and after August 14th, 1844, they would offer for sale most of the lands in the town of Elma.

After the treaty of May 20th, 1842, the Ogden Company engaged Zebina Lee, a resident of Oswego County, to come here and go over and examine the different lots as they had been surveyed; and to name the value or price per acre of each lot, and the lots, at first, were offered at the price he named.

Very soon after these lands were in the market, people came from Lancaster, Alden, Wales, Aurora, Colden, Hamburgh, and from places farther away, to secure some of these lands; for reports of the heavy growth and great variety of timber, and the wonderful fertility of the soil had spread everywhere.

The first work of these new comers was to prepare for and erect log houses and sawmills. This called for many men as laborers to build the dams and mills and to supply the logs and to run the mills and also to take the lumber to market. These laborers must have houses for their families and soon the lots were bought near these mills and actual residents built and occupied their houses.



CHAPTER VIII.

EAST ELMA 1837 TO 1856

THE first sawmill built in the town of Elma and the houses and barns for the accommodation and shelter for the men and their families and teams as before stated, were erected by Mr. Seth Estabrook on the Big Buffalo Creek in 1826, and were known as "The Indian Mill," the "Estabrook Mill," and later, as the "Bullis Mill."

The second sawmill built in the town was by Mr. Jacob R. Davis on the Cazenovia Creek, about two miles south from Spring Brook in May, 1830.

The third sawmill, with log houses for the mill hands, and the first buildings put up in East Elma, were built by Leonard Hatch and Joseph Riley, in the spring and summer of 1837, known as the Hatch Mill, and later as the Hemstreet Mill. The three houses and the barns were about fifteen rods northeast from the sawmill.

The following statements as to the building and operating the mill, to the time the Ogden Company purchased that part of the Reservation, were obtained from members of the Hatch family, who now reside at East Elma, and, from original papers and records in their possession, will thus settle beyond a doubt the question as to the year in which the mill was built.

LEONARD HATCH AT JACK-BERRY-TOWN

Leonard Hatch of the town of Wales and Robert McKean of Aurora, on July 28, 1834, hired the sawmill at Jack-berry-town, now Gardenville, of John Seneca, an Indian Chief, and owner of the mill for a term of two years, to commence October 22d, 1834, at a yearly rent of \$140. They operated the mill these two years and in that time Mr. Hatch became acquainted with many of the Indian Chiefs and Indians of influence in that locality. On December 3d, 1836, a few weeks after their lease with John Seneca expired, Hatch made an agreement with two Indians, James Young and William Crouse to build a sawmill on Pond Brook. The agreement is here given:

"Memorandum of an agreement made this 3d day of December, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, between Leon-

ard Hatch of the town of Wales, in the County of Erie, of the first part, and James Young and William Crouse of the Buffalo Creek Reservation, of the second part, witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the covenants and agreements of the said parties of the second part, hereinafter contained, covenants to, and with the said parties of the second part, to build and complete on the lands owned by the said parties of the second part, on Pond Creek, (so-called) on the Buffalo Creek Reservation, an ordinary sawmill; said mill to be situated on the said Creek a few rods below the road leading to Estabrook's Mill on said Reservation, in case the parties of the second part shall obtain consent of a majority of the Chiefs living on said Reservation that said mill be constructed; and the said party of the first part, further covenants to construct and complete said mill on or before the first day of September, 1837.

And the parties of the second part covenants, in consideration, that the party of the first part fulfill the covenants above made, to execute to the said party of the first part, on the completion of said mill, a lease thereof, and the appertenances, for the term of four years and six months; said lease to bear date on the day on which said mill shall be completed. And the said parties of the second part further covenants, to furnish to the said party of the first part, the timber standing in the woods necessary for the construction of said mill.

In witness whereof, the parties aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

LEONARD HATCH [Seal.]

JAMES YOUNG [Seal.]

his

WILLIAM x CROUSE [Seal.]

mark.

On January 2, 1837, Young and Crouse went before the Chiefs of the Seneca Nation with their petition for the privilege to build a saw-mill on Pond Brook. The petition with the consent of the Chiefs is here given.

SENECA CHIEFS

"To the Chiefs—We wish to know if you will allow us to build a sawmill at or on what is called Pond Brook, not far from the road that leads from Estabrook's mill to the Aurora and Buffalo road. We will go on and do what we can, and if we cannot finish it ourselves, we want the privilege of hiring white men to go on and finish the mill, and then hire it to them; white men to pay them, and when it is hired to white men, let them tend it. No white man shall cut any sawlogs on the Indian lands, but Indians may cut sawlogs, and may sell

them to the white men if they want to, white man to not clear the land for the mill yard, but we will clear it ourselves.

his
WILLIAM x CROUSE,
mark
JAMES YOUNG.

Buffalo Reservation, January 2d, 1837.

We, the Chiefs of the Buffalo Creek Reservation, are all willing you should build a mill; we give our consent, and are pleased that you should do so.

Buffalo Reservation, January 2d, 1837.

their	their
SENECA x WHITE,	MR. x DOXTALOR,
JOHN x SNOW,	JACOB x BENNETT,
FALL x PETER,	SAMUEL x WILSON,
JOB x PIERCE,	WILLIAM x JONES,
CAPT. x POLLAND,	DANIEL x TWO GUNS,
JAMES x STEVENS,	Z. L. JIMESON,
JOHN x SENECA,	WHITE x SENECA,
THOMAS JIMESON,	TONY x YOUNG,
LITTLE x JOHNSON,	GEORGE x JIMESON."
marks.	marks.

SENECA CHIEFS

That sawmill on Pond Brook was never built and from what followed, it is presumed that Hatch preferred to build a mill on the Big Buffalo Creek, and that Young and Crouse were willing that the change should be made; as the next day after the Chiefs had given their consent to the building of the mill on Pond Brook, the following petition was drawn up and signed:

"To the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the County of Erie:

We, the undersigned Chiefs, Head Men and Warriors of the Seneca Tribe of Indians residing on the Buffalo Creek Reservation in behalf of ourselves and the Indians residing on said Reservation do hereby request you to grant to Leonard Hatch, of the town of Aurora, in said county, a license to build and erect on said Reservation a sawmill and other machinery, together with a sufficient mill yard for the convenience of said mill for a term of four years from the 1st day of September, 1837.

Dated Buffalo Reservation, January 3d, 1837.

In presence of
JAMES YOUNG,
his
WILLIAM x CROUSE.
mark.

Signed.

their
SENECA x WHITE,
FALL x PETER,
JOHN x SNOW,
JOB x PIERCE,
CAPT. x POLLARD,
JAMES x STEVENS,
JOHN x SENECA,
THOMAS JIMESON,
marks.

their
JACOB x BENNETT,
SAMUEL x WILSON,
WILLIAM x JONES,
DANIEL x TWO GUNS,
Z. L. JIMESON,
WHITE x SENECA,
TONY x YOUNG,
GEORGE x JIMESON.”
marks.

The petition does not locate the mill, and no doubt the permit was granted by the Court. The license cannot be found among Mr. Hatch's papers.

THE HATCH MILL BUILT

Mr. Hatch, having by this license the right to build a saw-mill, entered into a contract or agreement with Seneca White, White Seneca, Big Kettle and some other Chiefs to build the mill on the Big Buffalo Creek at East Elma, with the privilege to cut and use any timber standing in the woods for the construction of the mill and dam and the necessary houses and barns with the privilege to run the mill for four years from September 1st, 1837, when the mill was to become the property of the Indians; but they would lease it to him for a further term of years at a stipulated price.

Robert McKean's name does not appear in any of the writings or papers, and if he had any interest in the contract, he sold out to Joseph Riley of Aurora, for Hatch and Riley formed a co-partnership. They built the mill and operated it for some months as a company mill, after which Hatch bought Riley's interest and operated the mill, living with his family in the mill house until his death on June 21st, 1842. At the end of the first four years, viz., on September 1st, 1841, he made a bargain by which he had the lease of the mill for several years. The exact terms of that lease cannot be learned, as nothing can be found among the Hatch papers on that subject, but there must have been a contract, as he continued to run the mill until his death, nearly ten months after the first lease expired, and one month after the Ogden Company had made their purchase of the remainder of the Reservation. Mr. Zina

A. Hemstreet, a brother of Mrs. Hatch, as administrator of the Hatch estate, carried on the business under this second lease and under contracts with the Ogden Company until he bought the property in 1855; then, and for many years the locality was known as "Hemstreet's Mill," also as "Frog Pond."

ROADS FROM THE HATCH MILL

The road from the Hatch sawmill to Bartoo's Mill now Porterville, was southeast and east from the mill through the woods, very near where the road is now located. A log road from the mill led down the creek near the bank and west of the "Knob," coming off the flats north of Mr. Harvey C. Palmer's barn, then by a general east course over hills and through ravines to "Stave Town," so called from the great quantities of staves made from the oak timber in that locality. After 1843, lumber and staves went by the woods road, east to the "Two Rod Road," thence north through "Slab City," now Marilla Village, to Alden to be sent by the railroad to Rochester, where were many flourishing mills, and at that time the great wheat market for all Western New York. Rochester was then known as the "Flour City"; now they call it the "Flower City."

The road from the sawmill by which the lumber was hauled to Buffalo the first winter after the mill was built, was south on the ice, on the millpond, for about 100 rods, then south through the woods to the Adams Road, then west to the Indian trail or road from Aurora to Buffalo. In the summer of 1838, a bridge was built across the millpond about sixty rods south from where the present bridge is located; then westerly by a dugway to the high ground, and then by a general south course to the Adams road near Luther Adams' house, now owned by his son, John Quincy Adams, then to Buffalo. This road from the sawmill, took the Indian trail to the Adams Road, the trail still leading south to near the Rickertson place, crossing the town line into Aurora at or near the intersection of the road from Porterville, thence on near where the present road is located, to East Aurora. By this trail, the Indians living at and near East Elma, went to and from Aurora. The low places in this woods road between the sawmill and the Adams Road were crossed by the corduroy or causeway plan and patches of these log roads are to be seen in 1900, sixty years after they were built, on Col. Ellsworth Persons' farm on Lots 26 and 27. Most of the lumber was hauled from the mill in the winter until after the Ogden Company had surveyed their last purchase into lots, and many of the lots had been sold, when, on April 19th, 1845 the Jemison road was laid out on lot lines and worked as now traveled.

INDIAN FAMILIES

The same year that Mr. Estabrook built the "Indian Mill," viz.: 1826, the Ogden Company made their first purchase of part of the Buffalo Creek Reservation from the Seneca Indians. This purchase of a strip from the north side of the Reservation one and a half miles in width, across the east end three miles wide, and along the south side one mile in width, compelled the Indians to leave that tract; and as a result, they mostly came on to the lands they had not sold; where they lived for sixteen years when, in 1842, by a compromise treaty, they sold the remainder of this Reservation to the Ogden Company, and then gradually left, going mostly to the Cattaraugus and Allegany Reservations. So it happened that for several years before 1842, there were quite a goodly number of Indian families living in what is now the town of Elma; some of them Chiefs, Warriors, Headmen, or men of importance and influence in the Seneca Nation.

Along the shores of the Big Buffalo Creek, from half a mile to a mile and a half east from Blossom, was quite an Indian village with a Council House, some twelve to twenty-eight families, but the names of these Indians cannot now be obtained.

At Elma Village, which place the Indians called "Big Flats," were a dozen or more families. Jillings, John Luke and Peter Snow had houses in what was later Hurd and Briggs' millyard, John Baldwin, John Hudson and Isaac Johnny John had their houses on the hill northeast from the others, Ben Johnny John lived with his brother Isaac, Judge Moses lived near the milldam, Fall John lived on the high bank just north of the milldam, Thompson lived on the high bank north of the Elma Cemetery, Little Joe lived on the table land now occupied as the Elma Cemetery, Little Joe's Boy lived where Mr. Joseph B. Briggs' house now stands, Joe Dudley lived in the sugar bush near the James Clarke house, Sam Beaver lived in J. B. Briggs' orchard and Thomas Snow lived on south side of the Creek. Their cemetery was a little southwest from Mr. J. B. Briggs' house, and for many years after these Indians had moved away in the spring of 1847, some members of the families would come every year to visit the graves of their departed friends.

At East Elma and vicinity was quite an Indian settlement, and at the "Indian Openings," one mile north, were several families; among them, Chief Big Kittle, and one Jimeson, a relative of Mary Jimeson, the White Woman. Sundown lived at the Openings with about a dozen other families whose names cannot now be learned. Tommy Jimmie and another family lived half a mile south of East Elma village on the west side of the Creek. Chiefs Elijah Cayuga and his son William

Cayuga lived near the Indian Cemetery half a mile southeast from East Elma. Charley Spruce and Silversmith lived near the Cemetery. Silversmith died at East Elma in 1895, and was taken to Cattaraugus Reservation for burial.

INDIAN OPENINGS

Chiefs Seneca White, John Seneca and White Seneca, brothers, were frequent visitors at East Elma up to the time the Indians moved from the Reservation. The "Indian Openings," so-called, north from East Elma, as before stated, was the living place for several families. As it fell to the lot of the Squaws to clear the land and raise the corn, beans and other crops, it was but natural that they should select as a place for a clearing, some spot where the timber was scattering or small, and this locality seemed to suit them; for they would select such a place and cut away and burn the small trees and soon have from half an acre, to two or three, or more acres, as the needs of their family required, on which to raise their provisions. Another family would select their place, it might be a few or several rods away from any other clearing, and so these little clearings or openings were scattered over quite a territory. In all, these clearings comprised some forty or fifty acres, mostly on the west side of the Creek; but one, of some ten acres on the east side with a good log house, was on land now owned by Mr. Edwin H. Dingman; the clearings on the west side of the Creek being mostly on lands lately owned by Mr. Frank Metcalf, Mr. Spencer Metcalf and the James Hopper estate. It is said by some of the old residents of East Elma that Chief Big Kittle was buried on land now owned by Spencer Metcalf, and a butternut tree is pointed out as having been planted at his grave at the time of his burial. Their Cemetery is one-half mile southeast from East Elma, and is preserved by the present owner of the land.

INDIANS LEAVE THE TOWN OF ELMA

Several other families of Indians resided one to two miles northeast of East Elma, among them Jack Johnny John, who was lame, and always used a crutch, and was known as Old Jack, who lived near the "Two Rod Road." He, with his family, remained there for many years after the other Indians had left the Reservation. Many of the Indians thought they had been cheated in the last sale and treaty, and they hoped to have that treaty set aside, and he lived there to show that they still retained and held possession.

Some eight or ten families had their wigwams for several years before 1844, about one mile southwest from the Elma Railroad station.

Chief Daniel Two Guns lived in a log house on the high ground on the north side of the Indian trail, later known as the Aurora and Buffalo Road, thirty rods easterly from where the Catholic Church was later built in Spring Brook Village. This house, with additions was for many years kept as a tavern, known far and near as the "Mouse Nest." Two families of Indians lived near the "Devils' Hole," on the west side of the Cazenove Creek, about one mile south from Springbrook, and several Indian families were in that vicinity. The Indians moved from the Reservation one to five years after the sale to the Ogden Company in 1842, after it had been the home of the Seneca Nation for sixty-five years. The lands in the vicinity of East Elma did not find rapid sale when first put upon the market by the Ogden Company, but few families were living there before 1850.

Thomas Hanvey built a sawmill, in 1854, on a small stream three-fourths of a mile north from East Elma, on land owned by Hugh Mullen in 1900. Isaac Gail opened the first store on northwest corner in East Elma in 1854.

A general improvement was noticed in the spring of 1856, as in the early part of the summer the first shoolhouse was built and the first school was kept by Miss Maria Hall after July 4th of that year.

RESIDENTS OF EAST ELMA, DECEMBER 4th, 1856

Nathan Howard had a blacksmith shop on the north side of the road at the east end of the bridge. Russel Howard and Albert Crane built a steam shinglemill, thus opening up a new industry.

The locality was known by lumbermen as "Hemstreets Mill" but generally, the little settlement was known far and near as "Frog Pond" from a large swamp of some twenty acres a little distance east from the sawmill.

On December 4th, 1856, when the town of Elma was formed, we find the following persons residing in that locality, viz.: Abel N. Button, Albert Crane, John Darcey, Harry Dingman, Edwin Fowler, Isaac Gail, John W. Griffin, Thomas Hanvey, James Hatch, Niles Hatch, Zina A. Hemstreet, Daniel Hicks, James Hopper, Nathan Howard, Russell Howard, Thomas Ostrander, Amos P. Rowley, and Joseph G. Thompson. Only three or four of these persons are living in Elma in 1900.

CHAPTER IX.

ELMA VILLAGE AND VICINITY—1845 TO 1856

WE LEFT the Lancaster part of the Reservation after Eleazer Bancroft rebuilt the bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek in the spring of 1845.

The Bancroft sawmill was raised in June of that year, 1845. June 2d, 1845, the Clinton street road was laid out from Bowen road to the Transit, and on September 21, the Bullis road was laid out from Buffalo Creek on the line of lots, west, to Lot 105. August 1st, 1845, Clark W. Hurd, Joseph B. Briggs, Allen and Hiram Clark bought of Fulford and Plummer their interest in Lot 57 (Deed from Joseph Fellows dated October 1st, 1845.) They then bought of Joseph Fellows (Deed dated May 1st, 1856) Lot 52, where was a good place to build a dam across the Creek and on August 5th, 1845, they commenced on the dam. As they lived in the town of Lancaster near the Town Line station on the Attica & Buffalo Railroad, they brought a supply of provisions for a few days and did their cooking by a fire built by the side of a log, and at night had a bed of hemlock boughs with blankets for what covering they needed at that time of the year.

They came by a road through the woods to where Deforest Standart built a house the next year, in 1900 owned by Jacob Young estate; then south to the top of the high bank, then down a dug way which still remains, and then southwest and south to the Creek, then up the creek to the dam. The Indians had patches of cornfields on the flats through which the right of way had to be bought before the millrace could be commenced.

THE AMERICAN—1845-1846

A board shanty 14 x 24, with an addition 12 x 24 for kitchen and bedroom, both of which were covered by a board roof, was built the last of August, 1845, for a boarding and lodging house for the men who were to work on the dam, race and sawmill. It was located on the west side of the Bowen Road, and the south bank of the millrace. This building was named "The American," and by that name was known until it was torn

down in 1853. That fall, Mrs. Hurd and Mrs. Briggs took turns, one week for each, in coming from their homes at Town Line and keeping The American. When winter set in, the mill company hired Peter Rolon and wife to occupy The American and board the hands. After the dam was completed and while work on the race was being pushed, a 30 x 40-foot barn was built about fifteen rods north from where the sawmill was to stand; later, this was known as Hurd's barn. It was in this town that the Indians held their war dance (See chap. II.) late in the fall. The Indians left the "Big Flats" during the next spring. The sawmill was framed and raised before winter weather set in; the work on the race being done partly as job and partly by day work was carried into the winter. As the mill was to be a double mill, work was hurried to get the south saw at work before spring; the north saw was ready early in the summer of 1846.

Eron Woodard came in March, 1846 and worked for Mr. Bullis. Mr. Otis A. Hall moved on to the end of Lot 41, March 30th, 1846. Mr. Joseph Peck built the first frame house in what was later to be Elma Village, on the west side of the Bowen road, across the race, from The American. The house was later known as Osman Little's house, and is still standing in 1900. During the summer of 1846, J. B. Briggs and wife occupied The American and boarded the men; and a 30 x 40-foot barn was built on the west side of the Bowen road, later known as Briggs' barn.

Wm. H. Bancroft, in the fall of 1846, moved from Town Line, into a house built on the west side of the road. He built the first blacksmith shop there and carried on that business for several years. The place is now owned by Jerge Brothers.

LEWIS M. BULLIS

Lewis M. Bullis, owner of the Estabrook Saw Mill bought of Joseph Fellows Lot 16, 17, 23, 24, 25 and mill yard lot, in 1845, the deed being dated July 18th, 1846, and recorded in Liber 81, page 84.

In the fall of 1846, Deforest Standard moved on to Lot 51 on the north side of Clinton street road, where Mrs. Jacob Young lives in 1900.

Before the sawmills were in running order, in the summer of 1846, Hurd & Briggs bought the Clarks' interest in lands and mill; and after surveying from Lots 52 and 57, the land necessary for the mill, yards and race, was retained as company property. They divided the mill, in so far that Hurd was to have the south saw and Briggs the north, each to keep his own mill in repair at his expense and each to have an equal chance in use of the water; but all heavy repairs on dam, race or mill were to be at company's expense.

A division of the balance of the real estate of the two lots was also agreed upon. Hurd was to take the east side of the Bowen road and Briggs to take the west side. This agreement was made in the fall of 1846, but the deeds were not passed until January 25th, 1851, recorded in Liber 113, page 241.

Immediately after the division was made, each made preparations for the erection of dwelling houses, and both houses were raised in the spring of 1847. Hurd moved into his house in June of that year, before it was finished, in fact, as soon as it was enclosed and with loose floors.

The Briggs family occupied the American until their house was completed and moved into it in November, 1848.

The first schoolhouse was a rough board structure, 12 x 16, built in the early summer of 1847 and with board roof and located on ground now occupied by the church. Miss Celina Standart taught school that summer and winter and the next spring in that schoolhouse.

BULLIS REBUILDS THE SAWMILL—1847

Lewis M. Bullis, owner of the Estabrook Saw Mill, having bought several lots of land of the Ogden Co., in June, 1847, tore down the Estabrook Mill and rebuilt it in that summer, putting in a double mill; and he also built a box factory at the upper, or south end of the sawmill. The box factory building was southeast of the south end of the saw mill, with road way between the buildings.

In the spring of 1847, Peter Schane and Broadbeck moved on Lot 72, and Augustus Bonnell on the west part of Lot 66, now occupied by Benjamin Stetson, and Philip Young moved on the east half of Lot 66, now Beidler's, in the summer of 1847; and Daniel Price on Lot 54, same year.

June 10th, 1847, the Clinton Street Road was laid out from Bowen Road east to the town line. March 18th, 1847, Mr. Jacob Young and Maria Standart were married and on June 12th they moved into a plank house, just enclosed, on the northeast corner of Clinton Street and Bowen Road. They had no cookstove and for three weeks she cooked by a fire built against a large stump. They lived during the next winter in the Alonzo C. Bancroft house that was built in the summer of 1847 on the east side of Bowen Road and on the banks of the Big Buffalo Creek and Pond Brook.

Cyrus Hurd and Hiram Kinney bought Lot 61 on the north side of Clinton Street Road, October 4th, 1847, and on November 25th Hurd commenced work on a plank house 16 x 26 and 12 feet high, also on a frame barn 16 x 24. 7 feet high. The buildings were finished so that on December 25th, 1847 he moved from Town Line, with his mother and sister Sarah, into the new home.

On March 7th, 1848, Cyrus Hurd and Cordelia Hill were married and he brought his wife home that day.

A few other families were coming into the neighborhood whose names cannot now be learned.

NEW SCHOOLHOUSE IN ELMA VILLAGE

In the summer of 1847, Hurd & Briggs put a lathmill into an addition built by Zenas Clark, on the southwest part of the sawmill. At a school meeting held in the fall of 1847, it was voted to build a new schoolhouse, and the site selected was on J. B. Briggs' land on the west side of Bowen Road at the top of the high bank, about fifty rods south from Clinton Street.

The building of the schoolhouse, the furnishing of all the materials, the building to be painted red, with white trimmings, was let to Hurd & Briggs and Eleazor Bancroft, for \$400; the house to be completed by July 1st, 1848. The contract for the labor was sublet to Peter Spade for \$50 and the house was finished on time. Miss Celina Standart moved her school into the new house and there finished her summer term. The lumber of the schoolhouse on the flats was taken to build a woodhouse on the north end of the new schoolhouse.

On September 10th, 1847, a road was laid out on the south side of the Buffalo Creek from the Bowen Road to the Girdled Road, later known as Chair Factory Road.

The Hill Road from the Bullis Road east of the Bullis schoolhouse north to Clinton Street Road was laid out December 6th, 1847, and at the same date, the Woodard Road, from the Girdled Road a little south from the Bullis Road to the Bowen Road, at what is now Elma Center, was laid out. Most of the other roads in the town of Elma were laid out after the town was organized.

1848

Early in the summer of 1848, a Mr. Walker moved into the Bancroft house on the south bank of the Big Buffalo Creek and opened up a small stock of groceries, being the first store in Elma. Bancroft soon put up a building across the road, designed for Walker's store. Walker never moved into the building but bought a lot on the east side of the road and on the north side of the Big Buffalo Creek, built a house there during the summer, and in the fall moved his family into the south part, while he used the north part for the store which he so occupied until he sold the house and lot to Oliver Clark, in the winter of 1850, at which time he moved family and goods to Marilla Village.

In the spring of 1848, George Standart, Sr., sold to his sons George and Washington twenty-eight and one-half acres of

land from the south end of Lot 54 including the saw mill, log house and frame barn. George Standart, Sr., then moved into a plank house he had built on Lot 73 on the north side of the Big Buffalo Creek, three-quarters of a mile west of the Bowen Road. The boys, George and Washington, built a plank house at the north side of their millyard. That house was later occupied by William Standart until he built his brick house, when it was sold to Frederick Heineman, and moved to Lot 84 on the north side of the Bullis Road, and is in 1900 owned by Adam Bommer.

Osman Little bought the Joseph Peck house, on the north bank of the millrace and moved there in the spring of 1848, and lived there several years, running Hurd & Briggs' lath-mill, having a share in the enterprise.

Jacob Jerge came in 1848 and commenced work with William H. Bancroft, to learn the blacksmith's trade.

In 1849, the Ebenezer Society commenced their settlement or village which they called Upper Ebenezer, (now Blossom) where they built a sawmill, gristmill, church, schoolhouse, and several houses for families, with store and Upper Ebenezer post office with some large barns.

February 26th, of the same year, the Bullis Road was laid out from Marilla town line, west to the corner of Lots 11, 12, 17, 18. John and George Freiberg, and Conrad Mertz moved on to Lot 46 on the north side of Clinton Street Road in the spring of 1849.

1849

The bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek on the Bowen Road was carried off by the spring freshet of 1849 and Mr. Eleazer Bancroft built another bridge during that summer. This bridge was damaged when the ice went out in the spring of 1851; was then repaired and remained until the iron bridge was built in 1871.

George Standart, Sr. and Oliver Bowen built a sawmill on the north side of the Big Buffalo Creek near the southwest corner of lot 73.

Samantha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Standard, died July 15th, 1849. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. George E. Havens, Methodist preacher at Lancaster. This was the first death of a white person and the first sermon preached on the Lancaster part of the reservation. Samantha was buried on lot 73.

Soon after this, Rev. Havens and Rev. L. A. Skinner, the Presbyterian minister at Lancaster, commenced holding meetings in the school house on the hill at Elma Village, at two o'clock on alternate Sunday afternoons.

Rev. C. S. Baker was sent to Lancaster by the M. E. Con-

ference in September, 1849. He came to Elma every other Sunday afternoon, alternating with Rev. L. A. Skinner through that conference year. In October, Rev. Baker organized a class in Elma. The members were: Joseph Briggs, George Standart, Jr., Mrs. J. B. Briggs, Florina Briggs and Mrs. William Standart. This was the beginning of the Elma Village Methodist Church and the preaching of Rev. L. A. Skinner was the starting point of the Presbyterian Church of Elma Village. Alonzo C. Bancroft and Jane Sleeper were married September 2d, 1849, and in a few weeks they moved into the house on the east side of the Bowen Road on the south bank of the Big Buffalo Creek.

1849-1850

In October 1849, the box factory building at the Bullis mills was burned, with all the tools, machinery and stock on hand, and the fire extended to the saw-mill which was also burned. Mr. Bullis immediately rebuilt the double sawmill and also put up a box factory building, also a shingle mill for making cut shingles at the lower or north end of the sawmill. The boxes made here were sold to wholesale dealers in Buffalo.

Hurd and Briggs built a shop 30x44 feet, at the southwest corner of their sawmill and west of the lathmill. This shop was to be supplied with power from the wheel of the lathmill.

Mr. Wm. Standart having sold his farm on the main road, two miles east of Lancaster village, in September 1849, moved in with his son Deforest on the north side of Clinton Street road on lot 51. The two families lived together until February 1850, when Wm. Standart, having on January 8th, 1850, bought of George Standart, Jr. and Washington Standart, the twenty-eight and one-half acres of the south end of lot 54, he then moved into the plank house at north side of the mill yard.

In the fall of 1850, Oliver Clark moved into Elma; himself, wife and brother Elon, and their shop hands boarding in J. B. Briggs' family through the winter, and late in the winter he bought of Walker the house on the east side of the Bowen Road and on the north side of the Creek, his brother Elon boarding with him. Together, as O. & E. Clark, they put into the Hurd & Briggs shop in the fall of 1850, a Daniels planer and machines for matching flooring and making doors, sash and blinds. That fall they had a contract from Rufus L. Howard and Gibson T. Williams of Buffalo, to make the woodwork for 50 of the Ketchum Patent Mowing Machines.

In 1850, Theodore Noyes and sons Charles and Simeon, settled on lot 32, and George Krouse, the same year on lot 37 on the south side of Clinton Street road. Theoron Stowell and brother N. W. settled on lots 3 and 4, on the Bullis road; and Robert Simanton built a sawmill on the south side of the Buf-

falo Creek an deast side of Girdled Road.

MEETINGS IN ELMA VILLAGE—1851

The Ebenezer Company having bought lot 45, called their "Pine Lot," built a house on the Woodard Road now occupied by Fred Heitman, for the accommodation of its men when at work cutting logs, and this house was afterwards used as a "prison house," mention of which will be made later.

Allen French and Charles Noyes were in the lumber trade in Elma frob 1850 to 1855.

The Methodist Episcopal Conference sent Rev. Gustavus Hines to the Lancaster, Elma and Bowmanville charge, and services were held every Sunday forenoon at Lancaster, and at 2 o'clock P. M., alternating between Elma and Bowmansville. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Clark, a brother of Mrs. Clark W. Hurd, came in October 1850; lived with the family of Clark W. Hurd that winter and the next spring and until he built a house, which was commenced May 6th, 1851 on the east side of the Bowen Road and near the north line of lot 59; the house being later owned by Stephen Markham and sold by him to Joseph C. Standart.

In the early part of the summer of 1851, Rev. L. A. Skinner's health failed, so he was obliged to give up the Elma appointment, but as Rev. Nehemiah Cobb, a Presbyterian minister as missionary from some church in Buffalo was preaching in Springbook, he came and preached every alternate Sunday afternoon in the Elma school house during the summer of 1851, and until Rev. William Waith, the Presbyterian minister of Lancaster took up regular work in the summer of 1852. Mr. Cyrenus Wilbor, Mrs. J. B. Briggs' father, came in the spring and moved into the house on the west side of the Bowen Road, and north side of the Buffalo Creek. He had been elected in the fall of 1837 to the New York State Assembly from the town of Alden. C. W. Hurd and J. B. Briggs each built a horsebarn, and a nice dooryard fence in 1851. A bridge was built across the Buffalo Creek at the Girdled Road and Simanton's mill, but it was carried off by high water in the spring of 1854.

A schoolhouse, 16x20, was built in 1851 on the hill on the east bank of the Big Buffalo Creek and north side of the Bullis Road. This building was used as a schoolhouse until 1880, when it was sold to Philip Stitz for twenty-five dollars, at which time the present schoolhouse was built.

Warren Jackman came on May 5th, 1851, and on June 3d bought lot 55 at the southeast corner of the Bowen and Bullis Roads and on May 10th moved into the log house built in 1843 by George Standart on lot 54.

August 4th, Jackman leased a half interest in Joseph B.

Briggs' part of the Hurd and Briggs sawmill for one year and during that year he was busily engaged in converting into lumber the timber from lot 55. Jacob Young was Jackman's sawyer for the year.

Elon Clark and Julia Standart were married May 12th, 1851. Clark built a house and barn on the west side of the Bowen Road across from where the church now stands in Elma Village. He occupied the house that fall.

In August, Oliver and Elon Clark had the contract from Howard & Williams for the woodwork for four hundred mowing machines. The Ketchum patents had been so perfected that it was proven that the meadows could be cut by horse power. The demand for mowing machines was accordingly becoming greater each year and the scythe which had been for so many years the only instrument for cutting grass was being gradually displaced by the mowing machine.

MEN KILLED AT BARN RAISING

In June, 1851, at the raising of a barn on lot 72 now owned by Max Hornung, the first bent was raised all right; but it was left without any stays, to stand alone until the next bent and girts were in place, in order to fasten all together. While all hands were raising the second bent, a light wind blew the first bent over against the second and as the men saw it coming and realized their danger, a cry was raised to get out of the way, but the cry came too late. Three men were caught. Peter Shane had his head cut off by being caught between the timbers; one other man, name not now known, was so hurt that he died the next morning, and another also name not known, died three months later. Too much whiskey was the real cause of the accident.

1852

Charles A. Dutton bought the lot next north of William H. Bancroft's and built a house on the west side of the Bowen Road and later, he built a wagonshop on the west end of the lot and on the east bank of the millrace.

Eleazer Bancroft and family, in April, 1852, moved into the house with Alonzo Bancroft on the bank of the Big Buffalo Creek and he made a dam across Pond Brook, about twenty rods above his sawmill, and erected a building for shop and for manufactory purposes; using the water as a power for the machinery. This shop was first used as a bedstead factory and later, as a chair factory. Later in the year he began to gather materials for building a brick house on the west side of the Bowen Road at the top of the hill south of the Creek.

A schoolhouse was built in 1852 in what was later known as the Cotton District on the south side of the Clinton Street

Road about twenty rods east of the Girdled Road on the north end of Lot 20.

Peter Schultz in October moved on Lot 36 on the north side of the Clinton Street Road.

Rev. E. Reasoner, Methodist minister on Lancaster and Elma charge, preached every other Sunday afternoon alternating with Rev. Wm. Waith from Lancaster.

In July, 1852, Warren Jackman sold Lot 55 to James R. Jackman, and on August 4th he opened a store in the building on the west side of the Bowen road and on the south bank of the Big Buffalo Creek. On October 1st he moved his family into an addition that had been built on the west end of the store.

The place now known as Elma Village was called "Big Flats" by the Indians when they lived there, and after it begun to be settled by the whites, it went by the names of "Milford," or "Hurd or Briggs' Mills," and the place was known all around by all of these names. Letters for persons living there would be directed to Lancaster postoffice with any of these names added and the Lancaster postmaster knew where the letter or paper belonged. All the lumber, wood, and hemlock bark had to be hauled north to the "Main Road," then west through Lancaster Village to Buffalo or to Williamsville, except for a little time in the winter of 1850 and 1851 when a few loads would be hauled on the Clinton Street Road, by "Middle Ebenezer," now Gardenville, but loads could be hauled that way only in the winter. The "Main Road" was planked from Town Line to Buffalo, and to make the road good from the "Big Flats" to the Main Road, the mill owners and the wood and lumber haulers joined their forces and planked the north and south road from the top of the hill at the schoolhouse thence north over all the bad and very muddy parts so that good loads could generally be hauled. As the people had their mail come to Lancaster postoffice, and in a new country people are generally accommodating, it was the practice for teamsters and others to call at the Lancaster postoffice and take any mail that might be for their neighbors. After Jackman's store was opened, the mail was generally brought or sent to the store and so the people grew in the habit of calling there for their mail.

ELMA POSTOFFICE—1852

One evening in the first part of October, 1852, when several persons were in the store, the question was asked, "Why not have a postoffice and have the mail brought regularly?" "Then we would know where our mail could be found." The reply was, "Why yes," and "Why not?" "But if we have a postoffice, we must have a name," and that brought out several names, none of them being entirely satisfactory until Mr. Joseph W. Bancroft said, "There is a big elm tree at the crossing of the Bowen

and Clinton Street Roads; why not add the letter "a" to the elm tree and call the post office "Elma?" The suggestion was accepted and adopted and a committee was there appointed to draft a petition and obtain signatures for the Elma postoffice. Their work was well done; and on the second day after the evening meeting the petition was on its way to Washington and before October closed the postoffice Department had sent a favorable reply with Warren Jackman named as Postmaster. As soon as the proper bonds were sent to Washington, supplies for the office were received with authority to contract for carrying the mail between Elma and Lancaster three times a week; the cost not to exceed the receipts of the Elma postoffice. Mr. Wm. H. Bancroft took the contract and so Elma postoffice received mails every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

CLARK, BRIGGS & CO.'S STEAM MILL—1852-53

Benjamin F. Stetson and Amelia Markham, were married September 21st, 1852, and immediately moved on the west half of Lot 66 on the north side of the Clinton Street Road.

In October, Oliver and Elon Clark received an order from Howard & Williams for the woodwork for 1,000 mowing machines and fifty reaping machines. Their shoproom and power was put to a great strain and, as their business was increasing in all departments, they began to look around for more room and power and before the close of the year a co-partnership had been formed by and between Oliver H. Clark, Elon Clark and Joseph B. Briggs. They decided to build a shop with steam power the next summer on land of J. B. Briggs on the west side of the millrace, and north of the Creek; the name of the firm to be Clark, Briggs & Co. During the following winter they gathered material for the building.

ELMA VILLAGE CEMETERY

Oliver H. Clark died February 14th, 1853 and at a meeting of the neighbors held at the store on that evening, the conversation was as to the best place for a cemetery. The first place suggested was on William Standart's land on top of the hill east of Pond Brook and on the north side of the Bullis Road. The objections, that below the surface soil was a stratum of quicksand and the land on the east being wet and swampy would fill the graves with water, were considered good and sufficient.

The next place presented was on the top of the hill east of Pond Brook on the south side of the Chair Factory Road. The same objections, of quicksand and wet land, served to reject the place. Then the table-land on the north bank of the Big Buffalo Creek on land owned by J. B. Briggs, was named and

after much talk, Mr. Briggs agreed to sell one and one-half acres for a cemetery. Mr. Oliver H. Clark was the first to be buried there on February 16th, 1853. The sermon was preached by Rev. Wm. Waith, a Presbyterian minister, living in Lancaster but then preaching every other Sunday afternoon in the Elma schoolhouse.

James R. Jackman moved here April 1st of this year.

At a meeting held at the store on the evening of April 4th, Mr. James R. Jackman, who was present at the previous meeting, entered into an agreement with Mr. Briggs that he, Jackman, would clear the said cemetery ground of stumps and rubbish, grade the ground and survey the same into ranges and lots, set out trees on the lots and on the west and north lines of the cemetery, and build a good fence; that he would keep account of the expense, and from the sales of the lots, at forty cents per foot of the length of the lot, retain enough to pay the expenses; that Mr. Briggs should execute deeds to the purchasers of lots and after Jackman had received his pay, Briggs was to receive the pay until he had received seventy-five dollars, when he was to deed the balance of the cemetery to the cemetery trustees, after which time they would keep up the fences. Each purchaser of a lot was to pay the forty cents per foot front for the lot, and then take care of his own lot.

Jackman immediately set to work and had the ground cleared of stumps, graded, surveyed and set to trees, and retained charge until the fall of 1862, he having moved to Marilla in October 1859, when the grounds were left in charge of Mr. James Clark.

Mrs. Cyrus Hurd died June 30th, 1853. This was the second burial in the Elma cemetery.

Mr. James R. Jackman who came April 1st, bought of J. B. Briggs the building lot on the west side of the Bowen Road and between what is now the Cemetery Road and the Mill Race, and on which the "American" was then standing. He also bought of Hurd & Briggs, the right and privilege to erect and to continue a building over the mill race on the west side of the Bowen Road.

ELMA VILLAGE PARK

Jackman also entered into an agreement with Hurd & Briggs by which the ground now used as a park on the east side of the Bowen Road and south of the millrace which was then used as a lumber yard, should be cleared of lumber and be deeded by them to Jackman in trust, for park purposes; Jackman to fence the ground, set it out to trees, care for the trees and keep up the fence so long as the trees should need protection, when it should be held, and belong to the public for a park. This agreement was faithfully carried out by all the parties, the deed

bearing date May 10th, 1853 and recorded in liber 747, page 483, and the Elma people have had, and will continue to have the park through the liberality and public spirit of these parties as their free gift.

James R. Jackman and Warren Jackman, during that same summer built the house on the lot now occupied by Wilbor B. Briggs, took down "The American," in which was more than 5,000 feet of lumber and built the store over the mill race, lately occupied as a store by Louis P. Reuther. Both house and store were occupied by Jackman in October.

The store has since been occupied by Warren Jackman, Riley Ives, J. B. Briggs & Co., James Clark, Erastus J. Markham and Louis P. Reuther, each having the care of the postoffice most of the time. Rev. Schuyler Parker and Rev. William Waith held meetings in the schoolhouse at 2 P. M. on alternate Sundays.

The material gathered during the last winter by Eleazer Bancroft, for a house on top of the hill south of the creek was, under the plans of Mr. Joseph W. Bancroft, arranged, put together and made into the brickhouse in which Mr. Bancroft lived until his death which occurred many years later.

STEAM MILL BUILT—1853

About fifty persons assembled in C. W. Hurd's sugar bush on the east side of the Bowen Road and just east of the present site of the church on July 4th, 1853, for a basket picnic and by that, inaugurated a system of 4th of July picnics that have been continued with but few exceptions to this time.

On August 23d, Mr. Eleazer Bancroft met with a very severe accident. While sawing the shingles for his new house, he had the misfortune to have his right hand come in contact with the saw which so injured that hand that he was to a great extent, deprived of its use.

Mr. William Standart had his brick house on the east side of the Bowen Road up and enclosed before winter set in.

Clark, Briggs & Co., had their building ready, with a sixty-horse-power steam engine in place, and lathes, circular saws and a sawmill with sash saw all ready for work in the early fall. They had an order from Howard & Williams for the wood work for 2,000 mowing machines and 500 reaping machines.

Howard & Williams, by substituting iron for the cutting bar, reduced by so much the wood work, but the success of the mowing machine called for larger orders and the reaping machines were beginning to drive the grain cradles from the fields of grain. The reaping machine, cut, and with a reel, gathered the grain on a platform and a strong man was required to watch the platform and when enough grain was gathered for a bundle, to rake it from the platform. Four or five binders

followed the machine to bind and set up the grain.

The Methodist Society of Elma Village was organized December 23d, 1853.

MOTHER FREIBURG'S CHURCH

There being a Catholic church and a Presbyterian or Union church at Springbrook and the Ebenezer church in upper Ebenezer (now Blossom), the fourth church in what is now the town of Elma, was built on the north side of the Clinton Street Road on lot 46 in the summer of 1854 and was to be a Catholic church or chapel. This was built mostly for John Freiburg's mother, an old lady known among her neighbors as mother Freiburg, who felt very badly on leaving her home in Germany as she feared she would be deprived of her church privileges. While getting her things together preparatory to moving to America, she found a five franc piece for which she could find no owner and she took it to her priest and there told him what were her fears as to America. The priest told her to take the piece of money with her and she could find a good place to use it when she was there.

After the family was settled on lot 46 and mother Freiburg found it difficult often impossible for her to go to Lancaster to attend church, she made an offering of the five franc piece to the priest in Lancaster and he told her to keep it and use it towards building a chapel near her home in the woods. So with the five francs and the help of her neighbors, the chapel 10x14, side walls 8 feet in height, was built. It was a plank building, sided with clapboards, cornice and painted white on outside, lathed and plastered inside, door in center of south end, with window in centre of each side, and the priest came from Lancaster for several years, twice a year, and held services in Mother Freiburg's church.

The building was sold in 1870 to Gardner Cotton and moved on his lot, No. 20, where it has since been used as a hen house.

Frederick Maurer bought lot 27, corner of Clinton Street and Girdled Roads, and moved on in the summer of 1854.

SCHOOLHOUSE HILL—1854

Early in the spring of 1854, Clark W. Hurd and Joseph F. Clark commenced to build a sawmill on Pond Brook east of Clark's house and near the north line of lot 59. Work was progressing favorably, when Clark was taken sick, and after a few days illness, he died August 22d. 1854.

This was the third burial in the Elma cemetery. Mr. Hurd went on with building the sawmill and operated it until he sold the premises to Mr. Stephen Markham in October 1858.

Early in the summer of 1854, Eleazer Bancroft built a large

barn in the bank on the south side of Big Buffalo Creek and west of the Bowen road.

The school house hill as left by Bancroft in 1844, was so steep that it required the united efforts of two or three teams to haul up a full load and as nearly every owner of land near the sawmill was doing more or less at lumbering, this extra team help to get up the hill was no inconsiderable disadvantage. Accordingly, a meeting was called and a subscription started to raise money to reduce the incline of the hill. Sixty-five dollars was raised and James R. Jackman agreed to commence at the center of the hill and make a grade from that point so that the deepest part of the cut should be four feet and carry that grade to the high ground for the top of the hill. The dirt from this cut was used in filling a road bed below the center point so as to make as nearly as possible a true grade from the bottom to the top of the hill; and it was specified that the work was to be done so as not to impede travel. Jackman started the work by taking the east half of the cut, the work being mostly done by men using picks, shovels and wheel barrows.

When the cut was made through on the east side, the travel took that cut while the process was being used to take down the west half and when the job was finished, the roadbed was very nearly as is it in 1900.

Howard & Williams, having made great improvements in their reaping machines and their use being so much increased, they gave Clark, Briggs & Co., the contract to make the woodwork for 2,000 mowing machines and 1,500 reaping machines. This required an increase in the number of men to work in the shop and they employed during that winter fifteen to twenty men, working twelve hours each day. A few of the men were paid according to the amount of work which they did, but the greater number were paid by the day. It had been the custom for many years, and was then, for carpenters and all mechanics who worked by the day to work from sunrise to sunset, even in the longest days; and when the days were shorter, to work from daylight to darkness or continue into the evening. Clark, Briggs & Co., required twelve hours for a day's work throughout the whole year; and as the engine started promptly on time they expected every man to be in his place, ready to work.

NO SALOON—1855

The Simanton bridge was carried off by the spring freshet of 1854. George Townsend bought the house and lot on east side of the Bowen Road in Elma Village of C. W. Hurd, later owned by Mrs. Maria Long.

William J. Jackman and Frances Markham were married September 20th, 1854 and in the spring of 1855 moved into

their house on Lot 55 on the southeast corner of the Bowen and Bullis Roads.

Early in the spring of 1855, a rumor was circulated that a person who had just moved into the village intended to open a saloon.

As each mill owner, lumberman, or company, engaged in manufacturing, as well as almost every owner of land in the neighborhood employed one or more and often several men as day laborers, this rumor caused considerable excitement, and a general indignation meeting was held at the store and strong objections were made against having a saloon in the place. Finally, a delegation was sent to have the person who was reported to be making such arrangements, come to the meeting. At first, he refused to come, but finally he consented.

The objections that had been made before he came were repeated to him, but he claimed as he had bought the property, he had the right to use it as he saw fit. The objection, that if a saloon was opened, many of the day laborers would be likely to spend their evenings there and by drinking and keeping late hours, could not properly perform their work the next day, he said, was nothing to him; that he had made up his mind and should open the saloon as he had the wing on his house already built and would be ready to open up in a few days.

These remarks aroused the opponents of the saloon, and in language in which there was no chance of being misunderstood, the saloon man was informed that there would be no saloon opened in the village; that if he made the attempt his belongings would be thrown into the street; and if that would not be enough, they would tear down his house. He said, then they would pay for the house; then they said they would gladly do so or buy him out. Of one thing they were sure, that there would be no saloon opened in the village. The general tone and feeling was such that the saloon was not opened and there has never been intoxicating liquors sold in Elma Village, which fact accounts largely for its prosperity. There has been, however, for several years a saloon at the corner of Bowen and Clinton Street Roads. During this same year, Bradley Moore, built a sawmill on the Little Buffalo Creek on Lot 6 on the South side of the Clinton Street Road.

A bridge was also built across the Big Buffalo Creek on the girdled road at Simanton's sawmill to replace the bridge carried off in the spring freshet of 1854.

RESERVATION CENTRAL PLANK ROAD

The Reservation Central Plank Road Company was organized to plank the Bullis Road; and the road was in 1855 partly planked from Bowen Road to the Aurora plank Road in West Seneca.

J. B. BRIGGS & CO.—1855

In August, 1855, Warren Jackman sold the goods in his store to Riley Ives, and Ives kept the store.

Jackman then bought Elon Clark's interest in Clark, Briggs & Co. property and business, and the firm name was changed to J. B. Briggs & Co.

The manufacture of broom handles was added, and the company had an order from Howard & Williams for the woodwork of 2,000 mowing machines and 2,500 reaping machines which required a working force of twenty to twenty-five men.

The M. E. Conference sent Rev. —Gordon to the Lancaster and Elma charge, but on account of poor health, Gordon left in the spring of 1856.

A Frenchman by the name of LaGore who lived on Lot 69 on the north side of the Bullis Road shot himself with a rifle. He was sitting in a chair outside of the house when he placed the muzzle of the rifle to his neck and with his toe pulled the trigger—result: throat torn open causing instant death.

Jacob Jerge bought of Charles A. Dutton his shop on the east bank of the mill race near the steam mill and commenced the business of blacksmith for himself in that shop.

Sawmills were being put up on every stream where a fair supply of water could be had and several steam mills were being started in different parts of the town, the lumber finding a market in Buffalo.

1856

In 1856 a bridge was built across Big Buffalo Creek at Bowen and Standart's sawmill, and a road laid out south to the Bullis Road.

Henry D. Wilbor bought the interest of his sister, Mrs. Oliver H. Clark, in the J. B. Briggs & Co.'s business, but the name of the firm was not changed.

Elon Clark died June 7th, 1856, and was buried in the Elma cemetery. Rev. A. Newton, of Lancaster and Elma charge, preached in the schoolhouse, alternating with Rev. Wm. Waith.

In July, J. B. Briggs & Co. shut down work in the shop for repairs. They put in a Mulley saw, rotary planer, turning lathes, and other machinery and built an addition for a cheese box factory. Mr. R. L. Howard, now sole owner of the Ketchum patents, having made changes in the mowing machines, all the woodwork required for them was the pole, and J. B. Briggs & Co. had the contract for 2,000 mowing machine poles and the woodwork for 4,000 reaping machines.

Cyrenus Wilbor, father of Mrs. J. B. Briggs, died September 12th. Riley Ives sold the goods in the store at auction, and the latter part of September went to Lancaster.

J. B. Briggs & Co., in October, put into the store a stock of goods in connection with the steam mill business.

On December 4th, 1856 the Board of Supervisors formed a new town from the south part of Lancaster and the north part of Aurora and gave the name of Elma to the new town. The account of the whole proceedings were noted in chapter IV. In some histories of Erie County, it is stated that the town of Elma was formed December 4th, 1857.

RESIDENTS ON DECEMBER 4TH, 1856

It has not been possible to obtain the exact year that many of the early settlers came on to the Lancaster part of the Reservation, and many who were here before the town was organized, December 4th, 1856, have moved away or have since died, so the names of all the residents at that time cannot now be obtained; but among those who were there then, are the following:

George Ard, Joseph B. Briggs, Erasmus Briggs, Lewis M. Bullis, Matthias Baker, Eleazer Bancroft, Wm. H. Bancroft, Alonzo C. Bancroft, Albert Bancroft, Henry Beidler, Hiram Bacon, Hiram Cotton, Gardner Cotton, John Carman, Daniel Christ, Peter Caufield, Charles A. Dutton, Heman Dean, Ziba Dewitt, Allen French, John Frieberg, Michael Greiss, George Gentsch, Christ Garby, Fred Garby, Zenas Hill, Clark W. Hurd, Cyrus Hurd, Otis A. Hall, Frederick Heineman, James R. Jackman, Warren Jackman, Wm. J. Jackman, Jacob Jerge, Casper Jerge, Philetus Johnson, Hiram W. Kinney, Jacob Knaab, George Crouse, Joseph Klein, Carl Keim, Lawrence Krouse, Osman Little, John Luders, John Ludemon, Benj. P. Longee, Jesse Monroe, Bradley Moore, Fred Maurer, Fred Mann, Charles Mann, Theodore Noyes, Charles Noyes, Amasa Noyes, Eleazer Nouse, John Nouse, Peter Oberly, Lewis Ott, Daniel Price, Joseph Peck, John Pomerink, William Standart, Deforest Standart, Wesley Standart, George Standart, Sr., George Standart, Jr., Washington Standart, Benj. F. Stetson, John Schmaltz, Henry W. Stitz, Philip Stitz, Theron Stowell, N. W. Stowell, Thomas Summerfield, Harry Stone, George Shufelt, Peter Schultz, Thomas D. Tiffany, Orvil Titus, George Townsend, William Winspear, John Wolf, Henry D. Wilbor, Jacob Young, Adam Young, and the members of Ebenezer Society at Blossom, and some other names not known.

CHAPTER X.

SPRING BROOK AND VICINITY—1834 TO 1856

AN Indian sawmill had been built on the Cazenove Creek at or near the Transit line; but it was gone before any white settler came into the town of Elma. It probably was carried away by high water, as the only trace left of it was the race, also some large stones that had been a part of the foundation for the mill. No person now living ever saw the mill and it cannot be learned by whom or when it was built.

The early settlers in the towns of Wales, Holland, and Aurora had their road to Buffalo by the way of Hamburg, called the Big Tree Road; but they soon learned of the nearer way of the Indian trail, and after the Mile Strip had been secured by the Ogden Co., the Commissioner of Highways of the town of Aurora, April 21st, 1832, laid out a highway on or near the Indian trail, and on the lot lines across the Mile Strip. When that tract was surveyed, the lot lines were made to conform to this trail as nearly as possible; and to continue this road on toward Buffalo, the same Commissioner, on March 31st, 1834, following the same trail, laid out a highway from the road at North Star Tavern, across the Reservation through Spring Brook to the Transit line. By what authority the Commissioner acted is not known, but it is presumed that the Indians give the necessary consent as it was entirely across their lands. This road was later to be known as the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road.

1837

For several years before the Aurora and Buffalo road was laid out across the Reservation, on March 31st, 1834, there was a log house on the north side of the Indian trail on the hill in the east part of the Village of Spring Brook, which was occupied by an Indian Chief by the name of Daniel Two Guns.

A man by the name of Burns had kept the North Star Tavern in 1837, and while there he was so strongly suspected of making counterfeit half and quarter dollars that officers visited the place. They found moulds, tools and some material in his cellar but he so stoutly maintained that he knew nothing

about it, and that the things had been left there without his knowledge, that he was not arrested, but he soon left the tavern.

In 1839, this same Burns and Plin Barnum hired of Two Guns, his house for a tavern. They started to build a barn and shed to accommodate travelers who should call on them. While framing timber for the barn in the woods near there (for it was woods all around the place), the wind broke a limb off an oak tree, under which they were working. The limb striking Burns on the head, killed him instantly. This was the first death by accident on Elma soil.

Plin Barnum and his brother, Chauncey, then put up the barn and shed and kept tavern in the Two Guns house in 1839 and 1840. This was the first house occupied by white people at Spring Brook.

After the Barnums, H. B. Denio kept the tavern two years, from 1841 and to the spring of 1843. This house was kept as a tavern for many years and was known far and near as the "Mouse Nest."

"MOUSE NEST"—1842

As stated in a previous chapter, the parts of the Buffalo Creek Reservation, in the towns of Aurora and Lancaster were surveyed and numbered separately. The Indian trail on and near where the Aurora and Buffalo Road had been laid out, was the only road across the town of Elma, leading to the city.

The lumber from the Hatch sawmill and the people from the east end of the Mile Strip, and from Wales, Aurora, Colden, and Holland, went by that road and the lumber from the Estabrook sawmill came through a woods road on and near where the Woodard and Rice Roads are now located, reaching the Aurora and Buffalo Road at Spring Brook. When the Ogden Co., by the treaty of May 20th, 1842, secured title to the balance of the Buffalo Creek Reservation from the Seneca Indians, the treaty gave to the Indians the privilege of possession and occupancy of their improvements until April 1st, 1846, and until the improvements were paid for by the company. By this arrangement, Two Guns and his assignees had the right to keep the Mouse Nest Tavern until April 1st, 1846; and the tavern was kept as before stated by Plin and Chauncey Barnum in 1839 and 1840, and by H. B. Denio in 1841 and to April, 1843, by Felstein to April, 1844, and by David J. Morris, from April, 1844, to the fall of 1845. The Indians residing on the Aurora part of the Reservation nearly all left for the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reservations in 1844 and 1845; a few remaining until 1846. The Davis road from Spring Brook south across the Reservation, was laid out June 20th, 1842.

The Ogden Co., after having made a sale of the 5,000 acre tract to the Ebenezer Company, in April, 1843, settled with the Indians for their improvements on this 5,000 acre tract and had the balance of the Reservation west of the Transit line surveyed; and the company advertised "that on and after August 14th, 1844, they would sell certain lots, which were marked on their map of the Reservation. Those marked comprised a large part of the town of Elma."

As the Aurora part of Elma was settled mostly by people coming from Wales, Aurora, and Hamburgh, all going to Aurora to elections and town meeting; and the Lancaster part settled largely by people from Lancaster and Alden, they going to Lancaster for election and town meeting, there had been but little communication between the early settlers of these two parts previous to the formation of the town of Elma on December 4th, 1856. So it has seemed best to treat the early settlement of the Aurora and Lancaster parts of the town separately, up to the time the town was organized.

The Hatch Mill (East Elma) part was mentioned in Chapter VIII; and the Lancaster part in the previous chapter; and now, we take up the settlement of the balance of the Aurora part, or Spring Brook and vicinity.

SPRING BROOK NAMED—1844

Near the Indian trail and now on lot 71 on the north side of the Aurora and Buffalo Road and a few rods southeast from Daniel Two Guns house, was a large spring.

At that time all around was a dense forest, allowing but little if any evaporation and the melting snows and the rains gradually settled into the low places in the woods, the swamps retaining the water which was slowly given up by the soil in numerous springs (most of them now dry), but then giving a steady and in many cases a large supply of water. This Two Guns spring was one of the very large springs giving a stream many times larger than in 1900; the water crossing the road on to lot 82, taking a westerly course in a gully, growing gradually deeper, passing on to lot 81, where the gully came near the bend in the Cazenove Creek, only a narrow bank thirty feet high separating them; then the brook takes a northwest course nearly parallel to the highway, passing on to lot 84, where at the Northrup Road it enters a wide ravine and makes way along the east side of the Northrup Road to the Creek. This spring and brook gives the name to the Village.

FIRST SAWMILL AT SPRING BROOK—1844

While David J. Morris was keeping the Mouse Nest tavern,

in September 1844, Lewis Northrup and George Baker, both of Aurora, made the first purchase of land at Spring Brook, when they bought lot 84 in the west part of Spring Brook, the lot lying between the Aurora and Buffalo Road and the Cazenove Creek; the deed from Joseph Fellows being dated January 1st, 1845, and recorded in Liber 79, Page 317. Immediately after they bought the lot in September, 1844, they began to clear the ground and prepare for building a sawmill and to build a millhouse for the family to board the hands. While this work of preparation was going on, the men boarded with D. J. Morris at his tavern. To furnish room, Morris built a frame addition (16x24 feet, 12 feet high) to the log tavern for a sitting room, and this frame building was enclosed on the outside with siding, and lathed and plastered inside, and is used by Charles Thayer, owner of the premises in 1900, as a kitchen and woodhouse.

This Two Guns tavern is the only log tavern ever kept in Springbrook, and this addition is all the tavern, in whole or part, frame or log, that David J. Morris ever built.

In October of 1844, Lewis Northrup moved his family from Aurora into the plank mill house; living there and boarding the hands while the dam and sawmill was being built, and, until he built a frame house on the north end of the lot, and on the southwest side of the highway in the spring of 1845.

Horace Kyser, Asa Palmer and John Morris, came in the fall of 1844. Kyser bought fifty acres in the centre of lot 75, of William D. Waddington; deed dated September 1st, 1845, recorded in Liber 81, Page 80. John Morris built a house on the southeast part of lot 82.

1845

On April 19th, 1845, the Aurora Commissioner of Highways laid out the Rice Road, from the Girdled Road west on lot lines to the Aurora and Buffalo Road, at the northwest corner of lot 75; the Pound Road, on east line of lot 83 and the Jimeson Road, from Marilla town line, west, on lot lines through East Elma, to the Aurora and Buffalo Road, at the northwest corner of lot 63.

The bridge at East Elma across the Millpond, went off with the spring freshet, and a new bridge, nearer the sawmill was built on the lot lines during the summer of 1845.

Northrup and Baker completed their double sawmill on the north bank of the Creek in the early part of 1845 on the site now occupied by Eli B. Northrup's sawmill. Northrup and Baker operated their mill as a company mill about one year, when Northrup sold his interest to Baker.

Zenas M. Cobb bought lot 83 and built a house opposite the Northrup house and moved into it in the spring of 1845.

On May 1st, 1845, David J. Morris bought of Northrup and Baker sixteen and four one hundredths acres of lot 84, being that part of the lot lying east of the road to the sawmills; and that summer he built a house on that lot, into which he moved that fall from the tavern, and where he lived many years; and, on September 1st, 1845, he bought of Joseph Fellows, twenty-five acres of the west end of lot 75, being all of lot 75 west of Kyser's fifty acres. Deed recorded in Liber 81, Page 77; and, as he owned on both sides of the Road he sold off small lots to make the village of Spring Brook.

In the summer of 1845, Zebina Lee and family came from Oswego County and lived with Asa Palmer in an Indian log house on lot 67. While there he built a plank house on lot 76 where Mr. O. J. Wannemacher now lives and into which he moved in the fall of 1845. William M. Rice moved on to Lot 56 in the fall of 1845.

Thomas Flannigan came in the fall of 1845 and moved into the Mouse Nest tavern which he kept two years. He bought of Joseph Fellows part of Lot 71, the deed dated November 29, 1847. He sold or rented the Mouse Nest tavern stand to Holmes who moved into the tavern in the fall of 1847.

On November 1st, 1845, Northrup & Baker bought a mill site and privilege of Joseph Fellows on the south side of the Creek and opposite the sawmill, being six and ninety-five one hundredths acres off the north side of Lot 85 where the grist-mill now stands.

1846

In February of 1846, Northrup & Baker had a sawmill on the south side of the Creek ready for business and in the course of the summer, Northrup bought out Baker's entire interest, thus becoming owner and operator of both mills. During that summer he built a bridge across the Creek below the mill.

Nathaniel Graves moved with his family from Aurora in the spring of 1846, and worked for Northrup at the mills, living in one of the mill houses.

Joseph Grace came in the spring of 1846 and bought of D. J. Morris, one and one-half acres of land west of and adjoining Horace Kyser on which he built a house and blacksmith shop, the first of its kind in Spring Brook and in December he bought of Louis Northrup twenty-five acres off the east end of Lot 75. In May 1846, Joseph Tillou moved with his family on Lot 66 on the south side of the Rice Road.

The first schoolhouse, 24x30 feet in Spring Brook, was built on the present schoolhouse site in the spring of 1846; to be ready for school on June 1st and to be completed by November 15, contract price \$254; deed from David J. Morris, dated Octo-

ber 23d, 1850. The first school was kept by Miss Calpherina Johnson of Holland in the summer of 1846.

Truman Case built a house and moved on Lot 52, on the west side of the Bowen Road in the summer of 1847.

SPRING BROOK POSTOFFICE—1848-1849

Alfred Marvel and James Davis moved on their farms south of Spring Brook in the early part of 1848.

William Jones in 1848 bought the five acre lot on the west side of the Davis Road south of Spring Brook, later known as the Talmadge place, and built a house on the lot. The same summer, Jones opened a meat market in a building on the southeast corner of the Davis and Aurora roads.

The Spring Brook Postoffice was established in 1848, with David J. Morris as first Postmaster. This was under President Polk, and Morris had the Postoffice in his house, until after President Taylor was inaugurated in 1849.

The first steam sawmill in Spring Brook was built in 1848, by Finley Robinson and William English, on the lot across the road from Kyser's house.

The bridge that Northrup built in the summer of 1846 across the Creek below the sawmills, went out with the ice at the spring breakup and freshet in 1849.

James H. Ward, Esq., moved into Spring Brook May 11th, 1849, and that summer the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road was built through Spring Brook and was completed to Buffalo that year; so that heavy loads of lumber, cordwood and farm produce could be hauled to the Buffalo market.

On June 23d, 1849, the Aurora Commissioner of Highways laid out a highway from the Plank Road east of Northrup's house to the Transit line, crossing the Cazenove Creek below the saw mills, and let the building of a bridge across the Creek at that point. The bridge was built that summer.

1850

Joseph Grace moved his blacksmith shop and family on to the twenty-five acres, on east end of Lot 75, which he bought in 1846.

Nathaniel Graves built a house and blacksmith shop on the lot west of the Pail Factory lot and there worked at his blacksmith trade.

Zenas M. Cobb was appointed Postmaster of the Spring Brook Postoffice under President Taylor in 1849; and had the office in his house until after President Fillmore was inaugurated in 1850.

A steam sawmill and pail factory was erected on the lot across the road from Horace Kyser's house by William H.

Corbin in June, 1849 with J. J. French and Sherman Roscoe as proprietors. Deed from John Morris dated February 19th, 1850, recorded in Liber 117, Page 482. A fifty horse power engine was put in to drive a sawmill and factory machinery. This gave employment to quite a force of men. The pails, tubs, and other articles manufactured, found a ready market in Buffalo and the business was carried on by this company for two or three years.

The steam sawmill built by Robinson & English in 1848, burned in 1850 and another steam sawmill was immediately built on the same grounds by George and Edward Good.

In 1850, E. G. Kent bought of D. J. Morris the lot at the southeast corner of the Northrup and Plank Roads, and built a store, putting in a good stock of goods for a country store and this was the first store in Spring Brook.

John McFee bought of Hiram Harris, on February 20th, 1850, the lot on the southwest side of the Plank Road, on Lot 82, and that summer built the house now across the road from the Catholic church and opened a saloon, at that time called a "grocery."

James Dunbar moved into the Mouse Nest April 1st, 1850, and kept the tavern one year.

Eron Woodard and Martha Bostwick were married April 22d, 1850 and moved on to Lot 52, on the west side of the Bowen Road, on land bought of Truman Case.

Cyrus S. Spencer moved into a house on the north side of the Plank Road at west end of Lot 71, and had his shoeshop in the building at the corner of the Davis and Plank Roads, known as the Meat Market in the early part of 1850, and here he worked for about two years.

D. L. Wilson came on May 7th, 1850 and worked for Lewis Northrup. The Spring Brook cemetery was laid out by D. J. Morris in the spring of 1850. Two children of Austin J. French had been buried there in August and September, 1849.

James H. Ward was appointed Postmaster of the Spring Brook Postoffice in 1850, under President Fillmore. He held the office four years and until the Postoffice was moved to West Seneca.

The first church built in Spring Brook was the Catholic church, 20 x 30 feet on the north side of the Plank Road and east side of the Rice Road on Lot 71; the deed being from Thomas Flannigan, to John Timon, dated February 23d, 1850; recorded in Liber 111, Page 43, and another deed, with some difference in the boundary lines from the first deed, but each description to contain one acre. This deed, from Thomas Flannigan to John Timon, is dated September 18th, 1850, recorded in Liber 94, Page 229; and here, at the junction of the Rice and Plank Roads was the church built. It served as a place of wor-

ship for the members of that society for about twenty-four years when it was moved on to the east end of the acre lot and was for many years used as a barn for their parsonage; the present fine church building having been erected in 1874. A part of the east end of the lot was set off as a cemetery.

1851

James Wolcott built a blacksmith shop at west end of Lot 75, and carried on blacksmithing one and one-half years, then sold to John Barnett.

The bridge which was built across the Creek below the mills in 1849 was carried off by the ice and freshet in the spring of 1851 and was rebuilt that summer.

James Dunbar moved April 1st, 1851, from the Mouse Nest tavern into the building on the south side of the Plank Road, later known as the Leger Place, where he opened a store of dry goods and groceries and a saloon.

James W. Simons, on April 1st, moved into the Mouse Nest tavern and having bought the property, began to change the appearance of the place. During the summer he tore down the log house thus removing one of the Indian land marks and in its place erected the two-story frame building which was for many years used as a tavern and is now owned and occupied by Charles Thayer as a family residence.

As soon as Simons new building was sufficiently completed so as to admit of occupation, he opened it as a tavern.

John McFee, having the year before built a house and opened a saloon across the Plank Road from the Catholic church, as soon as Simons tore down the log tavern, he, McFee, opened up as a tavern.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILT

In 1851 or 1852, Rev. Nehemiah Cobb, who had been sent in 1849 by some Presbyterian church in Buffalo as a missionary, succeeded in getting contributions and donations so that he had a church built on the western part of Lot 75, on land purchased or donated by David J. Morris, where religious services were held for several years.

1852

In May, 1852, Lewis Northrup moved the plank house which he had built on the south side of the Plank Road in the spring of 1845, and put in its place another much larger and better house which is owned and occupied in 1900 by Eli B. Northrup as his residence. The old house was later sold to Horatio Winspear, and by him it was moved into the town of West Seneca, on the north bank of the Cazenove Creek.

Cyrus S. Spencer, having bought the building lot at the south corner of lot 84 on the southwest side of the Plank Road and between the road and the Spring Brook cemetery, had his house ready to raise and it was raised the same day and by the same gang of men who had raised the Northrup house.

Dr. James Gilmore came to Spring Brook in the summer of 1852 and with his family lived in a house across the Plank Road and nearly opposite to the Congregational church; and on October 22d, of that year, he bought of Henry G. Stamback, the house and lot on Lot 82, on the southwest side of the Plank Road, joining McFee on the south.

William Jones, on April 3d, 1853, bought James Dunbar's store of goods in the Leger store and carried on the business for one year.

John Barnett came in the spring of 1853, and in the fall bought Wolcott's blacksmith shop at the west end of Lot 75, at the junction of the Pound and Plank Roads, and opened up for business—the fourth blacksmith shop in Spring Brook. This shop is, in 1900, the leading shop in the village. Although it has changed hands several times since 1853, the shop has been run continuously.

1853-1854

In the summer of 1853, Lewis Northrup built an addition on the lower end of the sawmill, on the south side of the Creek, for a gristmill, and had it ready for business in the fall of that year.

George Leger moved into Spring Brook in the fall of 1853, living in the millhouse on the south side of the creek, working for Mr. Northrup in the gristmill for nearly three years.

Wm. Jones, in April, 1854, with James Dunbar, left Spring Brook, taking their goods to Wales where they carried on the mercantile business for one and one-half years, when Dunbar left for California.

Asa J. W. Palmer was appointed Postmaster of the Springbrook Postoffice, in 1854, under President Pierce; but he refused to qualify or to take the office. After considerable correspondence, the Postoffice Department at Washington, in order to force Palmer to take the office, issued orders for the Spring Brook Postoffice to be removed to West Seneca, and directed Henry Hill, the Postmaster of the West Seneca Postoffice to take charge of the Spring Brook office until Palmer should qualify. This removal of the office, was a great inconvenience to the Springbrook people, and after much urging Palmer gave in, and qualified, having the office in his house on the north side of the Plank Road east of the school house, on Lot 75. Palmer held the office only a short time, when James W. Simon was appointed, with Mrs. John McFee as assistant;

and the office was moved from Palmer's house into McFee's grocery where it was kept when the town of Elma was formed, and until Austin Twitchell was appointed in January, 1861.

1855-1856

No very important changes were made in 1855; business was fairly good with the mills, lumbermen, farmers, and stores; the steam and watermills were very hard at work as the farmers were clearing their lands and were taking all the timber that would make a sawlog to the mills, and then take the lumber to Buffalo.

Northrup's gristmill, at the lower end of the sawmill, on the south side of the Creek, was taken off by the freshet of January, 1856, the bridge below the mills going at the same time.

The bridge was rebuilt during that summer.

Eli Simmons came from Buffalo in February, 1856. The Pail Factory business having been closed out and the property having changed hands several times in a few months, Lewis Northrup bought it November 6th, 1854, and he then sold the property to Henry Meeker and Myrtle Wattles, (the deed dated March 1st, 1856, recorded in Liber 172, page 34), and they changed the building into a tannery, and opened a general store in a building on the same spot, occupied by Richard Barnett's brick store in 1900.

George Leger and Anthony Diebold, in the spring of 1856, bought George and Edward Good's steam sawmill, and that summer they put in a gristmill.

The Erie County Sunday School Association was organized in Buffalo in May, 1856.

Stephen Northrup's store on the south-west corner of Aurora and Northrup Roads was finished and trade begun in December, 1856, with flour, feed and groceries; soon he put in general merchandise.

On December 4th, 1856, the Supervisors of Erie County formed a new town from parts of Aurora and Lancaster, the proceedings of the Board having been fully set forth in Chapter IV, to which reference is made.

RESIDENTS IN SPRING BROOK AND VICINITY, DEC. 4th, 1856

When the town of Elma was formed, December 4th, 1856, the business at Spring Brook was about as follows:

Northrup's sawmills on both side of the creek, Leger & Diebold's steam sawmill and gristmill on Lot 81, Meeker & Wattle's tannery and store on Lot 81, E. G. Kent's store at Northrup Road on Lot 84, Stephen Northrup's Store at Northrup Road on Lot 84, James W. Simon's tavern (the rebuilt

Mouse Nest) on Lot 71, John McFee's saloon and grocery on Lot 82, blacksmith shop of John Barnett, on west end of Lot 75, Joseph Grace's blacksmith shop on east end of Lot 75, post-office in McFee's place on Lot 82, schoolhouse built in 1846 on Lot 75, Presbyterian church built in 1852 on Lot 75, Catholic church built in 1850 on Lot 71. It is not possible in 1900, to give the names of all the residents of Spring Brook and vicinity, when the town was formed, but among them we find the following, a few living in 1900:

John B. Bristol, Luke Baker, John Barnet, Stephen Calkins, Zenas M. Cobb, Patrick Conley, Bernard Conley, Anthony Diebold, John Davis, James Davis, Wm. H. Davis, Patrick Donohue, Milton H. Dunham, Wallace W. Fones, Thomas Flannigan, Joseph Grace, James J. Grace, Wm. W. Grace, Dr. James Gilmore, John Hannivan, Wm. Hunt, Peter Kihm, E. G. Kent, Stephen Kinsley, Horace Kyser, Charles Kennedy, George Leger, Zebina Lee, George Lee, Wm. M. Lockwood, John McFee, Henry Meeker, John Morris, David J. Morris, Lafayette Morris, Alfred Marvel, Lewis Northrup, Eli B. Northrup, Stephen Northrup, Asa Palmer, Asa J. W. Palmer, Patrick Phalen, Lyman Parker, Wm. M. Rice, Michael Schnorr, James W. Simons, Lewis Sisler, Eli Simmons, Cyrus S. Spencer, Joseph Tillou, Isaac Tillou, James Tillou, Harrison Tillou, Erastus Tillou, Charles Talmadge, C. J. Talmadge, Wm. Thayer, Myrtle Wattles, James H. Ward, D. L. Wilson, Thomas E. Wier, Elias Weed, Charles Whitney, Noah Wertman.



CHAPTER XI.

TOWN OF ELMA—1856-1858

WHEN the town of Elma was formed, December 4th, 1856, about one-half of the land of the last purchase of the Ogden Company in the new town, consisting of 9,000 acres, was owned by about three hundred actual residents. More than 5,000 acres were owned by non-residents who had bought for speculation. The Ogden Company had about 3,500 acres, and as it advanced the prices, it seemed that it was not very anxious to sell, for it was sure of still higher prices. This statement does not include the Mile Strip part of the new town, as that had been in the market nearly thirty years, and in that time had been changed from a wilderness to well cultivated farms.

The method of clearing the land of timber on the last purchase was very different from that practiced by the early settlers on the Holland Purchase and on the Mile Strip. Instead of cutting down the trees and burning the timber so that crops could be raised, only the decayed parts of the trees as were not fit for cordwood, were burned in log heaps. The new plan was to utilize the timber to turn it into money; so every tree of every kind that was suitable for a sawlog was taken to the saw-mill and made into lumber to be used for buildings or fences on the farm or hauled to Buffalo where there was a ready market and where all necessary supplies could be obtained.

The timber not suitable for sawlogs was worked into cordwood, the soft wood, viz.: bass, elm, ash, hemlock and pine, had a ready market at the railroad station, steamboat docks, brick yards, glass factories and at all shops and factories where steam power was used. The hard woods, viz.: maple, beech, oak and hickory was the fuel for the families and offices. This was before coal was very much used as a fuel in Buffalo and every manufactory, steamboat, railroad locomotive, as well as every family used wood for fuel.

Hemlock bark found a ready market at the tanneries at Aurora, Springbrook, Ebenezer, Buffalo, Lancaster and Williamsville.

This method of clearing the land was much slower and required very much more labor than the old way of chopping, logging and burning; but the object now was to have the tim-

ber pay for the necessary labor, support the family, and pay for the land. Sawmills were built on every stream and in almost every neighborhood in Elma to work up the timber, consequently lumber was easily obtained. After 1854, very few log houses were built on this last purchase, the new houses being made of plank, or of balloon frame and clapboards, with shingle roofs. The doors and window sashes were made by machinery—a long step in advance of the old way of the carpenter hewing and framing timber for the frame of the house and from the rough boards to saw and plane and work all the lumber for the house by hand and hard work.

SAWMILLS—1856

Cookstoves and ranges had largely supplanted the fire-place and Dutch fire for cooking and heating, and when the town of Elma was organized in 1856, in many of the houses rag carpets were on the floors of the best rooms. The farmers raised little or no wool or flax. The older women did not have to card and spin, and the girls were not taught these branches of house-keeping in order to furnish the family clothing; these kinds of labor were for the days of "long ago." All the cloth for the family and much of the clothing, ready made, was obtained from the village or city stores. Before the town was formed in 1856, there had been built and operated the following mills for working up the timber, viz.: The Estabrook or Indian Mill built in 1826, having two saws and later known as the Bullis Mill on the Big Buffalo Creek, to which Mr. Bullis had added a lathmill, machinery to saw and cut shingles and a box factory.

The Davis mill was built on the Cazenove Creek in 1830 by Mr. Jacob R. Davis, on the Mile Strip. The Hatch mill was built in 1836 on the Big Buffalo Creek at Frog Pond, now East Elma, later known as the Hemstreet mill with planing mill and lathmill attached. Northrup's two sawmills were on the Cazenove Creek at Spring Brook. The Shindler mill was a few rods south of the south line of the Mile Strip on the Cazenove Creek with lath and shingle mills. Howard & Crane's steam shinglemill at East Elma, Hanvey's sawmill on a brook three-quarters of a mile north of East Elma, Barto's sawmill on the Big Buffalo Creek, a few rods east of the east line of the town of Elma, the Simanton mill on the south side of the Big Buffalo Creek a few rods east of the Girdled Road, Hurd & Briggs' double mill at Elma Village, with machinery for sawing shingles and lath, Eleazer Bancroft's sawmill, lath and shinglemill on Pond Brook at Elma Village, Clark W. Hurd's sawmill on Pond Brook, William Standarts sawmill on Pond Brook, north of Bullis Road, George Orr's sawmill on Crooked Brook on Bullis Road, Bowen & Standart's mill on the north side of the Big Buffalo Creek, three-quarters of a mile below Elma Vil-

lage, William Winspear's mill on the south side of the Big Buffalo Creek on the Winspear Road, the Ebenezer mill at Upper Ebenezer, now Blossom, on the Big Buffalo Creek, Orvil Titus' sawmill on the Little Buffalo Creek on Lot 3, and Bradley Moore's sawmill on the Little Buffalo Creek and on south side of Clinton Street Road. Besides these water mills there were several steam mills, viz.: A steam sawmill and pail factory at Spring Brook, built by Corbin, French & Roscoe; changed to Meeker & Wattles' tannery, a steam sawmill, built at Springbrook, by George and Edward Good, but owned by George Leger and Anthony Diebold; one built on Lot 52 of the Aurora part of Elma, west of Eron Woodard's barn; Samuel Pound's mill on the Bullis Road, on Lot 90, Dimert & Rost's mill on the road north of Schmaltz corners; and J. B. Briggs & Co., steam mill in Elma Village, built by Clark, Briggs & Co., with lath, shingle, planing and factory machinery.

These nineteen water mills, with twenty-three saws, and five steam mills with Mulley saws, and the lath and shinglemills were working up the timber before the town of Elma was formed; and most of the water mills were run night and day a large part of the year, the streams generally furnishing a steady supply of water.

When by heavy rains or the thawing of the snows there would be a freshet, a large part of the water was held back in the swamps and low grounds, gradually making its way to the streams, thus furnishing a steady and continuous supply.

After the lands were cleared, the farmer, by means of drains would take the water off his lands as soon as he could. The rush of water after a heavy rain would cause a flood for a few hours; then would follow a season of short supply of water for the mills, until we had another rain, but drains were not much in use until the timber was pretty well worked up, when there was not so much need for a steady supply of water for the mills.

Several of these mills had been built and running only one, two, three or five years with the result that in 1856, when the town of Elma was organized, about one-fourth of the timber on the last purchase had been worked up as here stated, and as the work continued, more mills were being built and timber removed, and as the years pass we find the old growth of timber is rapidly going.

Lumber had all the time been cheap, hemlock bringing in the Buffalo market five to eight dollars per thousand feet, and for a year or two before the town was formed, there had been signs of an approaching financial crisis. Prices for lumber, wood and manufactured articles were gradually going down and the settlers on the last purchase were having the same financial experience that had come to the early settlers on the Mile Strip. Very few of those who had bought lots of land of the

Ogden Company had paid in full for their lands; many had paid down only a small part of the purchase price; expecting that from the timber and their labor they could support their families and make the payments as they would come due; and as but little land was cleared from which to raise crops, most of the family supplies had to be bought, and the interest, and payments must be provided for. As lumber and cordwood were the only articles they had by which to raise money, these were sent to the market regardless of the price.

HARD TIMES

There had been a great increase in the population of Buffalo within the last few years, but that increase had been made largely by people of moderate means, or of the poorer and labor classes; and while every family in the city used wood as their fuel, the hard times with scarcity of work, made it hard for the city laborers, and so only the wealthy were able to buy a full load of wood, and many times the whole or a part of the price would be paid out of the store. These were the conditions in 1856, and continued with but little improvement until the commencement of the Civil War in 1861.

The early settlers in the town of Elma will remember to their last day the hard times from 1854 to 1861.

1856-1857

During this time there was a great disturbance and mix-up in the political parties of the country. The Whig and Democratic parties were broken to pieces on the slavery question; the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; the new Fugitive Slave Law, and the complications caused thereby. The Native American or Know Nothing organization; but most of all, the slavery question, between 1854 and 1860, kept the country in a very disturbed condition. Old party lines were wiped out; new conditions and combinations caused such changes in parties that the results of an election were all uncertain, and a general breaking up of old party lines and ties brought about the forming of the Republican party in 1854 and 1855.

The Democratic party elected James Buchanan as President at the November election in 1856, but this did not settle the differences which were of a national character, while the local elections passed off with but little interest.

The first town meeting in the town of Elma, held at the house of Clark W. Hurd in Elma Village, on the 3d day of March, 1857, was, under the circumstances, a matter of great interest, and, by many persons at that time thought to be the most important town meeting ever to be held in the town. There had been a very strong feeling of opposition to the for-

mation of the new town, especially among the residents of the Mile Strip; as they lived, many of them, within two to three miles of Aurora Village where they had always went to elections and for all of their town business. They did not like the idea of going four to seven miles and among strangers to do their voting. As the time for the town meeting drew near, the feeling of opposition grew stronger; and when the call for a caucus was called, the "Opposition," or as it was called "The People's Party" met in the Woodard schoolhouse at the corner of the Bowen and the Rice Roads at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, April 30th, and made up a full ticket, called the "Peoples' Ticket." Party lines were not thought of. Those in favor of the formation of a new town met the same afternoon at the hotel in Spring Brook and made up a ticket of those who were in their way of thinking.

On December 4th, 1856, when the Board of Supervisors of Erie County, by a vote of twenty-eight to three adopted the resolution forming a new town, from parts of Aurora and Lancaster to be named Elma, they directed that the first town meeting should be held at the house of Clark W. Hurd on the first Tuesday of March, 1857; and they appointed James H. Ward, then an acting Justice of the Peace in the town of Aurora, Lewis Northrup, Joseph B. Briggs and Deforest Standart, to preside at that first town meeting. The said Board, in organizing, appointed Warren Jackman as clerk.

THE FIRST TOWN MEETING IN ELMA

MARCH 3RD, 1857

This was a very spirited meeting, no thought of whether the candidates on the tickets were Democrats, Republicans, Know Nothings, or Abolitionists, but the issue was joined and the contest though the day was in favor of, or in opposition to the formation of the new town. The result was that the entire "Peoples' Ticket" was elected, viz:

Supervisor, Paul B. Lathrop; Town Clerk, Warren Jackman; Justices of the Peace, Addison Armstrong, Thomas Aldrich, Nathan W. Stowell; Collector, Asa J. W. Palmer; Assessors, Zenas M. Cobb, Horace Blood, Theoron Stowell; Com. of Highways, Whipple Spooner, Benj. P. Lougee, Alfred Marvel. (held over from town of Aurora); Overseer of the Poor, Wm. Standart; Constables, Asa J. W. Palmer, Aaron Hitchcock, Isaac Freeman, Franklin Mitchell, Wm. J. Jackman; Inspectors of Election, Wm. H. Bancroft, John W. Cole, John Schmalls, appointed; Town Sealer, Elbridge G. Kent.

It was voted that the next town meeting be held at Hurd's tavern which was being built at the corner of the Bowen and the Bullis Roads.

See tables in Chapter XXIV., of officers elected at the town meetings in the years 1857 to 1900.

PRISON HOUSE OF THE EBENEZER SOCIETY—1857

As stated in a previous chapter, the Ebenezer Society bought of the Ogden Company, Lot 45, in the Lancaster part of the town, with their other Elma lands, and this was called their pine lot. On this lot they built a house on the Woodard Road, now occupied by Fred Heitman, for their men when they were cutting logs, and that house came later to be called their "Prison house." It got the name in this way. The Ebenezer Society had a branch of their company in Canada, and it was one of the rules with the elders or rulers that if a single man or unmarried woman, either here or in Canada, had an idea of marriage, that they must be separated for a year; the man if living here, being sent to Canada, and if living in Canada, being sent here, and for a year to be without correspondence or communication in any way. If at the end of a year they were of the same mind, the marriage ceremony would be performed.

It happened about the year 1857, that a couple, members of this society, came to an agreement as to marriage, and they decided between themselves, that they would not be separated a year before marriage; so they were secretly married, probably in Buffalo. The fact of the marriage, and in that showing a disregard of the Society, soon came to the ears of the ruling elders; and the culprits were called upon to answer yes or no to the charges in the complaint. Their plea of guilty, was accepted; and as a punishment they were banished, and sent to this house, there to remain in solitary confinement, so far as they or any member of the society was concerned for one year. They were supplied with clothing and provisions, the man to work in the woods, peeling bark, cutting logs or wood, but they must not speak to any member of the society who came there, nor was any member of the society to speak to them, and no written communication was allowed to be sent either way. The only way they could know what was going on, or hear from, or send word to their friends, was for some friendly German, not a member of their society to act as a go-between. This was kept up for the year when the prisoners were released and went among their friends. It caused much talk and indignation among the people of the town. About this time the Ebenezer Society applied to the Legislature, at Albany, for an extension of their charter. The Legislature refused and it was reported that this prison incident was used against the society, the claim being that their rules and requirements were not in conformity with the spirit of our institutions. The managers then sent agents to the west to find a suitable location. After obtaining a charter from the Legislature of Iowa for a long term of

years, they bought a large tract of land in that state, and then they sold their lands in West Seneca and Elma and gradually left for their new home and in 1863 or 1864, they all removed to Iowa.

The manners and customs of the people in this country were very different from the practices of the Prussians in Europe, and this difference was soon noticed by the young people of the Ebenezer Society.

They were near the growing city of Buffalo and were surrounded by thousands of people who had come from Germany who were enjoying greater liberty and many privileges which were forbidden to them, and this acquaintance and association with these neighbors naturally led them to think that some of the rules of their society were altogether too arbitrary, especially this rule about marriage, and these ideas growing and extending caused much trouble for the managers of the society.

On December 18th, 1856, Meeker & Wattles sold the tannery property to Thomas B. Tilden and on March 28th, 1857, Tilden sold to John Eighme and Israel P. Bowen, and on June 24th, 1858, Eighme sold his interest to Henry Meeker.

In the Spring of 1857, George Leger bought Diebold's interest in the steam saw and gristmill in Spring Brook, and operated both mills on his own account.

The first bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek on the Winspear Road was built in the summer of 1857, the town board having authorized the Commissioner of Highways to build the bridge.

The Assessor, on completing the first assessment roll of the town of Elma for 1857, found as follows: Personal property \$9,400, real \$530,840, total \$540,240. The board of Supervisors on equalizing, reduced the Assessors' valuation \$56,477, made of personal property \$9,400, real \$474,363, total \$483,763 on which they assessed a tax of \$4,290.98; of this amount the town audits were \$335.94 and for roads and bridges \$861.47.

For assessment of personal and real property, town audits, road and bridge expenses and taxes from 1857 to 1900, see chapter XXIV.

The first general election in the town of Elma was held November 3d, 1857, in Wm. Standart's house on the north side of his millyard, the same house that George and Washington Standart built in 1848. The people in the town did not take a great interest in the election, the total vote being 164. James Clark moved from Missouri coming to Elma Village, December 15th, 1857.

C. W. Hurd had the hotel on the northeast corner of Lot 60 enclosed that fall and was ready for occupancy in the spring of 1858. This hotel was named the Elma Centre House and by

that name known for many years. It is now owned by Mr. Nosbisch. The hotel was more than a mile north from the centre of the town, the actual centre being about sixteen rods north of the Rice and two rods west of the centre of the Bowen Road.

1858

James Head bought and moved on to Lot 89, on the west side of the Davis Road in the Spring of 1858. Peter Grader, Sr., moved on to Lot 45 on the south side of the Rice Road, February 9th, 1858.

The second town meeting in Elma was held at Hurd's hotel, Alonzo Crawford, leese; at the corner of the Bowen and Bullis Roads on March 2d, 1858. Party politics had no place, the same issue prevailed as the year before, viz.: "New town or no new town," still being the leading question, but the feeling of opposition was gradually growing less. Still enough of that sentiment remained to make the meeting very interesting, and at times exciting, but the day closed without any serious quarrel.

For town officers who were elected, see Chapter XXIV.

Samuel Pound's steam sawmill on Lot 90 on the Bullis Road burned this year.

The Town Board on March 3d, voted \$450 to finish the Winspear bridge. The Hemstreet bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek at East Elma, built in 1846, broke down in June, 1858, under a load of lumber, with Christopher Peek on the load; team and all going into the millpond. Mr. Peek sustained only slight bruises, and the horses were released from the wagon without cutting or breaking the harness, when they swam ashore, the water being six feet deep. No other injury to man, horse or wagon occurred.

The Hemstreet lattice bridge (standing in 1900) was built in the summer of 1858; the Town Board directing the Commissioner, July 7th, to build the bridge. Little and Bowen had the contract to build a bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek at their mill, three-quarters of a mile below Elma Village, the contract price of which was \$220.00.

George Leger sold his steam saw and gristmill in Spring Brook to Peter Bower in 1858.

James Clark bought the goods of the J. B. Briggs & Co. store in Elma Village in April 1858 renting the store of Warren Jackman; Clark's family living in the back part of the building.

Russel Howard sold his interest in the steam shinglemill at East Elma to Fowler Munger, and Munger and Crane carried on the shingle business there for many years and worked up a great amount of timber.

In the summer of 1858, Clark W. Hurd built a store and dwelling house combined on the northwest corner of the Bowen and Bullis Roads; occupied a few years later by W. W. Standart as store and saloon.

Henry W. Stitz bought a building lot next, west of the store on the north side of the Bullis Road, and on the lot built a house and blacksmith shop and carried on business for several years.

Theodore Noyes died July 27th, 1858, age sixty-one years, nine months and was buried in Elma cemetery.

Rev. Lucius A. Chapin was sent by the M. E. Conference to supply Lancaster, Bowmansville and Elma, he living in Lancaster Village preaching in the schoolhouse in Elma Village every other Sunday at 2 p. m., alternating with Rev. William Waith, the Presbyterian minister, who also lived in Lancaster.

Lewis Northrup, in the summer of 1858, tore down the saw-mill on the south side of the Cazenove Creek at Spring Brook and on the same place built a gristmill, owned in 1900 by his son, Eli B. Northrup.

Mr. Jacob Wooster, of Strykersville, then considered one of the best millwrights in the country, made and put in the mill machinery. Mr. Harvey assisted in putting in the machinery for making flour and was the first miller working for Mr. Northrup. He remained with Mr. Northrup about four years.

Hurd & Briggs put an addition on the west end of their saw-mill for a gristmill and put in a run of stone for grinding feed.

Stephen Markham moved from Brewerton, Onondaga County, New York to Elma in October 1858, and bought the Hurd saw-mill and lot on Pond Brook, with eight acres of land on the north part of Lot 59 and east side of the Bowen Road, later owned by Joseph C. Standart.

The second general election was held in Hurd's tavern, on the Bullis Road, on November 2, 1858. Greater interest was manifested at this election as more state and county officers were to be elected. There were three hundred and fifty-one votes polled.

Israel P. Bowen and Henry Meeker sold the Spring Brook tannery November 19, 1858 to Walter L. Curtis and Frederick Deming. They carried on the store and tannery until the tannery burned in 1861.

CHAPTER XII.

TOWN OF ELMA—1859-1865

MRS. GEORGE STANDART, SR. died January 11th, 1859, age sixty-one years, nine months—burial in Elma cemetery.

The third town meeting was held at the Elma Centre House, March 1st, 1859. The opposition to the forming of the new town grows less each year, as the people in the different parts of the town become better acquainted with each other, and the leaders in the political parties begin to show their hands and work for the nomination for town officers.

Since the town was organized, the candidates on the "Peoples' Ticket" had always been part Republican and part Democratic while the Republicans claim a majority of the voters in the town.

Jacob Jerge bought of Adam Michaelis the house and lot in Elma Village across the road from Charles A. Dutton's house and Jerge moved into the house on March 16th, 1859 and continued blacksmithing in the shop which he bought of Dutton on the east bank of the millrace; Louis Becker working in the shop for Jerge as wagon maker.

Conrad P. Hensel moved into Blossom Village this year. Marcus A. Howard and family moved from Aurora Village into the south part of Mrs. Julia F. Clark's house in April 1859, and lived there that summer while Howard was building a house on a lot he had bought of Clark W. Hurd on the west side of the Bowen Road, nearly opposite Wm. Standart's brick house. Howard had the house so far completed that he moved into it in December of that year. The deed from C. W. Hurd to Marcus A. Howard, dated April 16th, 1866, is recorded in Liber 253, Page 370.

The Bullis Lattice Bridge over the Big Buffalo Creek was built in the summer of 1859. The Bullis sawmill and dam were located about 25 rods below the bridge and it was supposed that these and the millpond would always be there. The water in the pond at the bridge was six feet deep and as wood under water would never decay, it was thought to be economy in building the abutments to use timber below the water line. Accordingly, pine logs were built into cribs as a foundation for the stone walls which were to support the bridge. This worked

all right so long as the pond remained but years later when the dam went out and the mill went to decay and neither to ever be rebuilt, the timber of the cribs decayed. In order to save the bridge, new abutments of stone from the creek bottom had to be built.

Mr. Bullis having bought ten acres of land at the southeast corner of lot 29 on the north side of the Bullis Road, in 1859 built a house and horsebarn thereon. The house when finished was, by far, the finest house in the Town of Elma, and in 1900 there are very few houses, if indeed there is one, in the town that exceeds this Bullis house in fine interior and exterior finish, decoration and ornamentation. When completed, it was said to have cost \$12,000, and in this house, Mr. Bullis spent the closing years of his life. He died in 1869.

John Pomerink's little girl was burned so she died—dress caught fire from a burning brush heap.

Killing frost on morning of June 4th, ice one-third inch thick, and on mornings of July 3d and 4th killing frosts; grass frozen stiff July 4th at 7 p. m. These freezes destroyed all fruit, killed the grass, wheat, rye, corn and potatoes and farmers were greatly discouraged; they cut their grass and standing grain to save what they could for fodder for their stock.

John Morris died at Spring Brook in 1859, age seventy-three years, burial in Spring Brook cemetery.

The M. E. Church in Elma Village was built this year. As before stated, the business of the country was in a very low condition; money was very scarce and it was difficult to make a sale of wood or lumber for cash. Pay out of the store or a sale on time and at low price was the rule and it seemed to be a bad time in which to try to build a church, but the school-house was too small to hold the people who wished to attend the meetings.

At a meeting of those interested in building a church in the Village and on the lot offered by Joseph B. Briggs; George Townsend, Henry D. Wilbor, and Warren Jackman were appointed a committee to get up a plan for a church to be presented at another meeting. At the next meeting, the committee presented their plan which was accepted and they were directed to ascertain if sufficient means could be raised to complete the building. The plan presented was for each person to furnish timber, lumber, stone, labor, teamwork, and cordwood, as they had of these materials, and as they could. An account was to be kept of the amount each one furnished, at the market price, and also, of the actual cost of the labor and materials used in the building. The slips were to be appraised by the trustees at a price sufficient to cover the entire cost when the building was finished and furnished,

and at those prices as a start the slips were to be sold at auction. If the person buying a slip had not furnished enough to pay for the same he was to give his note for the balance. If he had furnished more than the price of his slip, he was to take his balance on these notes. So no money was to be called for, nor was there any subscription to be made, only the word given to furnish what they could when called on.

Nearly every person owning land in the vicinity was pleased with the plan, and they readily agreed to furnish such material as they had. The committee reported the result of their visits and it was decided to go on with the building. The committee was directed to make out a bill of all materials needed in the structure. Warren Jackman was chosen by the trustees to take general charge of the building, arrange for the labor and material, and keep the accounts. The bill for timber and lumber was taken to each person and he selected what and how much he would furnish. The superintendent then knew on whom and for what material to call.

Some of the lumber, the hardware, paint, and many other articles and pay for some of the labor could only be obtained in Buffalo, therefore arrangements were made with Pratt & Co. and Parmelee & Hadley for hardware and paint, with Howard & Whitcomb, and Holbrook & Dee, for dry goods; with H. Hager and Hart & Newman, for groceries; with George Marsh for flour and feed; with Jewett & Root for stoves; with George A. Prince for a melodeon; with Jeremiah Staats for lumber, chairs and sofa; with the Buffalo Stained Glass Co. for the windows: all to be paid for in lumber and wood. The labor not to apply on a slip was paid by orders drawn on stores in Buffalo or in wood or lumber if wanted. The first stick of timber, a long sill, was delivered by Hiram Kinney at 10 o'clock a. m., July 7th. The Elma people who had wood or lumber to turn in would take it to one of the stores in Buffalo and deliver where directed, taking a receipt for the price of the load. And so the whole business was done by exchange of material, and when the building was completed and furnished with carpets, lamps, seats, chairs, stoves, sofa and melodeon, at a cost of \$3,400, it was all paid for and was dedicated February 9th, 1860, by Rev. Gleazen Fillmore.

Mr. Joseph B. Briggs donated the lot on which the church was built.

The M. E. Conference sent Rev. S. H. Baker to preach in Elma Village, he to reside in Lancaster. As he could be in Elma only on every other Sunday at 2 o'clock, p. m., the M. E. Society, after their church was built invited the Presbyterian Society, with Rev. William Waith as their pastor, to occupy the church every alternate Sunday afternoon, which offer was accepted

and continued for two or three years.

Erastus J. Markham came from Brewerton, Onondaga County, to Elma in October, 1859, and moved into the house on the east side of the Bowen Road on Lot 59, being the house owned and occupied in 1900, by Mrs. Hannah Price. Markham taught the Elma Village school that winter.

The third general election was held in the Elma Centre House on November 8th, 1859. It being an off year, not much interest was taken, there being only two hundred and fifty-seven votes polled.

1860

At the town meeting held March 6th, 1860, the Republican and Democratic parties, for the first time since the town was organized had straight party tickets.

Paul B. Lathrop and Zina A. Hemstreet were candidates for the office of Supervisor of the Republican and Democratic parties respectively.

While the Republicans claimed the town, a split in the party in the south part of the town, caused by what Mr. Lathrop had or had not done at the session of the Board of Supervisors in 1859, was the cause of his defeat and a large part of the Democratic ticket was elected.

Julius P. Wilder put into the J. B. Briggs & Co.'s steam mill building the machinery to cut shingles, giving employment to ten men and boys.

Jacob Jerge, on March 24th, 1860, bought of Charles A. Dutton, the house and lot on the west side of the Bowen Road in Elma Village, next north of Wm. H. Bancroft's place.

Erastus I. Markham, on April 10th, 1860, bought of James Clark, his interest in the store and that day moved into the back part of the building.

Mr. Clark moved into the house on the east side of the road next north of the Creek.

Dr. Carey W. Howe with his newly married wife moved into the south wing of W. Jackman's house about May 1st, 1860.

Mrs. James Davis died May 17th, 1860, age fifty-one years—burial in Davis cemetery on Lot 36 of Mile Strip.

June 14th, 1860, Erastus J. Markham bought the vacant lot on the west side of the road between Elon Clark and Jacob Jerge.

Wallace Tiffany and Lawrence Dimert this summer operated the sawmill which was built by George Standart, Sr. about 1855 on the south side of the Big Buffalo Creek near the north-west corner of Lot 74, and across the Creek from the Bowen & Little sawmill.

Joseph C. Standart was appointed Postmaster of the Elma Postoffice in June, 1860, by President James Buchanan, and

the office was moved to the Elma Centre House with Silas Green who kept the tavern, as deputy; Green having charge of the office. The moving of the office from Elma Village three quarters of a mile to the Bullis Road, caused much dissatisfaction among a very large majority of the patrons of the office.

During the summer, Hurd & Briggs put another run of stones and other machinery for making flour, into their gristmill building at the west end of their sawmill. George Townsend did the millwright work and acted as miller until he enlisted into the 116th Regiment of N. Y. S. Volunteers in August, 1862.

The Peter Bower steam saw and gristmill in Spring Brook burned in the summer of 1860.

James M. Simons moved out of the Mouse Nest tavern at Spring Brook on August 25th, 1860, and having rented the place to W. Wesley Standart, who moved in on the same day.

Thomas D. Tiffany who lived on Lot 64, on the north side of the Bullis Road, committed suicide by hanging himself in his barn in September, 1860.

Charles Reichert bought the store of the Ebenezer Society in Blossom and had the Postoffice. The Village and Postoffice while the Ebenezers occupied the place went by the name of Upper Ebenezer.

The United States census reports gave the population of the Town of Elma in 1860 at 2,136, and for the Town of Marilla, same year at 1,506.

As Marilla had been under settlement about thirty years, while Elma, except the Mile Strip part, had been under settlement about fifteen years, this difference in population shows what a rush was made to gain a place on the last purchase of the Buffalo Creek Reservation. The great variety and excellent quality of the timber and the fertility of the soil, all of which being well watered, made it desirable for the farmers.

FEBRUARY 7TH, 1861—THE COLDEST DAY

In January of this year, Austin Twichell was appointed Postmaster of the Springbrook Postoffice by President Buchanan and the office was moved from McFee's grocery to what is known as the Leger place.

In Elma Village on Thursday morning, February 7th, the thermometer registered 20° above zero, snowing, high west wind; at 9 p. m. thermometer 11° below zero. Friday morning at daylight, 30° below zero, at sunrise 25° below, at 9 a. m. 18° below, clear and still, snow badly drifted. This was the coldest day of any record of Elma weather.

March 4th, 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President of the United States. Several of the southern states had passed ordinances of secession and on February 18th, 1861,

they adopted a constitution as "The Confederate States of America," and elected Jefferson Davis as their President with Alexander Stephens as Vice-president.

The Elma town meeting was held on March 5th at Spring Brook, in the Mouse Nest tavern.

For officers elected see Chapter XXIV.

The Northrup bridge across the Cazenove Creek below the mills went out with the spring freshet.

Washington Standart died March 24th, 1861, aged thirty-seven years, three months—burial in the Elma Village cemetery.

On March 28, the Commissioners of Highways of the town, changed the road at Northrup mills from a point on the east side of the sawmill yard, on the north side of the creek so as to cross the millpond about fifteen rods above the mills and where the road and bridge have been located since that date. A new lattice bridge was built there in the summer of 1861.

Zebina Lee died at Spring Brook April 4th, 1861,—burial in the Spring Brook cemetery.

East Elma Postoffice established with Fowler Munger as Postmaster in the summer of 1861. He had the office in his house in the millyard.

In June, 1861, James H. Ward was appointed Postmaster for Spring Brook and moved the Postoffice from Twichell's grocery at Leger place to his (Ward's) Justice's office.

Warren Jackman was appointed Postmaster at Elma in June and on July 1st moved the office from the tavern at the corner of Bowen and Bullis Roads, into E. J. Markham's store with Markham as deputy Postmaster.

Rev. James McClellan was sent by the M. E. Conference to preach at Lancaster, Bowmansville and Elma, the meeting at Elma to be held at 2 p. m.

George Leger built a steam sawmill on Pond Brook on the north side of the Rice Road on Lot 44 in the summer of 1861.

The tannery at Spring Brook, owned and operated by Curtis & Deming, was burned in the fall of 1861; they continued their store a few months and closed out.

GREAT FLOOD IN BIG BUFFALO CREEK

E. J. Markham built a barn on his lot on the west side of the road in Elma Village in the fall of 1861. He had the foundation wall nearly completed when on September 26th, a heavy rain commenced which continued on the 27th and forenoon of 28th. This caused high water in all the streams and along the upper part of the Big Buffalo Creek the small dams gave out, and the increase of water caused thereby would take out the next, and the next and, so, gaining in volume and strength, everything was swept before the raging torrent. On the Big Buffalo Creek,

thirteen milldams were swept away, and several mills were carried off, among them the Hemstreet and Bullis sawmills. Part of the Bullis mill drifted on to Eleazer Bancroft's flats. At East Elma, the water was one to four feet deep from the bank at the schoolhouse to the creek, the current taking sawlogs two feet in diameter from the yard of the steam shingle-mill and taking them into the creek; the whole flats forming a lake. Many bridges were carried away; the Simanton bridge on the Girdled Road, and the Standart bridge three-fourths mile below Elma Village being two of the large bridges in this town to go. This was on Saturday, September 28th, 1861, and that day will long be remembered, as the flats of the Creek for many miles in length of the stream, was a broad river with rapid current in which could be seen the ruins of buildings and fences, with lumber, sawlogs, trees, shocks of corn; every thing in that line within the reach of the water was carried away. In Elma Village, from Hurd & Briggs mills to the creek, the water was three to five feet deep. This was the greatest and worst flood causing the greatest loss of property of any ever known on the Big Buffalo Creek.

The Bullis and Hemstreet sawmills and dams which were carried away by the freshet of September 28th, 1861, were immediately rebuilt, the mills being ready for business in the early part of 1862.

The German Evangelical Society was organized in Blossom in 1861, they having bought the building which the Ebenezer Society had built for a church.

John Garby enlisted in Wiederick's Battery in October, 1861, and Fred Michaelis enlisted in same battery in November.

At the general election held on November 5th, 1861, there were two hundred and ninety-one votes polled.

1862

Jacob Jerge, on January 29th, 1862, sold the house and lot on the east side of the street in Elma Village next south of the church lot, to his brother Casper, and Jacob and Casper worked together as blacksmiths.

On April 1st, W. Wesley Standart moved from the Mouse Nest tavern in Spring Brook and he took his father's farm for one year. Nicholas Allender moved into the tavern.

George Standart, Sr., died April 15th, 1862, age seventy-two years—burial in Elma cemetery.

James H. Ward, on May 1st, 1862, bought of Calvin Rogers, one and one-fourth acres of land, part of Lot 84, on the south west side of the Plank Road in Spring Brook.

Hugh Mullen on May 1st, 1862, moved on to the west part of Lot 2 north from East Elma. In the summer of 1862, Horace Kyser built a steam sawmill in Spring Brook on the ground

where the Peter Bower steam mill was burned in 1860.

During the summer and fall of 1862, many young and middle-aged men enlisted from this town. The dates of their enlistment cannot now be learned, but the names so far as could be obtained, will be found in Chapter XII, with the arm of the service into which they entered.

August Brunner, who had worked for the Ebenezer Society, was murdered this year at or near the sawmill in Blossom, and his body was thrown into the millpond. No trace of the murderer was ever obtained.

The 116th Regiment, N. Y. S. Volunteers left Buffalo for the front on September 3d, 1862. In that regiment were twenty-six men from the town of Elma.

Twenty-four men enlisted from this town into the 94th Regiment and left Buffalo about November 14th. This 94th Regiment was in the Fredericksburg battle, December 13th, 1862. A bounty fund for the enlisted men of \$1,051 was raised by subscriptions.

Norton B. Lougee, who had enlisted in the 49th Regiment, August 26th, 1861, died November 2, 1862, age twenty-eight years, eight months, burial in Elma Village cemetery.

1863

Isaac Gail was appointed Postmaster at East Elma in the fall of 1862. Cornelius McHugh was murdered near Buffalo, January 5th, 1863. He was on his way home from the city and when a little west of the Plank Road House on the Aurora Plank Road, and near the present city line, he was killed. His murderer was not found, but a man by the name of Fogelman, who lived on Lot 70 on the Bullis Road in the Town of Elma, in a short time moved into Canada. It was reported that before he died, he confessed that he murdered Brunner at Blossom, McHugh near Buffalo, and that he burned the saloon at Smalltz corners on the Clinton Street Road. This is only a report.

Frederick Heim bought the west part of Lot 30 on the north side of the Jamison Road and moved on the lot in January, 1863.

The East Elma Postoffice was discontinued in the fall of 1863. James Ard died February 7th, 1863, age seventy-five years, buried in Elma cemetery.

Robert W. Lee of Spring Brook, of 49th Regiment, died at Point Lookout, Maryland, February 10th, 1863, burial in Spring Brook cemetery.

Erastus J. Markham, on April 25th, 1863, bought of Warren Jackman, the store in Elma Village on the west side of the street and over the millrace.

George Leger, in the spring of 1863, bought and moved into

the saloon in Springbrook, many times referred to as the Leger place.

Allen J. Hurd, son of Clark W. Hurd, who enlisted into the 44th Regiment, N. Y. S. Volunteers, called the "Ellsworth Avengers," was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, July 3d, 1863; died in the hospital July 13th, age twenty-one years, five months; burial in Elma Village cemetery.

A special town meeting was held in the summer of 1863, when the town voted to raise \$4,000 by tax, the money to be used as a bounty fund, to be paid to volunteers for putting down the rebellion.

Stephen Northrup sold the goods in the store at the southwest corner of the Northrup and Plank Roads in Spring Brook to John P. Warner, in September 1863. Northrup moved on to the Lyman Parker farm on the Rice Road.

Cyrus Hurd, on November 4th, 1863, bought of Tiffany and Dimert the sawmill on Lot 74, on the south side of the Big Buffalo Creek. He also bought the sawmill which was built by Standart and Bowen on the north side of the Creek in 1849. Hurd operated both mills as long as they could be used when they were taken down, the dam having been carried off by a freshet.

Jacob Heim bought and moved on Lot 34 on the north side of the Jamison Road, in the fall of 1863.

1864

Abraham Sharick and son rented the Northrup gristmill in Spring Brook for the year 1864.

O. J. Wannemacher, on February 25th, bought of Lewis Northrup, twenty acres from the south side of Lot 71, also one acre from the northwest corner of Lot 67 on the northeast side of the Plank Road, he moving into the town on May 1st, 1864.

John Barnett sold to Timothy Clifford his house, blacksmith shop, and lots in Spring Brook, being parts of Lots 75 and 84; deed dated April 1st, 1864.

Charles Frobes, on June 24th, bought the west half of Lot 45, on south side of Rice Road. Charles and John Raloff, this year, bought land near what is later Jamison Station.

A Catholic schoolhouse was built on the southeast corner of the Clinton Street and Girdled Roads in the summer of 1864 under the supervision of Rev. A. Feldman, of Lancaster. School has since been kept there as a branch of the Lancaster parochial school. George Leger, this year, sold his steam sawmill on Pond Brook to Christopher Peek.

Fred Heitman, in the summer of 1864, bought and moved on to the centre part of Lot 45, the house on the Woodard Road which was known as "Ebenezer Prison House."

W. Wesley Standart, September 7th, 1864, bought of Clark

W. Hurd the store and four and one-fourth acres of land at the northwest corner of the Bowen and Bullis Roads; moved in and opened a store, January 1st, 1865.

Deforest Standard, who enlisted in the 21st Regiment, died of yellow fever in Little Washington, North Carolina, October 10th, 1864.

George Townsend, color bearer of 116th Regiment, died October 19th, 1864, in Saturlee Hospital, Philadelphia, from wounds received at Cedar Creek, age thirty-seven years; burial in Elma cemetery.

1865

Mr. James Davis, who moved on to the north part of Lot 35 of the Mile Strip, one and one-half miles southwest from Spring Brook in 1831, died January 29th, 1865; age sixty-five years; burial in Davis cemetery on Lot 36 of Mile Strip.

Sophia, wife of Elisha Cotton, died March 31st, 1865; burial in Elma Village cemetery.

Maple trees were set on the south side and in front of the M. E. Church building in Elma Village in April, 1865.

Henry E. Bancroft bought thirty-three acres of Lot 64 on the north side of the Bullis Road in the spring of 1865.

George H. Bristol bought of Curtis & Deming, the tannery, store, and lot in Spring Brook, July 31st, 1865, and made extensive repairs in the store building.

Christian Fath committed suicide July, 1865, by lying down where a tree had been turned out by the wind, the body of the tree had been cut off leaving the stump and turned up root so balanced that after lying down he pulled the roots back completely burying himself, except one foot stuck out a very little. Family trouble was the cause.

W. Wesley Standart was appointed Postmaster of the Elma Postoffice under President Johnson, and September 1st, 1865, he moved the office from Elma Village into his store on the northwest corner of the Bowen and Bullis Roads, where he kept the office until July 1st, 1869.

After 1860, there was a rush of buyers of land into the Town of Elma and the unoccupied timber lands were bought and many families moved on to that part of the town, comprising the Aurora part of the town, west of the Big Buffalo Creek on the east and the Bowen Road on the west, and between the Rice Road on the north and the north line of the Mile Strip. The State census taken in 1865 shows: White males, 1502, white females, 1399; colored males, 4, colored females, 2. Total males, 1506; total females, 1401. Total population, 2907. Increase of population in five years 771, being over 36%. There were of single persons 1727, married 1098, widows 51, widowers, 31; making 575 families,—415 owners of land, 123 over

21 could not read nor write, 276 native voters, 273 naturalized voters; total of voters 549. There were 333 aliens residing in the town in 1865. These new-comers were workers and the changed condition in the general appearance of the town in a few years was that of the forest being made into cleared farms, with houses, barns, orchards and well fenced fields, showing prosperity.

William Miller, Sr., bought of John W. Hamlin ten acres of Lot 24 on the east side of the Girdled Road, September 11th, 1865.

William Morris, who lived across the road from the tavern in Spring Brook, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor, November 1st, 1865; age 46 years; burial in the Spring Brook cemetery. No doubt, it was a case of insanity, as he had been in the Utica Asylum for the insane two or three times, but was at his home at this time.

Elisha Cotton died December 6th, 1865; age eighty years, eight months; burial in Elma Village cemetery.

The State of New York furnished under all the calls 464,156 men who entered the United States army to save the Union from being broken up by the Southern Secessionists.

The Town of Elma put into the field one hundred and twenty-six men as a part of the State Volunteers.

Records are at hand, only from the first call in April, 1861, to July 1st, 1863. During that time nearly all, if not all of the following named persons enlisted (several were drafted later and served a short time, whose names are not in this list), and the money and supplies here mentioned were furnished, and as the war continued for one year and nine months longer, there can be no doubt but other men enlisted, whose names cannot now be learned, and more supplies were forwarded to the Sanitary Commission and Hospitals.

Here is an alphabetical list of those whose names can be learned who enlisted from the town of Elma, and most of them were in the service before July 1st, 1863.

Charles Anderson, 100th; John Anderson, ; Albert Aykroid, 94th; Melvin Aykroid, 94th; Andrew Baker, 10th Cav.; John Baker, 10th Cav.; Luke Baker, 100th; Obediah Baker, 98th; Robert Barnes, 94th; Martin Bender Scott, 900; Daniel Benzil, 10th Cav.; Philip Benzil, 10th Cav.; John F. Billington, 100th, Charles F. Blood, 10th Cav.; James Blood, 21st; Hermon Bohl, 10th Cav.; James Bowers, 78th; Brewer, 21st; Philander T. Briggs, 94th; John Brooks, 116th; James Chadderdon, 94th; John F. Chadderdon, 94th; Jordan W. Chadderton, 94th; Stanlius Chicker, 94th; Gilbert Chilcott, 10th Cav.; Lewis Chilcott, 10th Cav.; Almerin Clark, 78th; Thomas E. Clark, 94th; Samuel Clements, 94th; Thomas Clements, 116th; Timothy Clifford, 98th; Jason Cole, 94th; Perry Cole, 116th; George Davis, 98th; John Donner, 116th; August F. Drankhan, 94th; Michael

Durshel, 78th; John Edner, —; William Egert, 100th; Benjamin Farnham, 78th; Anthony Fellows, Lewis Fellows; Nicholas Fellows; Sherman Forbes, 49th; Delos Fowler, 116th; Theodore Fowler, Barnes Bat.; Isaac Freeman, 21st; Albert Fulford, 94th; John Garby, Wiederick's Battery; Joseph Garvin, 10th Cav.; James Gilmore, 100th; John Glaire, 94th; Wm. W. Grace, 116th; George W. Green, 94th; Henry Hamilton, 10th Cav.; Jonas Hamilton, 10th Cav.; Michael Hanrahan, 116th; James Hanvey; Daniel P. Harris, Barnes' Batt.; Albert Harvey, 116th; Wm. P. Hayden, 100th; Haynes, 78th; Conrad Heagle, 5th Art.; Joseph Helmer, 116th; Joseph Hesse, 78th; Alexis Hill; Marcus Hill; Robert Hill, 116th; Theodore Hitchcock, 10th Cav.; Allen J. Hurd, 44th; Joseph Hunt, 100th; Wm. Joslyn; John Kilhoffer, 100th; Sylvester W. Kinney, 94th; John L. Kleberg, 100th; John Krause, 100th; Lawrence Krause, 94th; August Konnegeiser; Robert W. Lee, 49th; John Limburger, 116th; John Linburger, 94th; Norton B. Lougee, 49th; Amos Matthews, 49th; Frederick Michaelis, Wiedrick's Battery; Wilbor Mitchell, 21st; Hiram Munson, Musquito Fleet; John Munson; Henry Mutter, 116th; Jacob Miller, Barnes' Battery; Michael McCabe; Eli B. Northrup, Barnes' Battery; Frank Noyes, 94th; David Palmer, 116th; Jesse W. Parker, 94th; Horace A. Paxon, 116th; Orvil Pomeroy, 116th; Ira J. Pratt, 116th; Salem Pratt, 94th; Charles E. Radean, 49th; George P. Rowley, 116th; Charles Standart, 116th; Deforest Standart, 21st; Joseph C. Standart, 116th; Wm. Wesley Standart, 94th; Hiram Sawyer, 116th; Peter Scheeler, 116th; John Schneider, Joseph Schuridt, 5th Art.; George Shufelt, 94th; Abram W. Smedes; Albert Smith, 116th; George Smith, Barnes' Battery; Godlip Strite, 10th Cav.; George W. Stowell, 116th; George Simmons, Battery G., 52nd; Almon Simmons; Charles Thayer, 116th; Luther J. Thurber, 94th; George W. Townsend, 116th; Chauncey P. Van Antwerp, 116th; Henry Van Antwerp, 116th; Wm. D. Wallace, 98th; Robert Watson, 10th Cav.; Albert Wetherwax, 116th; Heman Worden, 10th Cav.; Isaac Wakeley; Pennock Winspear. Total 126.

Here are the names of persons who enlisted, and the arm of the service in which they entered so far as can now be learned, viz.:

21st New York Volunteers.—James Blood, Brewer, Isaac Freeman, Wilbor Mitchell, Deforest Standart.

44th Regiment.—Allen J. Hurd.

49th Regiment.—Sherman Forbes, Robert W. Lee, Norton B. Lougee, Amos Matthews, Charles E. Radeau.

78th Regiment.—James Bowers, Almerin Clark, Michael Durshee, Benjamin Farnham, Haynes, Joseph Hesse.

94th Regiment.—Melvin Aykroid, Albert Aykroid, Robert Barnes, Philander T. Briggs, James Chadderdon, John F. Chad-

derdon, Jordon W. Chadderdon, Stanlius Chicker, Thomas E. Clark, Samuel Clements, Jason Cole, August F. Dranken, Albert Fulford, John Glaire, George W. Green, Sylvester W. Kinney, Lawrence Krouse, John Linburger, Frank Noyes, Jesse W. Parker, Salem Pratt, George Shufelt, W. Wesley Standart, Luther Thurber.

98th Regiment.—Obediah Baker, Timothy Clifford, George Davis, Wm. D. Wallace.

100th Regiment.—Charles Anderson, Luke Baker, John L. Billington, William Eggert, James Gilmore, Wm. P. Hayden, Joseph Hunt, John Kilhoffer, John L. Kleberg, John Kraus.

Barnes' Rifle Battery.—Theodore Fowler, Daniel P. Harris, Jacob Miller, Eli B. Northrup, George Smith.

Weiderick's Battery.—John Garby, Frederick Michaelis.

Scott's 900 Cavalry.—Martin Bender.

116th Regiment.—John Brooks, Thomas Clements, Perry Cole, John Donner, Ambrose Fry, Delos Fowler, William W. Grace, Michael Hanrahan, Albert Harvey, Joseph Helmer, Robert Hill, John Limburger, Henry Mutter, David Palmer, Horace A. Paxton, Orvil Pomeroy, Ira J. Pratt, George P. Rowley, Hiram Sawyer, Peter Scheeler, Albert Smith, Joseph C. Standart, Charles Standart, George W. Stowell, Charles Thayer, George Townsend, Chauncey P. Van Antwerpt, Henry Van Antwerpt, Albert Wetherwax.

10th Cavalry.—Andrew Baker, John Baker, Daniel Benzil, Philip Benzil, Charles F. Blood, Herman Bohl, Gilbert Chilcott, Lewis Chilcott, Joseph Gavin, Henry Hamilton, Jonas Hamilton, Theodore Hutchinson, Godlip Strite, Robert Watson, Herman Worden.

Musquito Fleet, on Mississippi River.—Hiram Munson.

5th Artillery.—Conrad Heagle, Joseph Schuridt.

Regiment or Arm of Service Not Known.—John Anderson, John Edner, Anthony Fellows, Lewis Fellows, Nicholas Fellows, James Hanvey, Alexis Hill, Marcey Hill, William Joslyn, August Konnegeiser, John Munson, George W. Simmons, Almon Simmons, John Schneider, Abram W. Smedes, Isaac Wakeley, Pennock Winspear.

Recapitulation.—In 21st Regiment 5, 44th Regiment 1, 49th Regiment 5, 78th Regiment 6, 94th Regiment 24, 98th Regiment 4, 100th Regiment 10, 116th Regiment 29, 10th Cavalry 15, Scott's 900 Cavalry 1, Barnes' Rifle Battery 5, Wiederick's Battery 2, 5th Artillery 2, Regiment not known 17. Total 126.

Most of these 126 enlisted before July 1st, 1863. Very likely some names have been overlooked.

At that time there were about 450 voters in the town. The United States Census for 1860 gave the total population of the town as 2136. Before the close of the war, by volunteer and draft, fully one-third of the voters were, or had been in the

army.

How much money was paid out in the town of Elma to promote enlistments before July 1st, 1863? The answer is \$4112.

How much was raised by individual subscriptions? Answer: \$1051.

The persons who subscribed \$25, or over, were: Christopher Peek \$124, Clark W. Hurd \$124, Lewis Northrup \$124, Wm. M. Rice \$62, Joseph B. Briggs \$62, Paul B. Lathrop \$60, Horace Kyser \$57, Zenas M. Cobb \$42, Charles Arnold \$31, Chester Adams \$25, and \$340 in smaller sums, making a total of \$1051.

At a special town meeting it was voted to raise \$4000, by tax on the property of the town, to be used in the payment of bounties to volunteers. Of the \$1051 which had been raised by subscription, \$939 was paid back, being a part of the \$4000 voted at the town meeting. This left the amount actually paid of \$4112. Christopher Peek, supervisor, James Tillou, Clark W. Hurd, Charles Arnold and Warren Waters were a committee to take charge of and pay out, this \$4112.

While our soldiers were in the field, and the men at home were raising money as a bounty to hire more soldiers, the women of the town were showing their patriotism by doing what they could to furnish supplies for the hospitals and the Sanitary Commission.

There was no aid by church organizations as such, but many persons and families sent to soldiers in the hospitals and in the field, boxes and parcels of which there is no record. Ladies' Aid Societies were organized in almost every neighborhood where they held their weekly meetings, to procure and make such articles as were needed by the Sanitary Commission, and these supplies were forwarded to their destination.

Before July 1st, 1863, there had been sent by the ladies of the town the following, viz.:

Cash, \$15.00; dried fruit, 314 pounds; groceries, 42 pounds; honey, 85 pounds; soap, 6 pounds; sage, 1 pound; eggs, 26 dozen; lint, 261½ pounds; bandages, 343 pounds; compresses, 120 pounds; pads, 13; bundles of old linen, 6; bundles of old cotton, 6; towels, 30; bed sacks, 8; bed quilts, 2; bed comforters, 7; bed blankets, 4; sheets, 48; pillows, 19; pillow cases, 22; feather cushions, 2; hop cushions, 4; husk cushions, 2; double gowns, 1; pairs of drawers, 21; pairs of socks, 45; handkerchiefs, 56.

This is only a part of what the ladies furnished, for their work was continued during the four years of the war, to the very close.

No doubt, much more than the above was prepared and sent forward by individuals of which no account was kept and therefore no mention can be made, but the above shows the patriotic spirit of most of the people of the town of Elma in this war of the Rebellion.

CHAPTER XIII.

TOWN OF ELMA 1866 TO 1884

JOHN KIHM came to East Elma and was blacksmith in the shop at the east end of the bridge in 1866.

On January 1st, 1866, Lewis Northrup made a New Year's present to his son, Eli B. Northrup, of the sawmill and mill-yard on the north side of the Cazenove Creek at Spring Brook; and that year Eli Northrup overhauled and remodeled the mill and put in a large circular saw.

Henry Klehm moved on to the south half of Lot 53, on the west side of the Bowen Road, in the spring of 1866.

The Schultz Steam Sawmill was built on Pond Brook, north of the Jamison Road, and west of the Schultz Road, on Lot 42, in the summer of 1866, and for a few years it was run, was a great help to the owners of near-by lands, as it enabled them more readily to get the timber into lumber and into the Buffalo market.

In the summer of this year, Ellery S. Allen and his brothers, David and Anthony, Jr., came to East Elma from Saratoga County, and bought of Z. A. Hemstreet the sawmill and gristmill property at the west end of Lot 10, about twenty acres, besides other lands in the near vicinity. This company, known as "The Allen Brothers" operated the sawmill and commenced to alter the gristmill building into a woolen factory, thus adding a new industry to East Elma. The gristmill building had never been finished and the machinery never put in and so had never been used as a gristmill.

Jacob Mohn and Jacob Koch came into the town and with their families settled in Blossom.

Hermon Hesse came from Germany in the spring of 1866, and worked for Samuel Green in the Chair factory on Pond Brook in Elma Village.

Albert Morris, the three-year-old son of William Morris was killed while playing with several other boys on the bridge over the Creek on the Aurora plank road, south of the Mouse Nest tavern, by the team and wagon driven by a Mr. Morey of Holland, who was returning from Buffalo, and who did not see the little boy. The funeral services were conducted by

Rev. ——— Sanford of East Aurora, and the burial in the Spring Brook cemetery.

John Luders bought of Hiram Harris the north half of Lot 40, in the Aurora part of the town and on the west side of the Schultz Road. Deed dated December 12th, 1866, recorded in Liber 261, on page 349.

John Cook bought of John Luders the east part of Lot 45, of the Lancaster part of Elma. Deed dated December 17th, 1866; recorded in Liber 273, page 106.

During the spring and early part of the summer of this year there had been several meetings held in different parts of the town to talk up the project of a railroad across the town and to ascertain if the people would subscribe for any of the stock of the said railroad.

Mr. William Wallace, Engineer and Superintendent of the Attica and Buffalo Railroad, when completed in 1843, and who had been the prime mover in the survey and construction of the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway in 1851 to 1858, was in 1866, working to get a railroad from Buffalo to the coal fields in Pennsylvania, the objective point being Emporium in Pennsylvania.

On February 4th, 1865, a company was organized as the Buffalo and Washington Railroad Company and was soon consolidated with the Buffalo and Allegany Valley Railroad Company, and other railroad companies, all to be under the name of the Buffalo and Washington Company, which was in a little time changed to Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia, and still later, to Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad.

It was this proposed road that Mr. Wallace was so much interested in getting built that he went through on the proposed line, holding meetings in all the towns to see what encouragement the people would render towards the building of the road, and some of these meetings were held in this town as above noted. He met with such success in the towns and in Buffalo, that in August 1866, he had the line surveyed from Buffalo to the Transit, the west line of this town. He then engaged Warren Jackman to survey the line from the Transit through the town of Elma and to connect with the survey as made by Buffalo and Allegany Valley Railroad Company on Lot 45, in Aurora part of Elma, where that company had cut down a few trees, indicating the line of their survey, and from that point, on the line of this old survey across the balance of the town of Elma. The directions given by Mr. Wallace to Jackman were "to put in as flat a curve as possible, at the crossing of the Bowen Road, and to keep off the lands of Eron Woodard," as Woodard had absolutely refused to allow the railroad to cross any of his land.

The line as surveyed across the town of Elma was nearly all

the way through the unbroken forest, only for a short distance, near the west line of the town, and occasionally through a small chopping was there any cleared land along the line as surveyed by Jackman and his corps of helpers, in October, 1866.

The levels were taken, and profile maps were made that fall, and the road was built on that line the next year from Buffalo to East Aurora.

Isaac Gail's store at East Elma was closed in the fall of 1866.

1867

February, 1867, opened with two to three feet of snow on the level, and with cold weather which continued until the weather moderated on the 10th, and the thaw continued on 11th and 12th, followed on 13th by a heavy rain which took off most of the remaining snow. This caused a great flood and the breaking up of the 12-inch ice in the Big Buffalo and Cazenove Creeks and other streams.

An ice dam was formed in the Big Buffalo Creek, three-quarters of a mile below Elma Village, which caused the water and running ice to set back and form a lake from the ice dam to Hurd & Briggs' milldam, half a mile above Elma Village; and from Hurd & Briggs' sawmill to the high bank south of the creek, the water being from two to six feet deep and all filled with ice. In main Street, in Elma Village, the ice was piled four to eight feet high, fences, lumber and small buildings being carried away by the flood.

During the night of the 14th, the ice dam gave away, and in the morning of 15th the water had drained off, and before night a track had been cleared in the road, so that teams could go across the flats between the walls of ice.

The Winspear bridge was carried off by this freshet, and was replaced with a lattice bridge during the summer, at a cost to the town of \$925.00.

The Blossom bridge was damaged so that the repairs cost the town \$450.

The Northrup brige was damaged and was repaired at a cost of \$342.

Many small bridges, culverts, and sluices, were carried away and destroyed which, with the loss and damage to the large bridges, made a heavy road and bridge account for the town to meet.

Joseph C. Standart bought of Stephen Markham, the house, lot and sawmill, on Lots 58 and 59 in the Lancaster part of Elma, on the east side of the Bowen Road, the deed dated February 13th, 1867, recorded in Liber 288, page 328.

Warren Jackman sold to Wilbor B. Briggs, March 7th, 1867,

the house and lot in Elma Village on the west side of Main Street and south of the millrace and on March 21st, Jackman moved to Youngstown, Niagara Co., after residing here sixteen years.

In the spring of this year, John Garby bought and moved on to fifty acres of central part of Lot 60, on the west side of Bowen Road.

Harvey C. Palmer and family moved from Saratoga County in April, 1867, to East Elma, where he worked for Allen Brothers on and in the woolen mill, in altering the gristmill building, and putting in the machinery, the whole being completed and in successful operation before the close of the year. It was called "The Niagara Woolen Mills."

The steam shinglemill at East Elma, owned by Munger and Crane, burned July 4th, 1867, and was immediately rebuilt.

Hattie E. Davis, eleven year old daughter of Wm. H. Davis, who resided on the Northrup Road on Lot 101 and Nellie E. Wallis, the nine year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. D. Wallis, who resided on the Northrup Road southwest from Spring Brook, on Lot 35 of the Mile Strip, were both drowned on the afternoon of July 24th, 1867, in the "Devil's Hole" in the Cazenove Creek. This hole was formed in the bed of the creek by the rapid flow of the water at the bend of the creek and at that time was about forty feet in length, up and down the creek, and about twenty feet wide and about seven feet deep. It was supposed that the girls while wading in the shallow water along the shore without knowing of the hole stepped or fell into it and both were drowned.

A private cemetery on the Rice Road and north of Lot 66, known as the Tillou cemetery, had been used for several years when on September 30th, 1867, it was organized under the State cemetery laws as the "Union Cemetery of Spring Brook." It is generally known as the Tillou Cemetery.

Stephen Northrup bought of Geo. H. Bristol the store and tannery lot in Spring Brook; deed dated October 22d, 1867, recorded in Liber 271, page 440. He put in a stock of new goods; was appointed Postmaster of the Spring Brook Post-office by President Johnson.

The survey of a line for a railroad from Buffalo to East Aurora, the levels and maps having been completed in the fall of 1866 and the letting of the contract in the spring of 1867, to build the road, this being a part of the proposed Buffalo and Washington Railroad from Buffalo to Emporium, made the building of the road to the coal fields and lumber region of Pennsylvania a sure thing. This section of eighteen miles from Buffalo to Aurora was built and accepted by the Company, December 22d, and an excursion train between these places, on Wednesday, December 25th, (opening day) was the

cause of great rejoicing with all the people along the line of the road.

This part of the road was operated for several years before the road was completed to Emporium, and during these years vast quantities of lumber and wood were sent by the railroad to Buffalo. At this time, 1867, not more than half of the timber had been taken from the land in the Town of Elma, and the prospect of the railroad being soon built to the Pennsylvania lumber and coal region, caused the owners of timber lands in Elma, to rush their wood and lumber into the Buffalo market, before lumber and coal should be brought from Pennsylvania, as then they thought, prices would go down with a crash. So every effort was put forth by the Elma people to get their lands cleared before the road should be completed.

The building of the road beyond Aurora was delayed several years; but was completed to Olean in July, 1872, and opened to Emporium on January 1st, 1873.

1868

Thomas Hines bought and moved on to the southwest part of Lot 39, Aurora part of Elma, between the Williams Road and the Railroad, April 14th, 1868.

James T. Hurd bought of Charles A. Dutton eleven and one-quarter acres of land, being the northwest part of Lot 59, Lancaster part of Elma, on west side of the Bowen Road, the deed dated April 16th, 1868, recorded in Liber 354 page 93.

John Hicks was the blacksmith at East Elma in 1868.

Clark W. Hurd and family moved to Batavia this spring, having rented their Elma property to their sons, Dennis and Charles.

Rev. George W. McPherson was sent by the Methodist Episcopal Conference to the Elma Village Methodist Episcopal Church.

George W. Hatch bought the three-quarter acre lot at East Elma on the northeast corner of Jamison and Thompson Roads, and during the summer of 1868 built a store on the lot.

At the Presidential Election held November 3d, 1868, 569 votes were polled in the town. The total popular vote given to U. S. Grant, the Republican candidate was 3,015,071. The Electoral College gave 214 votes, and 80 votes to Horatio Seymour, the Democratic candidate.

During this year several more families moved into the town, many of them buying parts of lots, some buying only a few acres.

The railroad having been built and in successful operation, greatly increased the facility of getting to Buffalo for the people and was convenient for the sending of wood and lumber to market by the carload.

The railroad company planned for three stations in the town, one at their crossing of the Pound Road, north from Spring Brook, one at their crossing of the Bowen and Woodard Roads, and one at their crossing of the Jamison Road.

A temporary building was put up for the Spring Brook station; a rough board shanty with board roof was erected as the Elma depot, the company refusing to use the comfortable building, 18x30 feet, that the Elma people had built, and the board shanty was used for several years, a cold place in winter and wet inside when it rained as the roof leaked badly, the company refusing to put up a better building until complaints from the people reached the railroad Commissioners, who, on visiting the place in 1878, notified the company that unless they immediately put up a new and comfortable building they, the Commissioners, would build a depot at the expense of the railroad company. This order ended the matter, as the railroad company immediately erected a comfortable depot building on the west side of the railroad and on the north side of the Woodard Road. At the Jamison Road, the railroad business was done in Fred. Wilting's building on the west side of the railroad track and on the north side of the Jamison Road, E. Bleack acting as the railroad agent.

1869

By deed dated April 2d, 1869, in the settlement of the estate of Lewis M. Bullis, Phoebe Bullis conveyed to Orson S. Bullis the Bullis sawmill and about twelve acres of land, and on the same date Frank Bullis received deed for Lots 22, 23 and 10 acres of Lot 29.

The Union Church Society, of Spring Brook, was organized early in January, 1869. David J. Morris conveyed the lot on which the church building stood, on the north side of the Plank Road and near the west end of Lot 75 to the society, the deed being dated January 18th, 1869; recorded in Liber 427, page 518.

William H. Bancroft sold to Jacob Jerge the house and blacksmith shop lot, in Elma Village on the west side of the Bowen Road, April 1st, 1869. After Casper Jerge's death, March 16th, Jacob had the entire business of the brothers.

On April 5th, Bancroft bought of Clement Peek, the northwest part of Lot 15 of the Mile Strip at the southwest corner of the Billington and Williams Roads, containing forty-eight acres, subject to the right for schoolhouse on the northeast corner so long as needed for public school purposes; the deed dated April 5th, 1869, recorded in Liber 285, page 318. Bancroft in a few days moved from Elma Village on to the Mile Strip.

Timothy Clifford sold to Michael Beck, April 22d, 1869, the

house and lot on Lot 84, and blacksmith shop and Lot on the west end of Lot 75 in Spring Brook; when Clifford bought of John Miller twenty-five acres from the south end of Lot 38, on the northeast corner of Jamison and Schultz Roads; deed dated March 2d, 1870. Clifford built a blacksmith shop near his southwest corner, which he carried on for twenty years.

James Clark was appointed Postmaster of the Elma Post-office in 1869, and moved the office from Standart's on Bullis Road, to Markham's store with Markham as deputy.

William Bell, who lived on Lot 21 of the Mile Strip, on the west side of Bowen Road, committed suicide in 1869, by shooting himself with a pistol; cause: financial trouble, he, while insurance agent having become considerably short in making his returns.

At the General Election, November 2d, 1869, 407 votes were polled.

1870-1871

On January 3d, 1870, Mr. and Mrs. William Standart celebrated their golden wedding, at their home south of Elma Village. The many friends present with their gifts, testified their respect for the Standart family.

Alonzo C. Bancroft, in the spring of 1870, sold part of his personal property and with his family moved to Wisconsin.

For the United States Census for 1870, see Chapter XXIV.

Louis Kleberg was appointed Postmaster of Blossom Post-office in 1870.

The East Elma Postoffice was re-established in 1870, with George W. Hatch as Postmaster.

Williams' store on the southeast corner of the Jamison and Hemstreet Roads in East Elma burned in the winter of 1870 and 1871.

Horace Kyser's steam mill in Spring Brook, built in 1862, burned in the fall of 1870.

Lyman K. Bass, November 15th, 1870, bought of Orson S. Bullis, the Bullis sawmill with other lands. Bass sold same to Henry C. Sargent and later Sargent took down the mill and sold the sawmill lot to Henry Cole.

1871

John Shay was the East Elma blacksmith in 1871.

Mrs. James Dunbar bought the McFee property across the road from the Catholic church in Spring Brook in the spring of 1871.

The Bridge across the big Buffalo Creek in Elma Village gave out and two new stone abutments were required for an iron bridge built by the Ohio Bridge Company, at a cost of

\$3789.89.

The Northrup bridge across the Cazenove Creek at Spring Brook was repaired at a cost of \$310.

The Standart bridge was repaired at a cost of \$193.91.

Christopher Peck sold his steam sawmill on Pond Brook to a Mr. Wood, who took down the mill and moved it to Sardinia.

This year there were many changes and transfers of real property made in the town, the descriptions of which must be passed by. The forest is fast disappearing.

At the General Election November 7th, 1871, 406 votes were polled.

1872

Thomas Schneider was the blacksmith at East Elma this year.

George Helfter and Jacob Jerge form a partnership as blacksmiths in Elma Village in April.

A fire company of thirty-six members was organized in Blossom this year.

Clark W. Hurd and family moved to Elma from Batavia, taking possession of their old residence and property.

In the spring of 1872, the Allen Brothers dissolved their partnership and made a division of their property at East Elma and vicinity. Ellery S. Allen took the woolen factory and business with sixteen and two-thirds acres of land; Anthony Allen, Jr., took the sawmill and two acres of land, and David Allen had certain other real estate.

Joseph Wagner bought of Joachin Wagner that part of Lot 39 west of the railroad and north of Thomas Hines on the east side of the Williams Road. Deed August 3d, 1872, recorded in Liber 323, page 44.

A Lutheran church, 21x30 feet was built on Lot 40, on the north side of the Woodard Road, in the summer of 1872. Christian Stolle was the contractor and builder. The church cemetery is on the north part of the church lot.

Horace Kyser in the summer of 1872 built a steam sawmill and gristmill on the ground occupied by his sawmill which burned in 1870.

Stephen Northrup's store in Spring Brook burned in August. The postoffice matters and most of the goods were saved and moved into Esquire Ward's office. Northrup immediately built a brick store which was finished, furnished, and occupied by him in November of that year.

The Buffalo and Washington Railroad was completed to Olean in July, 1872.

The German Evangelical Society built a church on west part of Lot 75 on the north side of the Plank Road, in Spring Brook, in the summer of 1872, dedicated November 24th, 1872.

A Lutheran Society was organized in Blossom Village and a church building erected across the street from the German Evangelical church.

Alonzo C. Bancroft came back from Wisconsin with his family in the early spring of 1873 and moved into Mrs. Clark's house across the street from the church in Elma village.

The Standart bridge, three-quarters of a mile below Elma Village went out with the spring freshet, and the voters at the town meeting, March 4th, 1873, refused by vote to rebuild the bridge.

There had for several years been great dissatisfaction as to that part of the Stolle Road along the west line of Lot 12, south from Bullis Road. The Commissioners of Highways finally made a settlement with the owners of land by paying Philip Stitz \$125; Henry C. Sargent \$100; Wm. Reuther \$100; and John Heitman \$15. Total \$340.

The milldam built by Northrup & Baker in 1844 was replaced by Eli Northrup who built a stone dam in its place in the summer of 1873.

The house that Clark W. Hurd built in 1846 on the east side of the Bowen Road, north of Hurd & Briggs sawmill in Elma Village, was moved by Hurd in the spring of 1873 to the lot next north of the church, and the Hurd family lived in that house while Hurd was preparing plans and building a large new house on the old site. The new house was raised in September of that year, but was not finished and occupied until 1874.

The Buffalo and Washington Railroad was completed and opened for traffic to Emporium on July 1st, 1873.

For the last five years, the owners of timber lands in the Town of Elma had been working hard to get their wood and lumber into Buffalo before this railroad should be completed to the coal and timber lands of Pennsylvania, fearing that when the railroad should commence to bring coal and lumber, their prices would go down, and so the rush was continued. Every sawmill had been worked to its full capacity and the greatly diminished amount of timber remaining in the town showed that there had been very much hard work done and that a very few more years of such work would see the end of hauling wood and lumber to Buffalo.

Occasionally, a sawmill located on a small stream where the timber was nearly gone, would be placed on the retired list or taken down and the residents of the town were gradually changing business from lumbering and woodchopping to farmers.

To show the interest the first settlers in the new town took in school matters, an account will be given here of the building

of the first schoolhouse in Spring Brook and the efforts made by some of the residents for additional room when the first building had become too small to accommodate all of the children of that school district. The records of the Spring Brook school district have been well and continuously kept from the first meeting to organize a school district and are, therefore, evidence that must stand.

In nearly every school district in the town, the records have been lost, so that they could not be obtained. As a rule, the building of the first schoolhouse in a neighborhood or school district would meet with little or no opposition, but when a move was made for an addition or for a new house, the opposition would be out in full force. So the experience of Spring Brook is no exception but proof of the rule.

From the reported proceedings of the Spring Brook school district, viz.:

After one or two preliminary meetings to organize a school district, at a meeting held on April 24th and April 30th and May 2d, 1846, it was decided to build a schoolhouse as per the following contract: "The building to be 20x24 feet with 11 feet hemlock plank one and one-half inches thick, lined with one one-half inch hemlock plank five or six inches wide. Floor of one and one-quarter inch seasoned ash, jointed and lined; eight windows, each fifteen lights of 8x10 glass; two one and one-half inch four panel doors, one outside six panel two inch door; lathed and plastered inside and six double and two single desks; roof to be covered with good pine shingles; outside to be finished with good sound pine and bold cornice, to be painted with English Venetian trimmed with white, to be built on a good stone wall two feet high and to be ready for school by June 1st and to be completed by November 15th next. Contract price, \$254."

Many families were moving into Spring Brook and immediate vicinity, so the schoolhouse soon proved to be too small to accommodate all the children in the neighborhood who wanted to attend the school.

At the Annual meeting held on October 5th, 1852, a resolution was passed and adopted to build an addition to the schoolhouse. Meeting adjourned for one week.

October 12, 1852, adjourned meeting; **Resolved**, That we build an addition to this schoolhouse, so we can have two schoolrooms. Carried. Adjourned to October 16th, at 1 o'clock p. m.

October 16th, 1852. Adjourned meeting; **Resolved**, that we rescind the resolution to build an addition to the schoolhouse. Carried.

October 25th, 1852. Special meeting. **Resolved** that we raise \$150.00 by tax, to build an addition to the schoolhouse. Carried forty-four to forty-two.

(As the vote was so nearly equal, the names of the persons voting for and against the resolution are here given).

Voting for the tax: John B. Bristol, Charles M. Whitney, C. S. Mariam, William Jones, C. S. Spencer, Cornelius Van Brocklin, David J. Morris, Joseph Stafford, S. Eddy, Amos D. Waters, S. Wait, H. Van Antwerpt, John Van Antwerpt, James M. Taylor, Jonathan Johnson, James Dunbar, William Hunt, N. Wertman, Joseph Morton, H. S. Larned, Nehemiah Graves, James H. Ward, J. J. French, F. S. Baker, J. H. Letson, Steadly Stafford, A. W. Palmer, John Morris, Edward Good, Elias Weed, Benjamin Richman, Nehemiah Cobb, Wyvell Todd, John Todd, John Skidmore, William Morris, L. F. Morris, Daniel W. Wilkins, Fisher Ames, John Van Antwerp, Ferris Palmer, George Good, Alonzo Doolittle, Total forty-four.

Voting against the tax: Isaac Tillou, Joseph Grace, Zebina Lee, Israel Morey, John Bohan, James Conley, Samuel Dans, Charles Rogers, Moses Baker, James Doman, John McGivern, Alfred Money, Thomas Corrigan, Amos Dodge, Edward Hill, Melvin Shaw, Lyman Parker, S. Hamlin, Neal McHugh, Zenas M. Cobb, William J. Chadderdon, Barney Conley, Abraham Morton, James Tillou, Patrick McCormick, Wallace Fones, John McFee, R. J. Jackson, J. H. Gregory, Thomas O'Flannigan, Joseph Tillou, ——— Colby, A. Morrisson, L. G. Northrup, William White, Patrick Phalan, B. J. Smith, John Mitchell, Horace Kyser, T. Fagan, Isaac Hall, Cyrus Soddy. Total 42. Majority for the tax, two.

These eighty-six persons, voters at the school meeting in October 1852, besides others, probably who were not voters, or who did not attend the meeting, and who were residents of the Spring Brook school district, will show how rapidly that part of the town had become settled in the eight years since Northrup and Baker built the first sawmill and mill house in October, 1844.

The addition to the schoolhouse above mentioned, was never built and the question of the addition was freely discussed in the school district. No further action was had until a special school meeting was called for January 5th, 1863.

At this special meeting a resolution was passed to build an addition twenty-four feet square. Adjourned for two weeks.

"January 19th, 1863.—Adjourned meeting. **Resolved**, that we rescind the proceedings of the last meeting so far as related to building an addition to the schoolhouse. Carried.

Resolved, that we build a new schoolhouse in the center of the lot. Carried.

Resolved, that we raise \$400.00 to build the new house. Carried."

Two plans for the new house were presented, called the Morris plan and the Grace plan.

"By a vote, the Morris plan was adopted, fifteen to twelve.

March 2d, 1863, special meeting; adjourned for one week because of non-attendance of part of the voters.

March 9th, 1863. The adjourned meeting voted to rescind the proceedings of the meeting of January 19th, to raise \$400.00 to build a new house. Carried.

Resolved, that we raise \$500.00 to build the new schoolhouse. Carried."

There was no new schoolhouse built under these resolutions, and as there were more children in the district than the old house could accommodate, rooms had to be hired from time to time, in which a second school could be kept. Matters continued to run in that way until at a special meeting held on January 6th, 1870, a resolution was presented to levy a tax to raise \$2,500 or so much as may be necessary to build a new schoolhouse 26x40, two stories high.

The question was divided and the vote to build a new schoolhouse was lost by twenty-eight to eighteen.

The building of a new schoolhouse was again taken up at a special meeting called for August 7th, 1872, at which a motion was carried to build a new schoolhouse.

A motion to reconsider was carried immediately, and a motion was carried to not build a new schoolhouse. A motion was carried that we repair the old house. A motion was carried to raise \$1,000 for the repairs. A motion was carried that the \$1,000 be raised in two installments, \$500.00 for the first and as much as may be necessary to complete the house for the second.

"August 8th, 1872, annual meeting. Motion made and carried that we rescind the movements of all special meetings." This action put a stop to any repairs of the old house.

"January 30th, 1873. Special meeting for building a new schoolhouse or to repair the old house.

Motion made and carried that a committee of seven be appointed to prepare a plan for a new schoolhouse and report at a future meeting.

Messrs. Zenas M. Cobb, O. J. Wannemacher and Patrick Donahue, the trustees, with Lewis Northrup, William Lockwood, Mr. Walker and Horace Kyser were the committee.

The meeting was then adjourned to February 5th, 1873. February 5th, adjourned meeting. The above committee submitted a plan for a new schoolhouse to be 24x30.

This plan was adopted by a vote of the meeting, and on motion, the trustees were appointed a building committee.

Motion made and carried that the trustees be authorized to levy a tax of \$1,000, and apply the same in the construction of the new house.

October 6th, 1873. Special meeting to consider the matter of furnishing the new house, and vote a tax to pay the indebtedness of the district, and to sell the old house. Motion

made and carried to raise by tax \$235.00 to pay balance due to Samuel Hoyt on contract to build the new schoolhouse. Motion made and carried to raise by tax \$280.00 to furnish the new house. Motion made and carried to sell the old house."

The old house was then sold to Michael Beck for \$25.00 and was moved by Beck to the side of the old blacksmith shop on the west end of Lot 75, and has since been used as a blacksmith shop.

"October 14th, 1873, annual meeting. Motion made and carried that the trustees be directed to repair the woodhouse and use the money received for the sale of the old house as far as it goes, and levy a tax for the balance."

The long controversy as to building an addition to the old schoolhouse, or to build a new house was now settled, and in 1873, the Spring Brook district has the best schoolhouse in the town of Elma.

At the general election, November 4th, 1873, 295 votes were polled in the town.

1874

Alonzo C. Bancroft bought of J. B. Briggs in the spring of 1874, the house and one and one-fourth acre lot in Elma Village on the west side of the Bowen Road and north bank of the Creek.

The high water in the Big Buffalo Creek having washed away the Thompson Road north of the Bodimer house on Lot 9, the Commissioners of Highways of the Town caused a new survey to be made and then bought of the Bodimer heirs the land for the new road, and at the town meeting held on March 3d, 1874, they applied to voters of the town to raise \$200.00 to pay for the land so taken and this \$200.00 was voted to be raised by tax.

The Eleazer Bancroft sawmill which was built in 1854 near the mouth of Pond Brook in Elma Village gave out, and as Bancroft had about used up his timber, the mill was not repaired and was never used after 1874. C. W. Hurd moved into his new house in Elma Village in the fall of 1874. John Collins bought of Samuel Hoyt the store in Spring Brook at the southeast corner of the Plank and Northrup Roads, in the spring of 1874.

John Standart, who lived in a house on the southwest corner of Lot 9, on the north side of the Clinton Street Road, on July 7th, 1874, shot his wife with a revolver and then cut his own throat with a razor.

The bridge over Pond Brook on the Chair Factory Road having broken down, the contract to build a new bridge and two new stone abutments was let to Hurd & Briggs for \$1,200. The bridge and abutments were built in the summer of 1874.

Andrew Schefferstein bought of C. W. Hurd, twenty-one acres of northwest part of Lot 60, on the south side of the Bullis Road. Deed dated August 6th, 1874, recorded in Liber 346, Page 340.

1874

The old Catholic church building in Spring Brook had become too small to accommodate the society, so that building was moved from the corner of the Plank and Rice Roads in Spring Brook, to the east end of their lot, to be used later as a barn for their parsonage, and a second church was built on the old site in the summer of 1874. Just after the frame of the building was raised, there came a very high wind which leveled the frame to the ground. It was immediately raised again and finished and occupied that fall.

A German Evangelical church was built on the south side of the Rice Road and north end of Lot 53 in the summer of 1874.

At the general election on November 3d, 1874, 368 votes were polled.

1875

February 26th, 1875, George Helfter bought of Clark W. Hurd, one-half acre of land on southeast corner of the Bowen and Clinton Street Roads, built a shop and commenced blacksmith work there.

George Kelgus bought of Louis Funke, part of Lot 60, on the west side of the Bowen Road, and between the hotel property and John Garby.

The inhabitants had increased so rapidly in the last few years in the Rice school district that the schoolhouse on the northwest corner of the Bowen and Rice Roads did not accommodate the children of the district. At the annual school meeting an effort was made to have a new house built. While the owners of a majority of the property in the district wanted a new house, there was the opposition generally found and enough of the residents of the district voted "no" to kill the project; and the prospect was that the old house would continue, but somehow along in the night, the schoolhouse took fire and burned down.

A special meeting was called and the motion to build a new house was carried. The new house was to be ready for the opening of school the next spring. The trustees hired the German church, fifty rods west, for the winter school.

Three hundred and eighty-nine votes were polled at the election held November 2d, 1875.

1876

In April, 1876, Harvey C. Palmer bought the goods in the store at East Elma. The Lutheran church at Blossom burned this year.

At the Presidential election held November 7th, 1876, 512 votes were polled in the town. Rutherford B. Hayes' popular vote was 4,033,050.

The Electoral College gave R. B. Hayes 185 votes; to Samuel J. Tilden, 184 votes.

The young People's Association of Elma Village was organized by Rev. George P. Harris in the fall of 1876.

1877

Two stone abutments for the Northrup bridge were built in the summer of 1877 which cost the town \$210.00. The Bullis bridge was repaired this year at a cost of \$639.00.

Harvey J. Hurd was elected to the Assembly at the November election. At the election held November 6th, 478 votes were cast in the town.

John G. Fisher bought of Stephen Northrup the brick store in Spring Brook, deed November 12th, 1877, recorded in Liber 376, Page 20. Fisher was appointed postmaster at Spring Brook in 1880.

1878

Thomas Moore was the East Elma blacksmith this year. The Lutheran church in Blossom was rebuilt this year. Alois Dusch opened a blacksmith shop in Blossom this year.

The Elma Center postoffice was established with Eron Woodard as postmaster, April 1st, 1878.

Hugh Mullen bought the north half of Lot 2 of the Aurora part of the town on the east side of the Thompson Road, in the spring of 1862.

The Hanvey sawmill, built on a small stream on the land bought by Mullen, being out of repair, and the timber being well worked up in that vicinity, Mullen decided not to repair the mill but took it down this year.

Henry A. Wright opened a store at Elma Center in the building near the railroad depot, which the Elma people built and offered to the railroad company for a depot in 1868, but which they refused and instead built a board shanty which is still used in 1878 while the new depot is being built.

Harrison Tillou this year bought the John McFee place in Spring Brook, across the Plank Road from the Catholic church.

Carl Manke, on April 2d, 1878, shot and killed his neighbor, John Atloff. As Atloff was returning from Buffalo on the Bullis Road, when near the northeast corner of Lot 85, Manke

fired at him from behind a pile of lumber. There had been a difference between them as to a line fence.

At the election November 5th, 1878, 481 votes were polled in the town.

Harvey J. Hurd of Elma Village was the second time elected to represent this district in the Assembly.

William Edwards' blacksmith shop and residence, on the southeast corner at East Elma had been occupied but a short time when it burned in 1878.

1879 - 1880

May 1st, 1879, Joseph Kratz's grocery on the northwest corner at East Elma burned.

Harvey J. Hurd was for the third time elected to the Assembly at the election held November 4th, 1879; and at this election there were 475 votes polled in the town.

Cyrus S. Spencer opened a small store on the south side of the Plank Road in Spring Brook on Lot 81 in the spring of 1880.

John G. Fisher was appointed postmaster for Spring Brook in 1880. The Bullis schoolhouse being too small to accommodate the children of the district, and being in need of large repairs, the inhabitants of the district decided to build a new house. The old house was sold to Philip Stitz for \$25.00 and this year, 1880, a new house was built in its place.

The German Evangelical Society this year took down the old Ebenezer Society church and built a new church on the same site, on the north side of Main Street, in Blossom Village.

E. J. Markham, this summer built a cidermill and vinegar factory on the bank of the millrace on the west end of his lot in Elma Village.

At the Presidential election November 2d, 1880, 566 votes were cast in the town. James A. Garfield's popular vote was 4,442,050.

The Electoral College gave James A. Garfield 214 votes and W. S. Hancock 115 votes. Harvey J. Hurd was for the fourth time elected to the Assembly.

The population of the town was 2,555. (See United States census, Chapter XXI). George W. Hurd moved on to Lot 85, on the south side of Bullis Road, December 24th, 1880.

1881

The Northrup bridge was repaired this summer at a cost to the town of \$223.46. 435 votes were cast at the election November 8th, 1881.

1882

At the death of Lewis Northrup in April, 1882, Eli B. Northrup by the will came into possession of the gristmill, and the homestead on Lot 84, in west part of Spring Brook Village.

Jacob Miller's house, on Lot 46, on the north side of Clinton Street Road, burned in February of this year. Miller and his wife went to Blossom to attend a funeral, leaving three small children at home. While the parents were away, the house took fire, the children and part of the furniture being saved by the neighbors.

Adelbert Spencer bought his fathers interest in his store in Spring Brook in the spring of 1882.

Cole & Sweet bought of John Collins, the store in Spring Brook at the corner of the Plank and Northrup Roads.

Briggs & Sweet bought of Horace Kyser the steam saw and gristmill in Spring Brook in October, 1882. 463 votes were cast in the town at the election November 7th, 1882.

Ernest Bleeck bought of Fred Wilting on December 12th, 1882, the store and saloon which Wilting had run for four or five years, on southeast corner of Lot 42, on north side of the Jamison Road.

During the last few years the owners of land in the town have been gradually closing up their wood and lumber business, and have put in their time cleaning up their farms; for on many of the farms there was not a tree of the old growth remaining, and as the timber was gone, they must engage in regular farming.

In six to ten years after the trees had been cut, most of the stumps would decay so as to be easily removed, except the pine, which being the last to decay, had to be removed by stump machines. This was quite expensive and on what was called pine lands, the cost was forty to eighty dollars per acre; but these pine stumps were utilized and put into fences, making a homely but durable fence.

1883

On Sunday morning, February 4th, 1883, before daylight, the people of Elma Village were called from their houses by the cry of "high water coming!"

This flood in the village was caused by the previous thaw and the breaking up of the ice in the creek, and a jam or dam of ice forming in the bend of the creek near the Elma cemetery, caused the water to set back over the flats and Elma Village, the water and ice reaching nearly to Mr. J. B. Briggs' house. Never before had there been any water north of the millrace.

Mr. Erastus J. Markham who with his family occupied the

store building over the race, fearing that the building would be carried away, left the store, thinking to go to C. W. Hurd's house until the water subsided. Mrs. Markham, while going north on the sidewalk, when near J. B. Briggs' south line, slipped and fell, breaking her ankle. While sitting there a few minutes, waiting for help, the water came up so as to be two feet deep where she sat. The ice in all streams in town went out during this thaw, but no great damage was done to any of the bridges in the town.

Four hundred and four votes were polled at the election November 6th, 1883. Mrs. Julia A. H. Jackman bought of Mrs. Lovina C. Markham, the house and four acre lot, being part of Lot 59 on the east side of the Bowen Road, one-fourth mile south from the Big Buffalo Creek, and one mile north from railroad station.

1884

Alexander Rush bought of Helen Ignatz, the hotel property at the southwest corner of the Bowen and Bullis Roads, being the northeast corner of Lot 60; deed April 28th, 1884, recorded in Liber 474, Page 79.

Warren Jackman moved from Youngstown on to Lot 59 on east side of Bowen Road near Elma Village, April 30th, 1884.

A. M. Edwards moved from Buffalo into the Standart brick house, three-fourths of a mile south from Elma Village, May 1st, 1884.

Mrs. Caroline Thayer bought of Julia A. McFee, four and one-half acres being the Mouse Nest tavern and Lot in Spring Brook, the deed dated May 1st, 1884, recorded in Liber 391, Page 133.

Ernest Bleeck built a new store at Jamison on northeast corner of Lot 42. C. W. Hurd built a new barn 110x60 feet and moved other barns and out buildings.

The M. E. Church in Elma Village was painted this year by Clayton Standart. At the Presidential election, November 4th, 591 votes were polled in the town.

Grover Cleveland's popular vote was 4,874,986.

The Electoral College gave Grover Cleveland 219 votes; gave James G. Blaine 182 votes.

CHAPTER XIV.

TOWN OF ELMA, 1885 TO 1901

HARVEY J. HURD bought of J. B. Briggs on March 22d, 1885, his interest in the Hurd & Briggs sawmill property in Elma Village. The same year, Harvey J. overhauled and rebuilt the sawmill which was built by Hurd & Briggs in 1845, taking out the north saw.

After years of trying, and after several efforts had been made to have a new schoolhouse at Elma Village, with the same opposition and delay as has been given in the Spring Brook schoolhouse matter; and after the old house had become untenable and the school commissioner had threatened to withhold the public money from the district unless a new house was built, the inhabitants of the district voted to have a new house built and voted to raise \$1,600 for building and furnishing the same; and the old house was sold to Baltz Gloss for \$25.00, which seems to be the price for all old schoolhouses. The new house was built and ready for use in the fall of 1885.

The following brief statement of efforts made to have a new schoolhouse in Elma Village, is given; but as the district records from the organizing of the district to within the last few years are lost, the date of the several meetings and the exact vote on the several resolutions, for and against the building of a new house cannot be given, but the facts are as follows: At the annual meeting held in 1860, the motion was made and unanimously carried to build a new schoolhouse, and the trustees were directed to raise by tax the money to pay for the building.

The tax was made out, the warrant given to the collector, and several persons paid their tax.

About six weeks after the annual meeting, a special meeting was called at which a resolution was adopted not to build the new schoolhouse and an appeal was started and sent to the State Superintendent for his decision as to the action of the annual meeting; the claim being made that a majority of the taxpayers of the district did not vote for the resolution to build the new house and that a majority was not present at the annual meeting.

The decision of the State Superintendent was that the action

of the annual meeting was legal and correct and the trustees were directed to go on with the building.

On receiving this decision, another special meeting was called at which the opposition said if the building of the new house was put off for five years they would then take hold and help build the house. And the new house was not built.

In 1865, at the end of the five years, another vote was taken at the annual meeting and the resolution to build a new schoolhouse was carried but the attendance being small and, thinking that the promise of five years before would be kept, and to give all a chance to vote, the meeting was adjourned for one week.

The attendance at the adjourned meeting was large and the motion to rescind the vote of the annual meeting was carried by a large majority.

A vote to build a vestibule to the old house and to repair the old house were both carried and there was no further move made toward a new house until the school commissioner had ordered a new house, when in the spring of 1885 at a special meeting, the money was voted as before stated.

Mr. Zina A. Hemstreet died August 5th, 1885. He had operated the Indian sawmill after the death of Leonard Hatch in 1842, was a large owner of real estate at East Elma, had been in active business there, a leading citizen in all public matters or of anything that would be a benefit or help to the people of that locality, and had been Supervisor of the town in 1860 and 1861.

Through mismanagement and hard luck he lost all his property.

Henry A. Wright was appointed postmaster of Elma Center postoffice in 1885, and moved the postoffice from Woodard's house to his store, near the railroad.

The summer of 1885 was very wet; twenty-four inches of rain fell in the months of May, June, July and August, making a very bad season for haying and harvesting; so that on August 31st, the greater part of the oat crop was in the fields, many pieces of grain had been spread out to dry, and before dry enough to take to the barn, another rain would come and as this weather continued much grain was damaged.

William J. Cole was appointed postmaster at Spring Brook in the fall by President Cleveland, and moved the postoffice into Cole & Sweet's store, at the corner of the Plank and Northrup Roads. 362 votes were polled at the election November 3d, 1885. A good crop of fruit, especially apples, this year.

1886

The schoolhouse bell was hung in the belfry of the Elma Village schoolhouse January 14th, 1886.

E. J. Markham built a dwelling house on his lot on the west side of Main Street in Elma Village in the summer and fall of this year.

Frederick Gramm was appointed postmaster at Blossom by President Cleveland in the summer of 1886.

On September 17th, 1886, Mr. C. W. Hurd had arranged for a clambake, to which all his neighbors in Elma Village, and many friends from Buffalo and adjoining towns had been invited. This was to celebrate his eightieth birthday.

The guests arrived early in the forenoon; the tables and seats were placed in the yard and the tables were set with dishes and flowers. The provisions in the pit were being cooked, when about 11 o'clock it began to rain with every appearance of continuing through the day. There was a hustle among all hands to get the tables and fixtures into the house. In due time, dinner was announced and the guests showed their appreciation of the good things that had been provided for the feast. The rain continued all the afternoon, but this did not dampen nor hinder the enjoyment of all persons there. It was a very pleasant birthday party except the rainy part. It was late in the afternoon when the friends began to take their departure, wishing their octogenarian host many more birthdays.

A "Chautauqua Reading Circle" was organized at the house of J. B. Briggs with fifteen members on the evening of September 22d.

At the election, November 2d, 495 votes were polled.

The apple crop was very short this year.

1887

The Jerge Brothers (Phillip and Hermon) bought of George Helfter, the house and lot on the east side of the street nearly opposite the blacksmith-shop in Elma Village, also the blacksmith shop and lot on the southeast corner of Bowen and Clinton Street Roads. The deed was dated March 14th, 1887, recorded in Liber 512, page 638.

Clark W. Hurd and wife, Dulcena, celebrated their golden wedding at their home in Elma Village on the evening of April 4th, 1887. About eighty persons were present, among them four other couples whose wedding day was April 4th.

Mr. R. P. Lee and family came from Buffalo April 23d, moving into James T. Hurd's house on the west side of Bowen Road on Lot 59.

The steam saw and gristmill bought by Briggs & Sweet in October, 1882, in Spring Brook burned in the spring of 1887.

Alonzo C. Bancroft took down the chair factory building on Pond Brook, on the southside of the Chair Factory Road in the summer of 1887.

The Erie County Farmers' Institute held a meeting of the society in the M. E. Church in Elma Village on Saturday, June 25th of this year.

E. J. Markham moved into his new house in Elma Village, July 1st, 1887.

The M. E. Church of Elma Village was re-shingled in the summer of this year, and in the fall was re-painted on the inside and re-papered above and below; new cushions for the seats and new carpets for the audience room, gallery, vestibule and stairs were placed.

The Elma Cemetery Association was organized June 11th, 1887.

Myron H. Clark remodeled and put on additions to the A. C. Bancroft house, in the summer of 1887.

Warren Jackman made a map of the town of Elma this year, on which was shown every original lot and every sub-division or piece of land in the town, with the then present owner's name, the number of acres of each piece, with courses and distances of every lot line and every road in the town as surveyed. This map is in the Town Clerk's office.

The building erected by the Lutheran Society on the Woodward Road in 1872 was now too small to accommodate its large and growing congregation, and the society decided to build a new church on the same place. The old church was therefore moved to the east side of its lot to be used for a Sunday School room and a new building, 32x56, was built and finished in the summer and fall of 1887.

At the election on November 8th, 428 votes were polled.

The gristmill and sawmill built by the Ebenezer Society in Blossom, owned by Lewis Ott, and the bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek at Blossom, burned on the night of December 28th, 1887.

The crops in the town were generally good, especially good were the hay and apple crops.

Jacob Bodamer's barn on Lot 30 and west side of the Girdled Road burned with contents in September, 1887.

1888

Mrs. Adelpha C. Briggs, in the spring of 1888 bought the Eleazer Bancroft brick house and lot on Lot 58 and 63 on the west side of the Bowen Road and south side of Big Buffalo Creek.

James T. Hurd bought the A. C. Bancroft in the spring of 1888, 28 acres, being that part of Lot 58 on the south side of the Big Buffalo Creek and on the east side of the Bowen Road.

Myron H. Clark during this summer remodeled and added to the barn on his lot in Elma Village.

A new iron bridge was built across the Big Buffalo Creek

at Blossom with new stone abutment and breakwater and at the east end of the bridge, in the summer of 1888 to take the place of the bridge that burned December 28th, 1887.

William Philips is the blacksmith at East Elma this year.

Edwin H. Dingman bought of Joseph Wagner on August 9th of this year, a building lot at Jamison, near the northwest corner of Lot 39 between the Williams Road and the railroad and built a store with residence on the second floor in the summer and fall.

The Elma Town Sunday School Association was organized at East Elma September 21st, by Mr. Lewis Haas, the County S. S. Missionary.

Wm. Kleinfelder was appointed postmaster at Blossom this year and had the postoffice in his store.

Mrs. Maria Long was appointed postmaster at Elma and moved the office into her house.

On October 14th there was a very bright rainbow low in the north at noon for three-quarters of an hour. It was short and very flat, the centre not more than eight degrees above the horizon.

580 votes were cast at the Presidential Election of November 6th, 1888. The Electoral College gave Benjamin Harrison 233 votes.

At the close of the year 1888, we find the town of Elma so different from what it was forty years ago, that wonder and astonishment comes over us. At that time there were not 200 acres of land in the town, except on the Mile Strip, that had been cleared by a white man. Now, in 1888, the old growth of timber is practically gone and the timber in sight is mostly of second growth.

The sawmills that had then been built, with those built in later years, and which were then and for many years run day and night to work the timber into lumber, have gone into decay, have been taken down, or were burned. So that at the close of the year 1888, there are but two sawmills in the town, viz.: The Northrup mill at Spring Brook on the same ground where Northrup & Baker built their first mill in October, 1844, and now owned by Eli B. Northrup. The other mill now owned by Harvey J. Hurd in Elma Village is the same mill that was built by Hurd & Briggs in the fall of 1845.

Instead of footpaths through the woods and wagon and sled roads among the trees and stumps, we now have good roads, generally on lot lines, nicely graded and worked.

Instead of fording the streams or using a fallen tree as a footbridge, or a cheap frame structure for a bridge over the large streams, we have permanent iron or lattice bridges on stone abutments, which furnish a safe and durable means for crossing the streams.

The log house and barn, or the small plank house, with slab stable or small frame barn have been removed or torn down, and in their places are seen nice frame and brick residences with all the modern conveniences for the pleasure and comfort of the occupants, with large and commodious barns, many of them with stables or basements with stone walls, and carriage houses and other out buildings to satisfy the fancy or the needs of the owner of the premises.

The farms in 1888 are generally cleared of stumps, the rail and stump and road fences are almost gone and, where fences are necessary, they are of post and wire or post and board, the wire being generally preferred. Well cultivated fields with orchards and crops that gladden the farmer are everywhere found, where only a few years ago was the unbroken forest. It has taken many years of hard, persistent labor to make this change; but the settlers were equal to the task and it has been well done. Many of the first settlers who, at first, bought 5, 10, or 15, acres, and supported their families from the wood and timber sold from their small place, found, when the timber was gone, that they could not support their families from their small piece and that they needed more land; so they either bought out their neighbor, or sold to him and went west. This explains why there are so many small empty houses scattered through the town. The original owners have moved away and as a result, the population of the town has grown less and less for the last few years.

1889

Samuel Schurr opened a blacksmith shop in March on the South side of Jamison Road and east of the railroad on land owned by Ernest Bleack.

Peter Grader bought of Eron Woodard, one-half acre on the west side of the Bowen Road and south side of the railroad, for a grocery and saloon which he opened in a board shanty, July 2d, 1889.

The Town Board on April 27th, ordered a safe for the Town Clerk's office, in which to keep the town records.

On May 3d, (Arbor day) the residents of Elma Village set out thirty-one maple trees on the schoolhouse grounds, but many of them died that summer.

Jacob Jerge and wife left Elma in the spring for a visit to their native place in Germany, to be gone one year.

In April, Henry Kihm bought of John G. Fischer, the brick store on the southwest side of the Plank Road in Spring Brook.

A society of "The Farmers' Alliance" was organized in Spring Brook this summer, the reputed object being to enable the members to sell their surplus products for better prices and to make purchases for their families and farms through

the agency of the Alliance at wholesale prices, less the actual cost of transportation, rent of building and the necessary clerk hire. In this way they expected to save the profits made by the retail dealer, and the middle man.

George D. Briggs, this summer, rebuilt the Bancroft brick house on top of the hill on the south bank of the Big Buffalo Creek and changed the large barn near the creek by additions and sheds.

Harrison Tillou was appointed postmaster at Spring Brook in the summer of 1889, and moved the postoffice into Henry Kihm's brick store, becoming a partner in the business.

Jacob Koch's barn in Blossom, 47x147 feet, which was built by the Ebenezers in 1850, burned this summer; Koch immediately rebuilt.

Bower's barn on Clinton Street Road was burned about the same time.

James T. Hurd built a large house on the east side of the Bowen Road on Lot 58 in the summer of 1889 to be finished during the winter and next spring.

Hard frost with ice one-quarter inch thick on the morning of May 29th.

On June 25th, the Erie County Farmers' Institute held a meeting in the park in Elma Village.

Peter Grader was appointed postmaster of the Elma Center postoffice in July and moved the postoffice from Wright's store to his grocery.

Twelve sheds were built at the church in Elma Village in the summer of 1889. They were raised August 31st.

388 votes were cast at the election of November 7th, 1889.

Within the last few years there had been many alterations in the roads in the town of Elma, and many of these alterations had not been properly recorded in the "Records of Roads" in the Town Clerk's office, so that the records were in such shape that a description of many of the roads could not be ascertained.

The Board of Supervisors, on the petition of Eli B. Northrup, Supervisor of the Town of Elma, in October, 1889, ordered a resurvey of the roads in the town, and a revision of the "Record of Roads" for the Town of Elma.

The survey of the roads of the town was made under the supervision and direction of Mr. Jacob Heim, Commissioner of Highways of the town, the surveys were recorded and a revision of the Records completed and signed by the Commissioners, February 15th, 1890.

The "Jamison Road" postoffice was established this year at the crossing of the railroad and Jamison Road, with Ernst Bleck as postmaster.

On January 13th, 1890, a great and sudden change of weather occurred. It had been warm for the season, with rain on three days, when on the morning of the thirteenth, the mercury commenced going down and fell eighteen degrees in one hour, between nine and ten o'clock a. m. and from 65° at 7 a. m. to 30° at 9 p. m., with high wind.

In the months of May and June of this year we had seventeen and three-quarter inches of rain, and fifty-seven inches in one hundred and twenty-eight days.

Albert Price bought the central part of Lot 71 on the north side of the Clinton Street Road and moved into the house in April of this year.

The Farmers' Alliance of Spring Brook erected a building for a hall, etc., on Esquire Ward's lot on the south side of the Plank Road where they held their meetings and by and through their agent ordered and received such articles as the individual members required.

George D. Briggs this year built two new houses on the west side of the Bowen Road near the south line of Lot 58; also a plank sidewalk on the west side of the road from the south line of Lot 58 to the south end of the bridge across the creek. He built a silo at the west end of his stables near the creek, and moved the building near the bridge, which was formerly used as a store, about fifty feet west to be used as a milkhouse and moved the tenant house from south of the brick house on top of the hill, to the bank of the creek, where the old store formerly stood.

Deed from J. B. Briggs to Elma Cemetery Association June 16th, 1890.

James T. Hurd moved into his new house on Lot 58, June 1st.

An Epworth League Society was organized in the M. E. Church of Elma Village on July 6th.

The Erie County Farmers' Institute held a meeting in the park in Elma Village, July 26th.

For population of Elma by United States Census for 1890, see Chapter XXIV.

The Winspear bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek being unsafe and partly fallen, the Town Board on July 28th, directed the Commissioner of Highways to take down the old bridge and then to build a new iron bridge in the same place. The new bridge was finished in the fall.

On August 5th, the Town Board divided the Town of Elma into two election districts; the dividing line to begin on the Marilla town line, at the corner of Lots 1 and 2, of the Aurora part of the town, thence west on lot lines to the centre of the Bowen Road, thence north in the centre of the road to the old town line at the corner of lots 48, 52, 55 and 60; thence

west on lot lines to the Transit; the south part to be District No. 1, and the north part to be District No. 2.

The east abutment of the Bullis bridge was rebuilt this summer, all of solid limestone. Contract price, \$475.

A plank sidewalk was built this summer from the Spring Brook railroad station, south to the north side of the plank road in Spring Brook Village, then along the northeast side of the road to the east line of the Thayer Place; total distance about one and three-quarter miles.

Charles H. Sweet and John Conners each built a nice dwelling house in Spring Brook at the west end of the village in the summer of 1890.

348 votes were polled in the town at the election of November 4th.

Harvey J. Hurd bought of C. W. Hurd, November 26th, 1890, the south part of Lot 60 and the northeast part of Lot 52.

In August, 1891, Mr. Charles W. Harrah of Detroit, Michigan, came to Buffalo to look over the country near by and surrounding Buffalo for the purpose of starting a suburban village on or near some railroad, and so near to the city as to be convenient for laborers and persons doing business in the city.

After a careful examination of the territory, he decided that Spring Brook station, on the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad in the town of Elma was the right place for his village.

On August 28th, 1891, Harrah bought of Catharine Hager twenty-five acres, being the northeast part of Lot 95, lying on both sides of the railroad and on the west side of the Pound Road.

On August 29th, he secured forty-nine acres of Mrs. Hannah Winspear, being the south part of Lot 94, on the north side of the Bullis Road, and on the west side of the Winspear Road.

On September 4th, he bought of Thomas Summerfield, land lying west of the Hager land on Lot 95 between the Bullis Road and the railroad, making in all about eighty acres of land.

This land was surveyed in August and September by Mr. Mason L. Brown, Civil Engineer, into blocks, and numbered from one to sixteen, each block being surrounded by a street or avenue; and the blocks were sub-divided into lots, generally of 25x100 feet, except that the lots on both sides of the Bullis Road were 26 or 27x100 feet in size. A public alley, ten feet wide was in the rear of every lot.

The total number of the lots thus surveyed and numbered with marked stakes was 923.

Harrah had the streets and avenues nicely graded and a three-foot sidewalk on one or both sides of several of these streets and avenues.

A map of the village was made and filed in the County Clerk's office in Buffalo, under cover numbered 430.

This new village was called Spring Brook on the map, but later, in some way, it got the name of Crystal City.

Harrah was now ready to sell the lots and after making the necessary arrangements with the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad Company, he advertised in the Buffalo papers, and by circulars, and hand-bills, "that on Thursday, September 17th, Saturday, September 19th and Tuesday, September 22d, special free trains would leave Buffalo for Spring Brook each day at 9.00 a. m., 10.30 a. m. and 2.30 p. m., absolutely free going and coming, no tickets required."

One hundred lots were offered at \$17.00 each; other lots at \$20.00, \$25.00, \$30.00, \$35.00 each, that being the highest price.

Warranty Deeds were to be given when payment was made and to the first fifty persons purchasing one or more lots who would build, finish and occupy a house as a residence within one year from the date of the purchase, the price paid for the lot would be refunded by Harrah.

The free ride on the cars and the low price of the lots caused a great rush of people from Buffalo to visit, if not to purchase lots in the new Spring Brook on the three days above named.

As the lots were not all sold on these three days, free trains were advertised to run on the afternoons of September 28th, October 1st, 17th and 23d, when 808 of the 923 lots had been sold to 286 different persons. Harrah then made a lump sale of the balance of the lots to Cole & Sweet, and Eli B. Northrup of Spring Brook.

The streets and avenues as laid out and named on the map, were as follows:

Streets: Seneca, Vine, North, and South Railroad.

Avenues: Beach, Elm, Laurel, Linden, Magnolia, Oak, Spring Brook and Winspear.

A public alley ten feet wide was at the rear of all the lots.

Cole, Sweet & Northrup sold several lots to different individuals after they bought of Harrah.

Later, Northrup acquired the interest held by Cole & Sweet and also the title from several of the first purchasers of lots.

At the time of the sale of lots, it was thought by many that the low price of the lots and Harrah's offer to return the purchase price of the lots, where houses were built and occupied within the year, together with the cheap fare offered by the railroad company, would induce many persons, especially city laborers, to build houses and change their residences from Buffalo to Spring Brook; but only two families took advantage of Harrah's offer, and the New Spring Brook as a village seems to be a failure.

Some of the owners of lots pay the taxes and thus hold

possession; some are offering to convey their lots to any one who will pay the back taxes and pay for the transfer papers, and a few allow their lots to be sold for taxes, thus giving up all hope of realizing anything in the future.

Harrah, in selling the lots, did not sell or convey any title to the streets and avenues, and on April 16th, 1892, Charles W. Harrah petitioned the commissioner of Highways of the Town of Elma to have the said streets and avenues taken as public highways of the town and to have them so described and recorded in the town Clerk's office, and at the same date, he released to the town of Elma the streets and avenues as surveyed and laid out on the aforementioned map.

On July 1st, 1892, William J. Cole, E. Lawton, Eli B. Northrup, Charles H. Sweet, George Leger, William Bridgman, A. W. Smedes and Mary E. Hurd, petitioned the Commissioner of Highways of the Town of Elma, to have the streets and avenues as surveyed and laid out, and as described in the petition of Charles W. Harrah, dated April 16th, 1892, duly laid out as public highways of the Town of Elma, and to be duly described and recorded in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Elma.

On February 1st, 1895, Henry E. Bancroft, as Commissioner of Highways, ordered that the prayers of the above petitioners be and the same are hereby accepted, and he ordered and declared, that the said streets and avenues be a part of the highways of the said Town of Elma, and that the said streets and avenues on Lot 95, south of the railroad, be joined to and form a part of Road District No. 21; and that the streets and avenues on Lots 94 and 95, north of the railroad be joined to and form a part of Road District No. 41 of the town of Elma.

1891

For the names of officers elected at the town meeting held on March 3d and November 3d, see Chapter XXIV.

At the March meeting, 264 votes were polled and at the November town meeting 310 votes were polled; at the general election, November 3d, 482 votes were polled.

The Elma Cemetery Road was laid out in July, 1891.

Jacob Jerge, after his return from Europe, remodeled and made extensive alterations in the Dutton house, (so called) on the west side of Main Street in Elma Village.

Dr. Albert H. Briggs, an Elma boy, but now a resident of Buffalo, celebrated his forty-ninth birthday by giving a "Clam Bake" in the Elma Village Park on September 9th, 1891, where more than 100 of his Elma and Buffalo friends met by invitation to partake of a bountiful feast of good things provided for the inner man; and while seated at the tables, which had been arranged in a hollow square, to enjoy the after dinner

speeches and songs were given which reminded one of days that had passed, and which were good and refreshing to the head and heart.

On September 17th, the many friends of Mr. Clark W. Hurd met at his house in Elma Village to extend happy greetings and good wishes to Mr. Hurd, it being his eighty-fifth birthday. A bountiful repast was furnished by the family, and was greatly enjoyed by all present.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Briggs, celebrated at their home October 28th, was the occasion of another gathering in Elma Village, being the third gathering of Elma people within six weeks, to celebrate important events in the individual lives of those whom the people respect, honor and love.

Farm crops in the town were generally good this year; apples especially, a bountiful crop of fine quality.

The trustees of the M. E. Church of Elma Village decided to have a vestibule 10x14 feet built at the front of the church building. Christian Stolle had the contract and the work was commenced December 21st, and was finished in the early part of 1892. The Young People's Association furnished the money to pay all bills.

We had ten inches of rain in twenty-two days in June and July, and fifty inches in 101 days during the year, and forty-seven inches of snow in fifty days.

1892

Erastus J. Markham on January 1st, gave to his daughter, Mrs. Louis P. Reuther, (nee Nellie Markham) the store and the goods in the store over the millrace in Elma Village as a New Year's present.

Eron Woodard's house and the 30x40 foot barn, north of the house at Elma Center, burned at one o'clock p. m., Sunday, January 31st. As only part of the family were at home when the fire started, and there being nothing at hand with which to fight the fire, in a very short time the whole interior of the house was in a blaze. The winter's supply of coal which had just been put into the wood-house and several hundred bushels of potatoes which were in the cellar went with the house.

Only a few things were saved from the house, and with these and a few things brought by the neighbors, the family moved into the "Armstrong house," so called, about forty rods south of the fire.

The building and contents were well insured.

At the town meeting held March 8th, 1892, the only officer to be elected was a Justice of the Peace. Mr. Harrison Tillou was elected, only 264 votes polled.

Philip Jerge and Herman Jerge, as the firm of Jerge Broth-

ers, on April 2d, 1892, bought of their father, Jacob Jerge, the two village lots formerly known as the William H. Bancroft, and the Charles A. Dutton lots, on the west side of Main Street in Elma Village with the blacksmith shop, tools and stock then on hand; also other lands on the Chair Factory Road, and Jacob Jerge moved to Lancaster Village; he had been a resident of Elma Village more than forty years, and had built up and carried on the blacksmith and wagon making business more than thirty years.

Mr. R. P. Lee bought the Price place, being part of Lots 54 and 59, on the east side of the Bowen Road, and moved into the house May 13th.

Thomas Edwards opened a blacksmith shop in East Elma in July. Frank Metcalf's barn was struck by lightning, and with contents burned June 21st, 1892.

Mrs. William Kleinfelder was appointed postmaster of Blossom postoffice in the summer of 1892.

Rev. Louis A. Wright was sent to Elma by the M. E. Conference, commencing his work October 10th.

At the general election held on November 8th, 1892, 529 votes were polled in both districts of the town. Grover Cleveland was elected President.

1893

The Blossom Fire Company put up a building south of the gristmill in which to store its implements and for a meeting place of members of the company.

Charles S. Briggs, on April 1st, 1893, bought of Wilbor B. Briggs, a building lot at the northwest corner of the Bowen and Cemetery Roads in Elma Village, and that summer he built a house and moved in, in the fall.

John Edenhoffer, on March 17th, bought of Jerge Brothers, a building lot on the east side of Main Street and the second lot south of East Street in Elma Village, and that year built a house, moving in the fall.

George W. Hurd rented his farm Lot 85, on the south side of the Bullis Road, for five years and on April 1st, Hurd moved to Buffalo.

Richard Barnett, in April, rented Kihm's store in Spring Brook for four years, buying the goods and opened the store on his own account. Barnett was appointed postmaster at Spring Brook in October; Edwin H. Dingman was appointed postmaster at Jamison Road this summer; Conrad P. Hensel was appointed postmaster at Blossom postoffice in Herline's store; Henry A. Wright was appointed postmaster at Elma Center in July, 1893.

Frank Slade (Schefferstein) on April 11th bought of Eron Woodard a one-sixth acre building lot at Elma Center, adjoin-

ing the one-half acre lot of Peter Grader on the south.

The World's Fair was held in Chicago this year, and Elma sent many delegates who brought back astonishing reports as to the wonderful "White City," and of the endless variety, perfectness and beauty of the exhibits.

An Odd Fellows Society was organized in Spring Brook this year. During the summer a company was organized in Spring Brook to put down a gas well. The place selected was on the southwest side of the Plank Road, nearly opposite the Kyser house, on what has for many years been known as the steam mill lot; then owned by Eli B. Northrup. The drill was put down 1240 feet, and it was thought a good supply of gas was in sight; but after shooting the well and not very much increase of gas resulting, the well was plugged and remained so for some years, when, as per contract, the whole reverted to Mr. Northrup.

A new bridge over the Millrace on the Cemtery Road in Elma Village was raised July 28th, and finished in a few days. Then followed a "bee," to haul and place stone and gravel for the approaches to both ends of the bridge.

The west abutment to the Bullis bridge as originally built with a timber foundation, for that part which would be under water so long as the dam across the creek caused a pond; now as the dam had gone left the timber foundation exposed and it had become so decayed that a new stone abutment was a necessity; the contract was let to Monen & Koch for \$583.72 with some repairs to the bridge to be completed before fall.

Andrew Slade built a coal and grain house on east side of Bowen Road on Lot 48, northeast of the railroad. The M. E. Society of Spring Brook bought the German Evangelical building lot in the fall of 1893.

Mrs. Pauline Gloss, on October 24th, bought of Mrs. George Kelgus, the house and lot south of the hotel on west side of the Bowen Road on Lot 60. 408 votes were polled at the election November 7th, 1893.

1894

The store which was built by George W. Hatch at East Elma on Lot 10, on the northeast corner of the Jamison and Thompson Roads in 1868, and had been since that time successively occupied by several persons as merchants, viz: George W. Hatch, George and Niles Hatch, Isaac Smith, Harvey C. Palmer, Edwin H. Dingman, George and James Hatch, George and Leonard Hatch and George W. Hatch to January 13th, 1894, was then sold by George W. Hatch to Charles Burman, both store and goods, and Burman has since that time and in 1900 is the merchant of the place. Geo. W. Hatch was appointed postmaster at East Elma in 1870, and had been post-

master with the different resident merchants as assistants or deputies, until March 2d, 1894, when Charles Burman was appointed postmaster.

On February 9th, 1894, three men commenced to erect a derrick for the purpose of drilling for gas on James T. Hurd's land, on the south side of the Big Buffalo Creek just east of the mouth of Pond Brook. The drill was started at 9 o'clock p. m. February 22d, and was put down 1400 feet and the well was shot on March 27th. The result was too small a supply of gas to be of any use.

The Elma villagers had for some time talked about a plank sidewalk to the railroad crossing and station. Several meetings had been held, and a sufficient fund having been raised, the lumber was ordered and was delivered about the middle of March.

Charles S. Briggs and Cortland C. Briggs had the contract to lay the plank on the west side of the Bowen Road, from the south line of Lot 58, to the railroad crossing.

The residents on the Clinton Street Road furnished the lumber and built the walk from the Clinton Street Road to J. B. Briggs' house, and the villagers completed the walk to the bridge across the Creek.

This made a plank walk from Clinton Street to the railroad, a distance of about two miles, all finished April 1st.

The gas well near the Buffalo Creek in Elma Village proving a failure, "The Municipal Gas Co." was organized, with Harvey J. Hurd, James T. Hurd, Geo. D. Briggs, R. P. Lee, J. Eddie Briggs, and Myron H. Clark, of Elma Village, and Eli B. Northrup and Charles H. Sweet of Spring Brook, as directors. The company commenced drilling for gas on the east side of the Bowen Road and near the south line of Lot 55, on land owned by Harvey J. Hurd.

The drill was put down about 1800 feet, with some show of gas and the well was shot, which seemed to increase the supply. The company applied to the Town Board for the right and privilege to lay pipe along the streets, highways and alleys of the town of Elma, for the purpose of conducting natural gas through the same. The petition was acted upon by the Town Board April 16th, 1894, and the privileges were granted; R. T. Barnet, Supervisor; Henry A. Wright, Town Clerk; James A. Woodard, Harrison Tillou and W. B. Briggs, Justices of the Peace, signing the grant. The company ordered and received 3-inch pipe, which was laid from the well to the west side of the Bowen Road, and along the west side of the road and across the creek and to the house of J. B. Briggs, and connections were made from the main pipe to gas meters placed in the houses of James T. Hurd, Geo. D. Briggs, Myron H. Clark, Erastus J. Markham, J. B. Briggs and Harvey J. Hurd. The supply of gas did not increase, and gradually the pressure

went down, and finally became so small that the pipe was taken up, and no use of natural gas has since been made in Elma Village, except what flows from the mouths of some of the residents; that supply is not limited.

Mr. F. L. A. Cady, of Buffalo, on May 10th, bought of Mrs. J. C. Standart, one and one-half acres, adjoining Mrs. Price, on the east side of the Bowen Road and on Lot 59.

Henry A. Wright, Town Clerk, on August 31st, resigned his office, and the same day the Town Board appointed Warren Jackman to fill the vacancy.

On September 1st, Wright sold the goods in the store at Elma Centre to Mrs. Wilkes and her sister, Miss Smith. Mr. Wilkes was acting as agent for the W. N. Y. & P. R. R. Co., at the Elma station.

Wright moved to Buffalo, where he opened a store on Seneca Street at the city line.

The Leger saloon and barn in Spring Brook having burned, a new barn was immediately built, and used as a saloon, while the new hotel was being built, in the summer of 1894.

The Odd Fellows' Society of Springbrook bought a piece of land west of the Union church lot, and erected and finished a nice, large building for a hall and other purposes, all completed in the summer of 1894.

441 votes were polled at the election, November 6th.

All thorough the months of January, February and into March we had a continuous succession of snow storms, with very high wind and temperature in February from 2° to 14° below zero. All the roads were badly drifted and were nearly impassable for several days; making the worst continuous storm for many years.

At the town meeting held March 12th, 515 votes were polled.

The ice went out of the large streams in the Town of Elma March 25th; no flood to cause damage, only at East Elma, where part of the milldam went out, and Anthony Allen, then owner of the old Hatch Hemstreet sawmill, decided not to repair the dam, and he soon took down the sawmill. So the "Indian Mill" another old land mark, is gone.

Alexander Sutton, on April 1st, bought of Mrs. Wilkes, the goods in the store at the railroad station at Elma Centre, and on April 5th, 1895, Frank Sutton was appointed postmaster of the Elma Centre postoffice.

The railroad station was on the west side of the tracks, and a driveway separated the station and store, the postoffice being in the store.

Before eleven o'clock of the evening of June 18th, fire was discovered in the shed, at the west side of the store, among some empty boxes which had been piled in the end of the shed next to the store. When the alarm was given, the fire had worked into the store and in a very few minutes the whole

inside of the store was a roaring furnace. Only a few letters and the mail bag were saved; nothing saved from the store.

The fire quickly worked its way to Andrew Slades' coal and lumber office on the north end of the store, and to Slades' shingle shed at the north of the office. There was but little, if any, insurance.

The fire soon reached the depot building which was quickly consumed.

The body of an empty freight car was utilized as a station until a board shanty was erected, and this served until the railroad company built the present station on the east side of the tracks, and 200 feet south from the crossing of the Woodward Road.

A carriage road was soon made from the station along the east side of the railroad tracks and east side of Slades' coal and grain building to the Bowen Road, which enabled the Elma Villagers to drive to the station without crossing the tracks.

Alexander Sutton, on June 27th, bought of Eron Woodard a lot on the west side of the Bowen Road, next south of Frank Slades' lot, and put up a building for store and postoffice.

Frank Slade, on July 8th, bought of E. Woodard a lot south of Woodard's house, and that summer built his house and barn.

George D. Briggs remodeled his barn and stables near the Big Buffalo Creek, arranged the old store building into a milk house, and commenced to bottle and send to Buffalo "Certified Milk."

320 votes were polled at the election, November 5th, 1895.

1896

February of this year gave us forty-two inches of snow with high winds and badly drifted roads.

On March 29th, we had four separate and distinct thunder storms between nine and eleven o'clock a. m.

At the town meeting, March 10th, 373 votes were polled. See Chapter XXIV, for officers elected at town meeting.

Robert C. Board of Buffalo, bought the Clark-Baker place, across the street from the church in Elma Village.

George D. Briggs, this year built two more silos at the west end of his cattle stables.

Alexander Sutton in May sold the goods in his store in Elma Centre to Frank Sutton and Charles Sommers and rented the store to them for one year.

Joseph Geyer leased of Alexander Sutton land for a blacksmith shop, between Sutton's store and Slade's coal office, in Elma Centre, and in the summer he built a shop and went to work, thus starting the first blacksmith shop in Elma Centre.

Michael Greiss bought the mill property in Blossom, and in

the summer rebuilt the gristmill, with cidermill attached.

Irving Schurr, on May 9th, bought of E. H. Dingman and J. Wagner a lot for blacksmith shop and residence at Jamison, between the Williams Road and the railroad, on Lot 39; that summer he built the shop and house.

Louis P. Reuther built a barn on the east side of the Main Street in Elma Village next to the creek.

Edgar L. Murlin, in August, bought the James Clark place in Elma Village, and on the east side of Main Street, across from Jerge Brothers' blacksmith shop.

Dr. Albert H. Briggs of Buffalo, celebrated his fifty-fourth birthday on September 9th, 1896, by giving a "Clam Chowder" dinner to his many friends on the lawn in front of Wilbor B. Briggs' house in Elma Village. The large number (more than 100) of persons present greatly enjoyed the dinner and the sociable part, and all declared tht the doctor was a full team as entertainer.

Harvey J. Hurd this summer overhauled and rebuilt the sawmill and gristmill in Elma Village and put in extensive water works machinery to supply his house and barns with water. He put a 400-barrel tank into the barn on the east side of the road, on top of the hill across from the schoolhouse, and connected that tank by pipes to a large force pump which was placed under the gristmill, the pump to be driven by water power, to force the water into the large tank. Then by other pipes, connections were made with the house, barns, garden and lawn, so they were all supplied with water. The tank being so elevated, he can, with a hose, throw water into and over any of his buildings. He also built a large ice house on the north bank of the millpond near the sawmill.

Jacob Heim built a steam cidermill on his farm east of Jamison Station in the summer of 1896.

The Farmers' Alliance of Spring Brook collapsed this year. We had a large crop of apples this year.

The M. E. Church building in Spring Brook was this year altered and repaired, and was re-dedicated December 29th, 1896.

442 votes were polled at the election November 3d. Votes of Electoral College for McKinley, 271; for William J. Bryan, 176.

1897

High wind, seventy-six miles per hour at 2 p. m. March 12th.

At the town meeting, March 9th, 528 votes were polled. The law having been changed as to the time Supervisors should commence to hold office, from their election at the March town meetings as heretofore, to January 1st after they were elected. James A. Woodard, although elected March 9th, 1897, could

not take the office until January 1st, 1898. Consequently a vacancy existed in the office of Supervisor after March 9th. To fill this vacancy, the Town Board appointed John Luders, ex-Supervisor.

Charles Sommers sold his interest in the goods of Sutton & Sommers store to Alexander and Frank Sutton in May, 1897, and June 23d he bought the goods in Peter Grader's store and commenced on his own account in Grader's store.

The Catholic Church in Spring Brook was repainted this summer. The building in Spring Brook known as "The Farmers' Alliance Hall," was sold to Joseph Klass and moved from Esq. Ward's lot, on to the lot across the street from the brick store.

Harrison Tillou was this year appointed postmaster of Spring Brook postoffice, and moved the office from Barnett's store in October, to his justice's office opposite the Catholic Church.

Ernst Bleeck was appointed postmaster of the Jamison Road postoffice and moved the postoffice from Dingman's store to Bleeck's on the north side of Jamison Road.

Andrew F. Slade on July 14th, bought of Eron Woodard's heirs a building lot on west side of the Bowen Road at Elma Center and near the so-called Armstrong house, and built a house that summer and moved in the fall.

Louis P. Reuther built a store and house combined on the east side of Main Street in Elma Village, at north end of the bridge across the creek and was that year appointed postmaster of Elma postoffice.

John McMullen's house in East Elma burned at noon, September 6th, 1897.

Warren Jackman was on September 30th appointed Attendance Officer for the town. Joseph Geyer on December 17th bought of the Woodard heirs a building lot on the west side of the Bowen Road at Elma Centre, south of Sutton's store.

There was a very small crop of apples this year, many of the farmers not having a bushel from their whole orchard.

1898

On January 12th, 1898 there was a heavy thunder storm from 6 to 10 o'clock p. m., when one inch of water fell and was followed with snow and very high wind.

James McGiveron rented the Beck blacksmith shop in Spring Brook and commenced work in April.

Charles Thayer in the summer of this year built a barn on his lot in Spring Brook.

Louis P. Reuther in March, moved into his new store at the north end of the bridge in Elma Village.

George W. Hurd moved from Buffalo April 1st, on to his

farm, Lot 85, on the south side of Bullis Road.

Joseph Geyer built a house and barn on his lot in Elma Centre, south of Sutton's store.

An English Sunday-school was organized at Elma Centre this summer, the school being held in the schoolhouse at the corner of the Bowen and Rice Roads.

Baker's saloon across the street from the Union Church in Spring Brook was burned with contents on July 2d, 1898. It was immediately rebuilt.

Peter Burn's barn on Jamison Road was struck by lightning and burned in July, 1898.

Dr. Albert H. Briggs of Buffalo, on September 9th, celebrated his fifty-sixth birthday by inviting his many friends to a Chowder dinner given on W. B. Briggs' lawn in Elma Village. As usual, it was a gathering which resulted in binding all together in social bonds of friendship.

Jerge Brothers in the fall of 1898 put up a new building in Elma Village, on the north side of their blacksmith shop, for a carriage, storage and paint shop.

The railroad company built a new station on the south side of Jamison Road in the summer of 1898.

There was a very light crop of apples in Elma this year.

James T. Hurd, Harvey J. Hurd and J. E. Briggs, each put up a new silo as an attachment to their cattle barns. The silos were each sixteen feet in diameter and twenty-four feet in height and were enclosed in a frame building, lined, papered and sided, so as to be nearly frost proof.

Warren Jackman was on September 29th appointed by the Town Board, for a second term as Attendance Officer for the whole Town of Elma.

Mrs. Clara E. Gibson bought the north house built by George D. Briggs on the west side of the Bowen Road near the south line of Lot 58, with the building lot, and put in a tile drain from the west side of her house to the bank of Pond Brook, going across the road and through James T. Hurd's orchard and down the bank to the brook.

Burton H. Hurd in October bought the other house and lot next south of Mrs. Gibson's, and put in a tile drain to connect with Mrs. Gibson's drain.

At the general election November 8th, 460 votes were polled in this town, and Theodore Roosevelt was elected Governor of the State by over 21,000 majority.

Alexander Rush sold the hotel property at southwest corner of Bowen and Bullis Roads to Mathias Nosbisch, November 16th, 1898, consideration \$2,150.

From December 4th to 12th we had thirty-two inches of snow, with very high wind, changing from southeast to east, to northwest to west, southwest to north and northeast, piling and drifting the snow so as to block railroad trains and country

roads; and the streets in the southeast part of Buffalo were closed for several days, the street cars not moving.

1899

Snow and blizzard on January 6th and 7th; again on January 21st, and against on January 26th and 27th: at 10 o'clock p. m. January 27th, the wind was a seventy-two-mile gale.

March 1st, Mrs. Emilie Ford bought of Alexander and Frank Sutton, the goods in their store in Elma Centre, renting the store for three years.

Total vote at the town meeting March 14th, 559. For officers elected see Chapter XXIV.

By the terms of the new law, we, in Erie County, are to hold town meetings biennially; on the odd years, and all town officers elected will hold office for two years.

Myron H. Clark in April bought of the heirs of William Standart, deceased, the lands and appurtenances of the William Standart estate, on the east side of the Bowen Road and on the northside of the Bullis Road, being part of Lots 49, 54 and 59, except the east half of the south fifty acres of Lot 49. By the terms of the settlement, William Wesley Standart, one of the said heirs, is to have the said excepted twenty-five acres.

Robert C. Board put a new felt roof on his house across the street from the church in Elma Village.

Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Lee celebrated their silver wedding June 3d.

Mrs. Emilie Ford was appointed postmaster at Elma Centre postoffice July 19th.

The M. E. Church in Elma Village was re-painted in August.

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo C. Bancroft celebrated their golden wedding September 12th.

Dr. Albert H. Briggs, for fifty-seventh birthday celebration, had a clam chowder party September 9th, on Wilbor B. Briggs' lawn in Elma Village; 120 persons present and all had a fine time.

Solon Hines was on September 28th appointed Attendance Officer for the whole town.

The hardest drought ever known in the Town of Elma was during the summer of 1899. Not a drop of water ran from Pond Brook into the Big Buffalo Creek from June 20th to September 26th; except a very little on July 10th, 11th and 12th. The drought was finally broken by a shower on September 18th. The three days of gentle, steady rain on September 24th, 25th and 26th, when two and one-half inches of water fell, was so gradual, and the ground was so dry, that not a drop of the water drained into the streams; so they showed no signs of rain, only what fell in the bed of the

streams, until the morning of September 27th, and then only a little. Many farmers had to haul water from the nearest stream for their farm stock. Plowing for fall and winter grain was greatly delayed as the ground was so dry and hard that it was impossible on most farms to do any plowing.

A new stone abutment for the south end of the bridge across the creek in Elma Village was built in October by Philip Jerge, finished October 29th. Contract price \$500.

The vote at the election November 6th, 1st district 213; 2d district 173. Total 386. A mad dog scare just before Christmas in Elma Village resulted in the killing of eight dogs; twenty more could be disposed of.

In November and December, Eli B. Northrup, owner of the gas well in Spring Brook, had pipe laid from the well to his house, with branches and connections to the residence of Joseph Klass, to Richard Barnett's store, the Odd Fellows Hall and to Eli B. Northrup's residence. On December 31st, the gas was turned on and these places were heated and lighted. These were the first gaslights in Spring Brook.

The mad dog scare, mentioned in the last part of 1899, continued through the holiday season and on January 1st, 1900, shows no abatement in Elma Village; the demand that other and more dogs which were reported to have been bitten, should be killed or kept in close confinement, is urged and demanded as security for human and animal life; but some people seem to care more for their worthless curs than they do for the lives and property of their neighbors.

For three days in January, 11th to 14th, all the trees were loaded with ice and snow which was removed by the thaw of 14th and 15th.

The fine sleighing for several days, also the ice and three inches of snow of January 11th was spoiled by the thaw of 17th and 18th, which was followed by one and one-half inches of rain on the 20th, all together causing the highest water in the streams in the town for many years, but as there was no ice, but little damage resulted.

On January 15th, Burton H. Hurd had a barn raised on his lot on the west side of the Bowen Road, south from Elma Village; his building lot being on the line between Lots 58 and 59; his house is on Lot 58 and his barn on Lot 59.

At a meeting of the members and congregation of the Catholic society of Spring Brook, held in its church on Sunday, December 31st, 1899, notice was given that on Sunday, January 7th, 1900, the parsonage building, and the barn (old church building) on the northeast end of its church lot, would be sold to the highest bidder. The sale took place according to said notice. Mr. Robert Wiley bought the house for \$149; and it was moved on to the lot on the north side of the Plank Road, and next south from the Thayer place (old Mouse Nest).

The barn, which was the first church building in the Town of Elma, and was used by the Catholic society as their church from 1850 to 1874, when it was moved to the east end of their lot and has since been used as a parsonage barn, was sold for \$20; was taken down and moved on to land owned by William Fisher, being part of Lot 100, on the east side of the Blossom Road, south of the railroad.

Within the last few years, farmers have been putting up windmills for the purpose of pumping water to supply their farm stock. No mention has been heretofore made, and now on January 1st, 1900, we find among the names of the owners of these mills the following: Peter Heineman, 2, George Beidler, J. Eddy Briggs, Louis P. Reuther, George D. Briggs, James T. Hurd, Mrs. C. E. Gibson, Thomas Schneider, George W. Hurd, Henry E. Stitz, William F. Stitz, Henry W. Stitz, Henry Lexo, Col. E. Persons, Stephen Curtis, Irving Schurr, D. K. Adams, Borden Cole, Herbert Lathrop, William Conley, Henry Kihm, D. L. Wilson, and on the William M. Rice place, James Grace, Caleb Brown, Fred Maurer.

On February 2d, the "Old Bear" came out, and as it was a bright day she saw her shadow and wisely went back to remain for six weeks. Winter soon set in again with renewed force, so that February and March 1900, pass into history as record breakers for heavy snow storms, with very high winds, roads made impassable, unpleasant weather.

An epidemic of measles prevailed in the town from January 1st into May, causing several of the schools to close which will account for the small attendance of pupils during the school year.

The mad dog scare, mentioned on January 1st, continued until May, and as a result a goodly number of dogs were put out of the way, but enough remained to make the dog nuisance in the town so great, as at times to severely tax the patience of decent, order-loving citizens.

On March 1st, Charles Clough hired Irving Schurr's shop at Jamison Road and commenced work as blasksmith.

In April, the Patrick Cassady place on the Thompson Road at East Elma was sold to Willard F. Hines.

Sylvester Rush in April bought of Jacob Miller the thirty-acre lot on northeast corner of Lot 53, being the southwest corner of the Bowen and Rice Roads.

May 4th, Charles Stetson with his family moved from Buffalo into Mrs. Standart's house, on the east side of the Bowen Road south of Elma Village.

Henry E. Bancroft was appointed to take the United States census in the town on the west side of the Bowen Road, and George Heim to take the census on the east side of that road.

July 4th, 1900, was observed by the Elma people as has been their custom for many years by a gathering in the park. This

was an old-fashioned basket picnic, and about 150 persons joined in the dinner and social part of the program.

John Miller's barn on the Woodard Road was struck by lightning and burned, with all the crops and farm tools, at 5 o'clock p. m. July 10th.

Myron H. Clark, owner of the property at the northeast corner of the Bullis and Bowen Roads, on August 3d took down the frame of the barn which was built by George Standart in 1843, and as the timber was mostly pine and in a good state of preservation, he used it in building a barn twenty rods north, and near to the brick house which was built by William Standart in 1853.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company, early in the year began to look for a way by which that company could gain an entrance into Buffalo. The W. N. Y. & P. Railroad seemed to be the most desirable and negotiations were commenced and carried on between the two companies until arrangements were completed and on August 1st, 1900, the Pennsylvania Company took possession of the road and of all the rolling stock and property of the W. N. Y. & P. R. R. Company; and from that date it will be known as a branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The schoolhouse in Blossom, (District No. 8) having been condemned by the School Commissioner as not suitable for school purposes, the residents of that school district, at a special meeting held in the schoolhouse in July, voted to build a new house, and after several meetings, the old house, after the seats were taken out, was sold to Alois Dusch for \$49, and was by Dusch moved across the street, and at a later meeting the contract to build the new house, 30x40, with 14-foot posts to have two rooms, was let to Jacob Weil & Co., the contract price being \$2,175, to be completed by November 20th, the building to occupy the old site on the south of Main Street in Blossom Village.

Charles H. Sweet's store at the corner of the Northrup and Aurora Roads in the Village of Spring Brook, burned at 6 o'clock p. m., August 23d; building and goods destroyed, only some household furniture in the wing of the building saved, partially insured. This wipes out the first building in Spring Brook built as a store by E. G. Kent in 1850.

Along in July, posters, hand-bills and circulars were put up and circulated throughout this and adjoining towns, announcing that "on Saturday, July 28th, there would be a grand circus and hippodrome on "Bonny Brook," (Mr. R. Porter Lee's place) with music by the band, a grand parade, wild animals, chariot races, wild west riding and shooting and other attractions that would put the "Traveling Circus" in the shade."

To prepare for this, the Elma boys, with a little outside help, worked and practiced daily and nightly.

July 28th was an ideal circus day—fair weather, gentle breeze, temperature just right and everything was ready on time. At 2 o'clock p. m. people began to gather at the grounds, and at 3 o'clock, the time set for the performance to begin, more than 300 persons were there, most of them having visited the side shows. Every part of the program was perfectly rendered—not a slip nor jar; and at the evening performance more than 400 persons enjoyed the entertainment, which by general assent was declared to be better than had been promised.

This effort proved so satisfactory that it was decided to have another "circus" next year.

On Monday, September 17th, a certificate of the incorporation of the "Elma Circus," a club organized for social purposes, was filed with the County Clerk in this County.

The directors are: James T. Hurd, R. Porter Lee, George D. Briggs, Robert C. Board, Myron H. Clark, John R. Lee, Burton H. Hurd, Ernest C. Crane and Charles S. Gibson.

Farmers have through the year had fair to extra prices for their produce; crops have generally turned out very good, except hay, which was a short crop.

Milk is produced for the Buffalo market each year in larger quantities, and this year the farmers are receiving nine, ten and eleven cents per gallon at the railroad stations, which is quite an advance above previous years, but the higher price of grain to be fed to the cows brings the net receipts to the farmer about as in former years.

Silos are coming into favor as a way to secure the fodder crops at less expense and with profit, as reported by those farmers who have them.

In October, 1900, the following named persons have silos: On the Mile Strip, D. K. Adams, Bordan Cole, Griggs & Ball; on the Aurora part, Ellsworth G. Persons and Benajmin J. Eldridge; on the Lancaster part, George D. Briggs, 2, J. Eddy Briggs, Harvey J. Hurd, James T. Hurd, 2, Morris Hill and Jacob Seeger.

Michael Greiss in October had his dwelling house raised on the mill lot in Blossom, a few rods south from the gristmill.

October 13th, 1900, at 5:45 o'clock p. m., as Philip Jerge was crossing Pond Brook bridge in Elma Village, with a load of about forty bushels of potatoes, four boys, viz.: Jacob and Philip Jerge, his sons, Charles Jerge, son of Herman Jerge, and Charles Schroeder, and two hired men, Michael Morath and George Heidenrath, all on the wagon, just as the horses were going off the west end of the bridge, the north end of the needle beam that supported that section of the bridge, being rotten, broke down, letting thirty feet of the length of the bridge to the rock bottom of the stream, seventeen feet below the floor of the bridge, with the wagon, men, boys and horses

in the wreck.

The wagon turned bottom up with Morath under the box, with plank and joist on the wagon, and the horses on their backs on top of the whole. Morath was taken out with two broken ribs which had penetrated the lungs, and a dislocated shoulder. George Heidenrath had a bruised hip; Jacob Jerge back and hip bruised, Charles Jerge a sprained ankle. The horses were not injured.

The bridge had been rebuilt in April, 1896, with oak needle beams and oak joist. A traction engine had crossed the bridge three times within the last six weeks, and two days before the break-down a much heavier load, wagon and horses, than Jerge's had crossed, and no one had a thought but what the bridge was perfectly safe.

In three days, temporary repairs had been made so that teams could safely cross. The Town Board directed Fred Luders, the Commissioner of Highways, to have a steel or iron bridge placed there without unnecessary delay.

The Horse Heads Iron Bridge Co. had the contract, and had the bridge with steel joists all ready for the flooring on December 25th, 1900, and that day the Commissioner had the floor laid so teams could cross. Contract price \$284.

Patrick Phelan's barn in Spring Brook, on the lot at the corner of the Davis and Aurora Plank Roads burned Friday morning, November 30th, 1900, nothing saved. Insurance on building \$300, contents \$204.

Thomas D. Williams died December 1st, 1900, age 73 years, 9 months and 13 days. He has lived since April 10th, 1828, on Lot 15 of Mile Strip, and in the same house that his father, Isaac Williams built just after he moved on that lot. That house had been his only home for more than 72 years.

In the latter part of December, 1900, Judge Emery, of the Erie County Court, ordered the toll gate at the City Line, of the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Co. thrown open and no more tolls to be collected; as the plank had become so worn, rotten and broken, that it was impossible to safely go over the road with heavy loads. The other gate one mile southeast from Spring Brook was opened for the same cause. This road was completed in the fall of 1849.

The lattice bridge across the Cazenove Creek at Northrup's mills in Spring Brook, known as the Northrup bridge, which was built in the summer of 1861, was condemned as being unsafe, by Fred Luders, the Commissioner of Highways for the Town of Elma, December, 1900.

December, 1900, closes with the ground frozen, roads smooth and four inches of snow at midnight, December 31st. Temperature 30°. Buffalo is having a great and noisy celebration. This closes the year 1900, the nineteenth century, and this history of The Town of Elma as written by Warren Jackman,

his age at the time being 78 years, 9 months, 11 days.

1901

January, 1901, introduces the 20th century, with five inches of snow, entirely cloudy, temperature 26°, gentle northwest wind.

Harvey J. Hurd died January 25th, burial in the Elma cemetery. By his will he gave \$1,000 to the Investment Fund of the Elma Cemetery Association; the interest of this fund is to be used, perpetually, for the care and improvement of the cemetery grounds.

By his will, his sister, Mrs. Harriet D. Rowley, came into full possession of the "Hurd Homestead" and mills, being about 180 acres of land on lots 48, 52, 53 and 57, on the east side of the Bowen Road in Elma Village, and between the Clinton Street and Chair Factory Roads.

Snow or rain fell during a part of every day between December 24th, 1900 and March 11th, 1901; the seventy-eight consecutive days of storm giving seventy-one inches of snow, and with the high winds on many days made travel, especially the turning out to meet teams, very difficult and dangerous.

The town meeting on March 12th was held by election districts; 306 votes were polled in the first district and 218 in the second district; total 524.

Rain and thirty-two inches of snow in April served to continue the roads as the worst in many years.

Mr. O. J. Wannemacher died April 24th; burial in the Catholic cemetery in Spring Brook.

A special town meeting was held in the school house at the corner of the Bowen and Rice Roads on Saturday, April 27th, 1901, to vote on the following five propositions, viz.:

First.—Shall the Town Board be authorized and empowered to effect a settlement and compromise of the claim of Michael Morath for \$10,000 damages for alleged personal injuries by reason of falling through the bridge over Pond Brook on the Chair Factory Road, on or about the 13th day of October, 1900, for the sum of \$1,700, together with his necessary and reasonable expenses for physicians and surgeon's attendance from October 13th, 1900, to March 30th, 1901, and to raise and appropriate the same?

Second.—The same question to settle the claim of \$10,000 of George Heidenreich, by reason of falling through the same bridge at the same time for \$500.00 and expense of physicians and surgeon's attendance, between same dates as above?

Third.—Shall the Town Board be authorized to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 or so much thereof as may be necessary for the purpose of building a new bridge across the Cazenove Creek at Northrup mills?

Fourth.—Same question for authority to raise \$1,000 for construction and maintenance of the highways and bridges of the town?

Fifth.—Shall the Town of Elma raise and appropriate seven and a half per centum toward the amount required for improving the Aurora Plank Road and the Clinton Street Road through the town, under the provision of Chapter 115 of the Laws of 1898, and the Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto?

At this special Town Meeting there were 122 votes polled and all the five propositions were voted affirmatively by a majority of 80 to 100. Bad roads were the cause of the light vote.

The Commissioner of Highways of the town in May let the contract to furnish and put up a steel and iron bridge across the Cazenove Creek at the Northrup mills, to the Canton Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio; the bridge to be 130 feet in length and to be completed in August. The contract price was \$2,800.

The old lattice bridge was torn down in June, a new abutment built at the north end of the bridge; for some reason the iron work was not in place at the close of the year 1901 and people were put to great loss and inconvenience, as it was at times dangerous to ford the stream, especially in cold weather and on dark nights.

The Farmers Club of the Town of Elma was organized in June, 1901, with Cornelius McHugh as President, Myron H. Clark as Vice-president and Rev. George Mason as Secretary and Treasurer.

Melville J. Hurd on July 1st bought of Mrs. Sarah L. Standart her seven acre lot on the east side of the Bowen Road on Lots 58 and 59, just south of Elma Village; and on the same day he bought of James T. Hurd, Myron H. Clark and Mrs. Harriet D. Rowley, executors of the will of Harvey J. Hurd, forty-two acres on the west side of the Bowen Road between John Garby's land and the railroad.

The same day, July 1st, James A. Woodard, George H. Woodard and Mrs. Emma McDonald, bought of the same executors eight and one-half acres, being parts of Lots 52 and 60, on the south side of the railroad.

Saturday, July 27th, was "Elma Circus Day," and large crowds of people turned out, afternoon and evening, to attend the second yearly entertainment on the "Bonny Brook" grounds of Mr. R. P. Lee. Fun on a large scale and a great financial success. The Aurora brass band furnished the music.

Simeon Phillips, who lived on Lot No. 6 on the south side of the Clinton Street Road, committed suicide on August 4th by hanging, in the woods a short distance from his house.

As the bridge across Crooked Brook on the Bullis Road had broken down, the Commissioner of Highways put in a steel pipe six feet in diameter and 32 feet long; then on August 10th

he let the contract of filling with earth, the space which had been covered by the old bridge.

William Beckman's barn on Lot 20 on the east side of the Girdled Road, on the north side of the Big Buffalo Creek, was struck by lightning and with the hay and grain was burned during the severe thunder storm of Tuesday p. m., August 20th. No insurance.

Yager's barn on lot 65 on south side of the Bullis Road, and Andrew Slade's barn at Elma Centre were struck and slightly injured, and several cattle in different parts of the town were killed by the same storm.

Otis A. Hall's barn on the Lancaster Town Line Road, filled with hay, grain and farm implements, was burned by lightning on Thursday p. m., August 22d; no insurance. Nearly six inches of water fell during the three days, August 20th-22d.

Mrs. Sarah A. Cunningham died August 27th; burial in the Elma cemetery. By her will she gave \$200 to the Elma Cemetery Investment Fund.

The Elma Town Farmers' Club, held its first annual picnic on Labor Day, September 2d, in Luder's grove on Lot 41, on the west side of the Schultz Road. Professor Spencer, representing the agricultural department of Cornell University, gave a very interesting address; subject, "Cultivating the Farm."

The Town Board on Tuesday, September 3d, authorized the Commissioner of Highways to sign a franchise which would give to the Buffalo, Gardenville and Ebenezer Trolley Company the right to build and operate a trolley road in this town along the easterly side of the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road.

Voting machines were used in the two election districts in this town at the general election held November 5th, 1901—168 votes in the First District; 149 in the Second District. Total 317.

The potato crop has been the largest ever raised in the town, and farmers have never realized such high prices as in the fall of 1901; 50 cents to 75 cents per bushel at the railroad stations for shipment, and 60 cents to \$1.00 per bushel in Buffalo.

The wholesale market price for farm produce on December 18th was: Wheat, 80 to 90 cents; corn, 70 to 72 cents; oats, 52 cents; beans, \$2.60 per bushel; butter, 26 cents per pound; eggs, 26 cents per doz.; hay, \$15.00; rye straw, \$10.00 per ton; apples, \$4.00 to \$5.75 per barrel. These prices are nice for the farmer but very high for the buyer.

CHAPTER XV.

SUPPLEMENT TO JACKMAN'S HISTORY.

THE following are supplementary historical notes on the Town of Elma for the years to 1901 obtained from various sources.

EARLY PROBLEMS OF TOWN GOVERNMENT.

The audit by the Board of Town Auditors made October 1st, 1857, shows that the claims paid by the town for the seven months period since its first town board meeting, March 3rd, 1857, to February 23rd, 1858, amounted to \$335.94. Of this amount the Supervisor had received \$14.25, Town Clerk, \$72.87, four Justices of the Peace \$18.18, three Commissioners of Highway \$63.75, three Assessors \$64.65. The Overseer of the Poor had spent \$14.50.

The second audit made on October 1st, 1858, shows the years' cost to be \$1,215.14 which included a charge of \$800.00 for the building of a bridge paid to Z. A. Hemstreet.

Some of the early problems of Town Government are reflected in the two following Town Board resolutions in March, 1869:

"Lawful fences—Rail fences shall be four and one-half feet high. Post and board fences and post and rail fences shall be four feet high.

Hogs shall not be free commoners in this town."

TOWN HIGHWAY OVERSEERS.

When the Town of Elma was originally formed in 1857, the repair and upkeep of the roads was done by the people who lived along the road and the amount of work which each was required to do depended upon the frontage of his property. In addition to the three Commissioners of Highway, Alfred Marvel, Whipple Spooner, and Benjamin Lougee, elected in the first Town Meeting, March 3rd, 1857, the following list of Overseers of Highways were elected.

The duty of each overseer was to see that the work on the roads was properly assigned and done by the people living in his district.

LANCASTER PART OF ELMA

District No.	Overseer
35	George Standart
40	Philip Bender
42	C. W. Hurd
43	Wm. Winspear
44	Edwin Bridgman
45	Otis A. Hall
47	H. W. Kinney
49	Phillip Bordimer
50	Lewis Heineman
51	Daniel Price
52	Alonzo Bancroft
58	Zibal Dewitt
59	Theodore Noyes
61	Wm. Bridgeman

AURORA PART OF ELMA

District No.	Overseer
4	Silas Potter
5	Caleb Foster
12	Minor Harris
21	Chester Adams
22	Albert Coromfshart
35	Thos. D. Williams
37	Thos. Aldrich
38	John W. Peak
42	Clark Shaw
43	Benj. E. Farnham
45	Wm. M. Lockwood
50	Nelson Kester
51	Alfred Marvel
62	Thos. A. Weir
63	Isaac Blakely
64	Addison Armstrong
65	Z. A. Hemstreet
68	C. J. Morris

The road numbers listed above were Lancaster and Aurora numbers. In 1858 the Town of Elma formed 37 new road districts.

The Commissioners of Highway appointed new Overseers to fill vacancies and had charge of them.

The amount of road labor assigned by the Commissioners of Highways during the first year of the Town's History was 3,228 man days and the actual labor performed was 2,400 man days.

In 1883 the name of the Overseers was changed to PATH-MASTERS.

The number of road districts increased as new roads were added until they numbered 55 districts in 1882. Later the number of districts were reduced to 52 and remained 52 until 1897. No further record of Pathmasters was found in the Town records.

The number of Road Commissioners was reduced to one in 1885.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The first Board of Health in the Town of Elma was held in H. L. Tillou's law office, March 22nd, 1884, and was attended by H. L. Tillou, Fowler Munger, E. J. Markham, Supervisor James Tillou, Town Clerk H. A. Wright and Dr. T. L. Barry was appointed first Health Physician. Addison Armstrong was appointed as Citizen's member of the Board of Health and a resolution was passed that each member of the Board "shall collect and file a list of all births and deaths within their district." Thus the first attempt at vital statistics was started.

BULLIS ROAD was planked by Lewis M. Bullis, about the year of 1855 and became a toll road. Town of Elma map of

1860 shows that two toll gates, one on Lot No. 54 near Lot No. 49 and one on Lot No. 99 at the corner of Bullis and Blossom Roads.

SENECA ROAD was planked by an East Aurora Company in 1846. It became a toll road at this time and was known as Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road. It is reported that there were three toll gates between Buffalo and East Aurora and that the toll from East Aurora to Springbrook was three cents per horse or ten cents for horse and rider and toll from Springbrook to Buffalo was ten cents for horse and rider and fifteen cents for horse and wagon or twenty-five cents for team and wagon. A stage coach drawn by four horses carried passengers daily between Buffalo and East Aurora on this road.

In 1880 a new company was formed known as the East Aurora-Springbrook Company to repair the plank road between those locations.

BLOSSOM BRIDGE over Buffalo Creek was burned December 29th, 1887, and the Town Board directed the Road Commissioner in its meeting of January 13th, 1888, to replace it with a new bridge, "the main structure of which to be of iron." The new bridge was completed in the summer of 1888 and its final cost, as reported to the Board on Sept. 28th, was \$5052.50.

Rebuilding of the WINSPEAR BRIDGE over Buffalo Creek which had been condemned by the Highway Commissioner was authorized July 28th, 1890.

The TOWN was divided into TWO ELECTION DISTRICTS on August 5th, 1890. However, Town elections continued to take place at the annual Town Board Meetings.

Town Board on May 7th, 1892, authorized the Buffalo and East Aurora Electric Railroad to construct and operate a railroad thru the Town of Elma, construction to start on or before April 1st, 1893, and to be completed on or before April 1st, 1894.

THE EBENEZER SOCIETY, who started their settlement at Blossom, originally known as Upper Ebenezer, in 1849, left New York State in 1865 and moved to Iowa where they had purchased 5,000 acres on the Iowa River.

CLINTON STREET was the first road paved in the Town of Elma. This pavement was of brick, eight feet wide, and laid in about 1900.

CHAPTER XVI.

TOWN OF ELMA FROM 1901 TO 1956

1902

IN a special meeting of the Town Board, May 12th, 1902, a franchise was granted to United Gas Company to lay pipe along public highways for the purpose of transporting gas.

1903

Dr. George W. McPherson was appointed March 28th, 1903, as Health Physician and Eugene Simmons as Citizens Member of the Town Board of Health.

1904

On May 25th, 1904, the Town Board granted the Elma Telephone Exchange the exclusive right to operate and maintain a telephone line in the Town of Elma.

A 96-foot pole raising took place at Peter Grader's Hotel in Elma Center, August 4th, 1904. About 400 persons attended the occasion. Music was furnished by the Smith Band. Hamilton Ward was the principal speaker and a Roosevelt-Fairbanks streamer was unfurled below Old Glory on the pole.

The planks on Seneca Street were removed in 1904, the road was paved with brick and made a free road.

1905

On August 30th, 1905, James Woodard resigned as Supervisor because of his move to Chicago and the office was vacant until Oct. 19th, 1905, when the Town Board appointed John Luders to fill the vacancy.

1907

On August, 1907, the Town Board appointed A. H. Tillou to fill the unexpired term of Supervisor caused by the death of John Luders and Ernest F. Bleack to fill the unexpired term of A. H. Tillou as Town Clerk.

1908

March 20th, 1908, the Town Board authorized Dr. George McPherson, Health Officer, to quarantine the town for rabies and muzzle all dogs for a period of twenty days. On July 6th the Board of Assessors was directed to spread a dog tax of One Dollar for the first dog, Two Dollars for each additional dog, Two Dollars for each bitch and Four Dollars for each additional dog and each assessor was required to enumerate all the dogs in his respective territory.

On July 6th, 1908, the Highway Commissioner was directed by the Town Board to erect signs limiting the speed of automobiles in Elma Village to 10 miles per hour and outside the village to 20 miles per hour.

Nov. 30th, 1908, a special election authorized the construction of a new steel bridge over Little Buffalo Creek on Clinton Street and the contract was awarded to The Canton Bridge Company, Dec. 7th, 1908, for \$2,750.00.

1909

Nov. 17th, 1909, Town Board awarded a contract to the Canton Bridge Company and Oswego Concrete Company to the amount of \$1,300 to build a new bridge on Davis Road near H. Kilms.

1910

May 16th, 1910, Town Board awarded a contract to Oswego Bridge Company to construct concrete arch bridge over Pond Creek on Chairfactory Road for \$1,445.00.

1911

Fire destroyed the combined store, residence, hall and barn of Mr. L. P. Reuther, March 17th, 1911. The building was built by Mr. Reuther in 1897 on the east side of Bowen Road in approximately the same location as the present Elma Fire Hall. His general store occupied the first floor; residence and a large room where town elections were held, was located on the second floor; a hall where dances were held was located on the third floor. The barn, which was located to the rear of the main building, was attached to it. While Mr. Reuther was doing his morning chores at 6 o'clock in the barn, an overturned lantern set fire to a load of hay and rapidly spread thru the buildings. Very little of the contents of the buildings was saved. Included in the contents burned were two tallyhoes, a Michigan automobile and a large supply of Jackman's "History of The Town of Elma". The loss of these books has made their present acquisition very difficult. Since the building was the first

in which Town Elections were regularly held, it had considerable significance.

March 25th, 1911, the Town Board appointed W. W. Grace, Justice of Peace, to fill the unexpired term of Harrison Tillou due to Mr. Tillou's death.

1912

Dr. E. M. Ewell was appointed Health Officer February 10th, 1912.

March 12th, 1912, Town Board purchased a steam roller on rental basis for \$3,000 per four years with the State paying 60% of cost.

A new concrete bridge, 40 feet wide, was authorized July 10th, 1912, over the mill race on Bowen Road and completed in October, 1912.

1913

Dr. A. W. Phelps was appointed Health Officer, February 22nd, 1913.

1914

On March 14th, 1914, a special town meeting at Joseph Geyer's blacksmith shop at Elma Center was called to vote on construction of new bridge over Buffalo Creek on Jamison Road at estimated cost of \$10,000 and a new bridge over Buffalo Creek at Girdle Road at estimated cost of \$7,500. The Jamison Road bridge was approved and the Girdle Road bridge disapproved in this election.

Bids on the Jamison Road bridge were received March 20th, 1915, and on March 25th the bid of Kelly and Wheeler, Buffalo, N. Y., was accepted for the lump sum of \$6,350 for a 60 ft. span 16 ft. wide plus \$120 per foot for widening from 16 ft. to 22 ft. On April 10th, 1915, the Town Board employed Wm. P. Butler at a salary of \$125 per month to supervise the construction of the bridge. On June 3rd, 1915, the Town Board, in view of the fact that Mr. Persons, father of Col. Persons, was the first person to drive over the old bridge and Col. Persons was the last to drive over it, extended to Col. Persons the honor of being the first to drive across the new structure.

1915

Henry Hotwes was appointed Postmaster at Elma Center in September of 1915.

Frank Hatch, Assessor, resigned Nov. 12th, 1915, and was appointed as Supt. of Highways to complete the unexpired

term of William Steinke; and Charles Briggs was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Assessors Board.

On Dec. 3rd, 1915, a joint meeting of the Town Boards of Elma and Aurora met at the Sinking Pond and adjourned under the Chairmanship of Supervisor Hill to the East Aurora Club. A proposal to abandon the old road and to construct a new one around the pond on higher ground was discussed, the cost to be divided between the two towns.

On Dec. 12th, 1915, the Depew & Lancaster Light Power and Conduit Company was granted a franchise of fifty years in the Town of Elma.

The installation of brick paving in Jamison Road by the contractors Busch and Percival was completed in 1915. The materials for this work was brought in on the railroad to Jamison Road Station and a narrow gage railroad was installed temporarily along the Jamison Road right of way for the distribution of materials required for the road.

1916

During 1916 improving of portions of Rice Road, Hill Road, Northrup Road, Pound Road, Bullis, Bowen and Williams Road was done by spreading of crushed stone or gravel.

On April 29th, 1916, the Town Board appointed E. G. Persons as Justice of Peace to complete the term vacated by the resignation of A. D. Blaine.

The Town Board on Aug. 11th, 1916, directed the Highway Supt. to build a new bridge in Blood Road to replace the one badly damaged July 2nd, cost not to exceed \$3,000.

1917

Dr. Ernest W. Ewell was appointed by the Town Board as Health Officer, Feb. 3rd, 1917. He replaced Dr. Phelps who resigned Dec. 15th, 1916.

Frank A. Templeton was appointed by the Town Board on April 25th, 1917, to replace F. W. Lathrope who resigned as Justice of Peace, Feb. 3rd.

June 8th, 1917, the Town Board appointed Wm. H. Barnhart, Frank C. Hageman and Caleb F. Brown as Excise Commission to designate places where liquor may be sold in the Town. Frank C. Hageman resigned from this commission and Andrew Matthis was appointed, July 5th, in his place.

Town Board made a strong effort in 1917 thru Congressman Smith and others to secure additional RFD mail carriers from Elma Center to replace those serving the town from Post Offices in adjoining towns.

The Depew & Lancaster Light Power & Conduit Co. were granted Nov. 30th, 1917, six month extension of time to com-

plete power line on Bowen Road to Clinton Street and until Sept. 1st, 1918, to complete line on Rice Road to Schultz and Schultz to Jamison Road. Their franchise required completion of their lines by Dec. 18th, 1917. On April 20th, 1918, an additional extension of time of 18 months after the end of the war between United States and Germany was granted.

1918

On June 15th, 1918, a special town meeting was held to vote on the construction of a new bridge on Bullis Road over Buffalo Creek. The old wooden covered bridge was condemned in March of the previous year and the Town Board had requested Robert North, County Engineer, to submit plans for a new bridge. Two proposals were submitted. Prop. No. 1—Reinforced concrete arch bridge extending straight on lot line with estimated cost of \$23,500. Prop. No. 2—Reinforced concrete arch bridge in same location as the existing bridge with an estimated cost of \$18,000. A total of 44 votes were cast and Prop. No. 2 was carried. Plans and Specifications were advertised and on Aug. 3rd, 1918, Meyer & Meyer Corp., the only bid received, was opened. Prices submitted were No. 1, \$21,652, No. 2 \$19,652.80 and No. 3 \$17,952.80. The County Attorney advised that the bid be rejected, since the total cost would exceed the \$18,000 authorized.

1919

March 19th, 1919, Ralph M. Tillou was appointed Town Clerk to fill the vacancy made by the resignation of Nathaniel Hacker, Jr., on March 15th and Mr. Hacker was commended by the Board for the able manner in which he had performed his duties.

August 2nd, 1919, a new bridge over Pond Road in Bullis Road was authorized by the Town Board.

Town Board meetings had been held in No. 6 school for a number of years. Since the school had hired a second teacher, the room was needed and the Town Board was requested to vacate the premises. Elma Hall Association building then became the Town Board meeting place.

Republic Light Heat and Power Co. was granted a franchise by the Town Board, Nov. 15th, 1919, to lay its gas mains in the streets, highways, alleys, lanes and public places in the Town of Elma.

1920

The tornado which unroofed several houses in Ebenezer, July 23rd, 1920, did only superficial damage in Elma.

A storm on the night of July 23rd, 1920, washed out a bridge

on Town Line Road. The Town Boards of Elma and Marilla met at the site of the bridge, August 7th, and agreed to consult with the County Engineer's office relative to the building of a new bridge. This bridge was finally rebuilt in 1922.

Northrup Road was reconstructed in the year of 1920 and became known as a Town and County Road.

1921

March 29th, 1921, Dr. A. H. Briggs was appointed Health Officer by the Town Board.

Frank Slade built a coal and feed store on Pound Road and had a new siding run into it by the Pennsylvania Railroad at Springbrook.

1922

Wilson V. Fox was granted April 28th, 1922, permission to run a bus line thru the town on Seneca Street.

During the night of Sept. 22nd, 1922, fire destroyed most of Elma Center. The buildings burned included Luder's Hotel which was formerly the Grader Hotel, Frank Slade's feed mill, Beicke's Tavern, Barbershop, Hotwes' store, Joseph Geyer's residence, Sutton's barn, Luder's cider mill and garage.

Town Board adopted the New York State Sanitary Code as a health ordinance, Dec. 18th, 1922.

For many years the bridge over Buffalo Creek at Gypsy Corners had been maintained on an equal basis by the Towns of Elma and Marilla, although the bridge was in the Town of Marilla. The bridge was finally condemned and closed in 1920. There followed a long legal argument as to whether the Town of Elma should help pay the cost of a new bridge. It was finally decided that the cost be divided between the two towns and a contract was let to Meyer & Meyer Corp. for \$30,900 for the new bridge, March 17th, 1923.

1923

On March 31st, 1923, Lighting District No. 1 for street lighting on Clinton St. was formed and contract signed with Depew & Lancaster Electric Light Co. On Oct. 5th, 1923, Lighting District No. 2 was formed and contract with power company signed for street lighting on Bowen Road.

1924

On Feb. 7th, 1924, the Town Board purchased a 10 ton Holt tractor and Sargent plow and a second plow, for a five ton truck. This was the first snow handling equipment obtained by the town.

Ed. Bridgman's barn on Bowen Road was leased in March of 1924 for the storage of town tools.

A Ford truck was purchased by the Highway Commissioner in May for town highway purposes.

1925

A franchise, originally granted to Oaks and Mullaney to operate bus service through the Town of Elma from Buffalo to East Aurora was transferred June 5th, 1925, to Buffalo Interurban Bus Lines and a second franchise was granted for operation of bus lines east of Bowen Road on Clinton Street to Marilla.

1926

Benjamin Buffum was appointed in March of 1926 as an Assessor to complete the unexpired term of Francis Thomas.

A special meeting was held May 8th, 1926, at School No. 6 by the Town Board, to vote on erection of a new bridge across Buffalo Creek on Bullis Road. Proposition No. 2, for the erection of a new concrete arch bridge in the same location as the existing bridge received 45 votes. Proposition No. 1 for the erection of a steel bridge directly across the valley on the lot lines received 13 votes. Bids were taken on June 25th, and contracts awarded to the low bidders, H. T. Gumtore for \$33,800 for the bridge, and to Abbott & Briggs for \$7,500 for the excavation.

1927

On Jan. 14th, 1927, the Town Board authorized the Road Commissioner to purchase a half ton International truck equipped with automatic hoist.

The elimination of Bowen Road railroad crossing by the installation of an underground pass was being engineered by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1927, and the railroad offered to eliminate Rice Road crossing by building a road parallel to the railroad to Woodard Road, thus utilizing the one underground crossing for all three roads. A wood foot bridge would have been built over the railroad at Rice Road to accommodate school children. At a meeting of the Town Board, April 30th, 1927, after a discussion of this proposal with Rice Road property owners, the Board refused the railroad's offer.

Earl Hotwes was appointed Postmaster, May 14th, 1927, to replace his father who passed away in January.

1928

March 20th, 1928, Lighting District No. 3 for Seneca Street

was formed and contract for same signed with Western New York Gas & Electric Co.

1929

On April 11th, 1929, the brick house originally built in 1850 and known as the Charles Briggs house at the top of the hill south of Buffalo Creek on Bowen Road, burned to the ground. The house was said to have been used as a station for the so called "underground railway," a secret cooperative movement in assisting escaped slaves to reach Canada in the 1850's. The house was owned by Mrs. McIntosh who was away at the time of its destruction.

The purchase of two and one-half acres of land on the southwest corner of Bowen Road and Rice Road was authorized by the Town Board, May 6th, 1929, for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings to house Town tools and machinery.

Twelve Stop signs were purchased for installation on Seneca St., Clinton St. and Jamison Road at various intersections in August of 1929.

Elma Community Men's Club was formed and held its first meeting, Aug. 1st, 1929, in the Elma Grange Hall. Its first president was Everett Green and he continued in that office for a number of years. The Club was originally formed for the purpose of sponsoring Troop No. 18 of the Boy Scouts of America and continued as an active institution until 1942. Among the many notable projects which the Club sponsored was a Minstrel Show put on by local talent which filled the Grange Hall to capacity for two nights.

At 7:30 A.M. on August 12th, 1929, an earthquake said to have centered in Attica, N. Y., was felt strongly in Elma. However, no damage was reported from the earthquake except that thereafter some wells seemed to have been effected.

1930

Jamison Road Post Office, which had functioned in Bleeck's Store with Ernest Bleeck as Postmaster since 1897, was discontinued Oct. 2nd, 1930.

Town Board directed Supervisor to install stop and go lights on Transit Road at Seneca St. and Clinton St., on Nov. 7th, 1930.

1931

On Aug. 10th, 1931, William Foster resigned as Assessor and the Town Board appointed Charles Shabtac to complete his term.

1932

In March, 1932, the Town Board purchased another three

ton truck complete with four yard body and hoist.

Town Board authorized the painting of the cannons and flag pole and the planting of some shrubbery by Jacob Jerge at the Memorial Monument on April 29th, 1932.

A barn belonging to Joseph Grace on Rice Road was destroyed by fire, June 9th, 1932.

Dr. John T. Mercer of East Aurora was appointed Health Officer, Dec. 10th, 1932, to replace Dr. L. B. Lougee and in March 11th, 1933, Dr. Lougee was reappointed for a four year term. No explanations available for such rapid changes.

1934

In April of 1934 the Town of Elma became an active member of the Association of Towns of the State of New York.

On April 7th, 1934, the Town Board requested the Penna. R. R. to install signal lights at the Rice Road crossing.

The Town Board cooperated with Elma Community Men's Club in the annual Memorial Day program at the Memorial Monument, May 30th, 1934.

Taxpayers petition to the Town Board to purchase Elma Hall was filed with the Board on Oct. 13th, 1934, and the Board set Oct. 17th as the date for special meeting to consider the petition when it was decided to hold a referendum on Nov 6th, the regular election day on the question "Shall the Town of Elma expend not to exceed \$4,000 to purchase the building and property now owned by Elma Hall Association." This question was voted down at the election.

1935

On Feb. 5th, 1935, the Town Board hired Harold Wieland, Architect, to submit sketches of a combined Town Hall and Garage to be erected on the town lot at Rice and Bowen Roads. Mr. Wieland submitted plans of a two floor building 50 ft. x 80 ft. with an estimated cost of \$30,000 on March 9th and a taxpayers petition was circulated requesting a special election on the question of erecting the building. At the March 16th Board meeting, April 20th was set for the special election to vote on the taxpayers petition. It was also decided at the request of C. W. Hurd to submit an alternate proposition to purchase the Elma Hall at a price not to exceed \$4,500 and to expend not more than \$6,000 for the repair of the Hall and the erection of a separate building to house tools and machinery. At the special election on April 20th both propositions were defeated.

In May of 1935, the town purchased materials for the construction of gravel walks at Elma Center, Elma Village and Springbrook and WPA furnished the labor to install them.

At the June 1st meeting in 1935, the question of water supply for Elma Village was discussed and Supervisor Eldridge directed to get an estimated cost of piping water from the Lee property at Elma Center.

Elma Garden Club was granted permission July 6th, by the Town Board and State Highway Dept. to landscape the banks in front of Luders Restaurant along Bowen Road.

On Sept. 3rd the Town Board made an application to the Federal Government for a loan and grant to aid in financing Elma Water System. This financial aid to Elma Water District No. 1 was never granted.

An earthquake which awakened most of the people in Elma, occurred at 1 A.M., Oct. 31st but did no material damage.

On Nov. 7th the Town Board made the improvement of Ostrander Road a W.P.A. project and on Jan. 6th, 1936, the Board added work on Griffin Road to the project.

A new snow plow with hydraulic hoist was purchased in December for use on the ten ton Holt tractor.

On Dec. 12th the Town Board designated the Blood Road, Rice Road and Pound Road crossings on the Pennsylvania Railroad as blind and dangerous and petitioned the railroad and the Public Service Commission to provide them with red flashing lights.

In August the Pennsylvania Greyhound Lines requested a franchise to operate buses thru the Town of Elma. After a hearing, this request was granted by the Town Board.

1936

An early morning fire on December 7th destroyed the Luders Hotel at Elma Center. The fire which was discovered in the kitchen at 1:30 A.M. by Elmer Luders, rapidly spread thru the dance hall, garage, cider mill and residence as it was fanned by a high wind. Hotwes General Store and Post Office located adjacent to the Garage were saved but were damaged to some extent. Firemen from Springbrook, East Aurora, Orchard Park, Lancaster, Marilla and Town Line battled the blaze.

Dr. Grace J. Shaver was appointed Health Officer by the Town Board on November 5th.

1937

The Town Board purchased two U. S. Automatic voting machines on July 14th for use at elections in the town at \$750 each.

During the years of 1936 and 1938 the town's indebtedness was reduced from \$32,850 to \$15,500 and the town tax rate reduced by 90 cents.

Billington Road improvements was made a W.P.A. project.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Gay, who had moved on Rice Road in 1927 from Clark's Summit, Penna., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 24th. A dinner was given in their honor at the home of their daughter, Mrs. F. I. Sigman and Mr. Sigman to honor the occasion.

1938

A new Autocar truck with 148-inch wheel base was purchased, by the authorization of the Town Board, May 12th, at a cost of \$4,594.34 which included the repairing, painting and mounting the old International truck body on the new Autocar chassis. Of this cost \$1,849.34 was allowed for the old International truck chassis.

Harry Larkin, Jr., was commissioned by the U. S. Weather Bureau to operate a local weather observation station at his home on Bowen Road.

People owning property on Elderberry Lane requesting the Town Board to take over the road on June 1st. Since the road was less than three rods wide, the Board refused; however, the Board offered to purchase a strip of 16.5 ft. wide running along the west side of the town lot at Bowen Road and Rice Road, to be used, in part to provide a three rod right of way, if the property owners would obtain and deed to the town enough property to increase the remaining portion of the lane to three rod width, and, also provide an access road at the south end of it to Bowen Road.

At the request of the Town Board, July 13th, the State Traffic Commission installed signs thru Springbrook on Seneca St., and, on Bowen Rd. between Clinton and Bullis Rd., restricting traffic to 35 miles per hour.

1938

A large barn on the farm of Harry Luders, Schultz Road, was destroyed by fire during the afternoon of August 25th, 1938. The cause of the fire was believed to have been spontaneous combustion. Mr. Luders was attending the Erie County Fair when it was discovered. Elma, East Aurora, Marilla and Springbrook fire companies responded to the call and saved the dwelling from damage.

At its meeting on Oct. 4th, 1938 the Town Board authorized the Highway Superintendent to purchase a new snow plow for mounting on the Autocar.

1939

On January 25th, 1939, the Board authorized the Highway Supt. to purchase a one ton Ford truck for \$737.50.

Kingsley Road resurfacing was made a WPA project in 1939.

An abandoned infant was found by State Highway personnel, about 30 ft. from the road, on the northside of Clinton Street, opposite Elma Nursery, July 13th, 1939. The workmen were attracted by the cries of the baby and upon investigation discovered its cause.

The Depew Post of the Veterans' of Foreign Wars selected a huge boulder weighing approximately 15 tons, lying in the Buffalo Creek at the Charles Newton farm in East Elma, for a memorial stone. Mr. Newton gave them the boulder. A dozen men, two trucks and a Holt tractor required two days to move it up to the road and onto a trailer for transportation on August 10th, 1939, to Depew.

As directed by the Town Board August 17th, 1939 a caution light was installed at Bowen and Bullis Roads.

Petitions requesting the Town Board to provide a Public Dump and to formulate a Building Code having been filed, the Board called a Public hearing for discussion of these projects, on September 30th, 1939.

Jacob Egli, Bowen Road, Elma Center, died at the age of 90 October 5th, 1939. He was the last Civil War veteran living in Elma and regularly took part in the Memorial Day services at the Memorial Monument. He also taught a class in the Elma Community Sunday School.

The Joint Charities quota of \$450 in Elma 1939, was over subscribed.

At the town election in November 1939, two propositions were offered. Proposition No. 1 reducing Justices of the Peace to two and providing for election of two councilmen in their place was lost. Proposition No. 2 for the providing of a Town Dump was carried and the Board set up the first Town Dump on the property of Charles Newton, Creek Road.

The former home of Lewis Bullis, built on the southeast corner of Lot 29 at Bullis and Girdle Roads in 1859, was destroyed by fire the night of December 7th, 1939. The building was one of the most pretentious of the early Elma homes and was owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stitz at the time of the fire.

1940

On January 22, 1940, the Town Board authorized the purchase of an Autocar truck with 165" wheelbase complete with body, hoist and snow plow at a cost of \$11,472, the allowance for the old 1938 Autocar was \$3,972.

A Dog Warden was designated for the first time, March 8th, 1940.

Eugene H. Pfeil, who operated the Sleepy Hollow Print

Shop on Davis Road in Springbrook, began the publication of the "Elma News" in March, 1940. The paper was a weekly publication and continued for about two years. It served admirably to acquaint the people in the various parts of the town with each other and regularly backed all of the progressive movements. It was the first Elma newspaper and was designated as the official Town Paper by the Town Board as long as it continued its publication.

1940

Public hearing was held by the Town Board for the discussion of a Building Code in Elma Hall on April 24th, 1940 and at the Odd Fellows Hall in Springbrook, May 22nd.

Community Chest quota in Elma in 1940 was \$450. Mrs. H. T. Dow was the Elma Captain and raised a total of \$516.

Work was started on the contract for the elimination of the Jamison Road crossing of the Pennsylvania Railroad, July 11th, 1940. The H. F. Stimm Co. contract for the underpass was for \$125,000. Joseph LaBurbera of Mt. Morris was accidentally killed by coming in contact with a 2200 volt line on the project, October 17th.

Miss Bernice Hecker of Rice Road was the unanimous choice of the judges at Springbrook Fireman's picnic August 1st, 1940 as Elma's Personality girl.

A stroke of lightning during the night of August 29th, 1940, set fire to the John R. Lee farm barn on Bullis Road doing an estimated damage of \$25,000. Firemen did an excellent job of preventing complete destruction of the building.

1941

On June 16th, 1941 the Town Board changed the Election Districts from two districts to three districts.

Nearly 100 persons attended the 16th annual reunion of District School No. 3 at East Elma September 9th, 1941. Mrs. Bertha Hatch, President; Mrs. Lily Marks, Secretary; and Mrs. Warren J. Snyder, Treasurer were re-elected at the reunion.

Benjamin Buffum was elected to the Dairymen's League local organization in 1941 and 1942.

1942

On February 4th, 1942, the purchase of a new International truck with snow plow was authorized by the Town Board and on February 11th, the O. P. M. was requested to furnish a priority for same. Purchase was finally made on March 11th for the plow for \$3,914.17.

Edgar James Morrow, Jr., who joined the Canadian Air Force, before the United States entered World War II, became a Flight Sergeant Pilot and died in the line of duty in Scotland May 23rd, 1942. His remains are interred in Dyce, Scotland.

During 1942, the Town Board authorized the construction of an observation post tower on the Springbrook Fire Hall at a cost of approximately \$400, and, the purchase of \$135 worth of First Aid equipment for Civilian Protection. They gave all Auxiliary Police the same powers as Peace Officers during the war emergencies.

Corporal Kenneth Middleton Hagmire was killed in an accident in Camp Young, Indio, Calif., September 21st, 1942.

On November 5th, 1942, the Town Board, having gone on the Budget System, held a public hearing on the budget for 1943.

1943

On January 6th, 1943, the Town Board adjourned to January 7th due to a "black out" and at the January 7th meeting five hand operated sirens were purchased for use of the Air Raid Wardens. On May 12th, ten additional hand sirens were purchased.

In accordance with the Town Board's direction of April 14th, a Memorial Board, listing the names of all the Elma boys in the service was erected at the Memorial Monument.

On July 7th, 1943, the Supervisor applied to the O. C. D. for the loan of such equipment, as available, to be assigned to the various Fire Companies.

Sgt. Frank A. Matthews, Jr., Schultz Road, repaired the rudder control cables of a B24 plane in flight, which had been shot away in battle, on September 28th, 1943, in a raid over Wewak, Japan. This made it possible to bring the B24 safely back to its base.

Mr. and Mrs. John Becker, Rice Road, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary August 2nd, 1943.

1944

SECOND WORLD WAR HOME FRONT ACTIVITIES

While Elma young men were fighting and dying on the various fronts in the Second World War, those left at home were organized for public protection. Defense headquarters were set up in the basement of Hotwes store at Elma Center. Sirens were installed at strategic points in the town. When blackouts were ordered by Buffalo Headquarters, they were received at the Elma Headquarters by phone. Phone calls were made from there to other volunteers, living adjacent to the siren locations, who sounded the blackout warning and all clear

signals.

Other volunteers were appointed and trained for Wardens, Special Police and First Aid Personnel. The Wardens were provided with portable sirens and were required to patrol the roads and make sure that all lights were out during blackouts. The Special Police were stationed at various locations and required to stop and blackout all automobile traffic and report accidents to Headquarters. First Aid Personnel were sent to locations where accidents or simulated accidents occurred. All of these volunteers were required to take a First Aid course which was given over a period of several weeks at the Elma Fire Hall.

Red Cross workers were busy in preparation of bandages and in gathering of blood donations at the Blood Bank.

Gasoline, sugar, flour, shoes and most other staple goods were strictly rationed and could only be obtained by presenting government provided stamps to the dealers at the time of purchase.

1944

In order to combat the prevalence of rabies, a dog quarantine requiring all dogs running loose to be muzzled, was placed in effect by the Health Officer March 8th, 1944, and, all constables were made responsible for its enforcement.

Due to the many cases of polio in Erie County, the Board of Health prevented the schools in the Town of Elma from opening until September 11th, 1944.

Pvt. George William Landahl was killed in Hanapepe, Kauai, Hawaii, September 20th, 1944, when a shell accidentally exploded. He was buried in Union Cemetery, Rice Road.

Earl J. Hotwes was appointed postmaster at Elma Center, December 4th, 1944.

1945

On January 2nd, 1945, an eight hour blizzard laid down a three foot layer of snow. The morning commuter train into Buffalo was stalled in Ebenezer until 3 p. m. when the flyer from Washington, due at 7:55 a. m., finally reached Ebenezer at 3 p. m. and picked up the "jerks" passengers. The Flyer could not get into the Central station in Buffalo but finally pulled into the D. L. & W. station at 5:30 p. m.

A Wausau truck and snow plow was purchased at a cost of \$14,970 by resolution of the Town Board on March 15th, 1945.

At the request of the Health Officer "no dumping" signs were placed at the Bowen Road and Blossom Road bridges over Buffalo Creek by order of the Town Board, June 13th, 1945.

Lt. Clarence E. Meidas of Jamison Road, was killed in action on Luzon, Philippines, June 14th, 1945.

John Baker Tillou, First Lieutenant in Third Air Commando Group, Fourth Fighter Squadron, A. A. F., lost his life in action on the island of Formosa, June 26th, 1945. His remains are interred in the National Cemetery at Elmira, N. Y.

The State Post War Planning Commission, having offered to pay 50% of the cost of approved project plans for post war work, the Town Board in 1945 directed them to proceed with plans for a Garage, Library and Town Office Building at an estimated cost of \$70,000.

Two earthquake tremolos were felt in Elma September 5th, 1945. The first occurring at 12:39 p. m. and the second at 4.52 p. m.

1946

The Tax Payers petition for the creation of a Building Code was filed with the Town Board February 13th, 1946. Supervisor Lexo, as directed by the Town Board, appointed the following Committee to formulate a Building Code: Leo F. Jerge, Herbert E. Stitz, Edward Compton, Dr. G. J. Shaver, Myron A. Clark, Harlan Luders, Merle Reuther, Edward Strief, Franklin Lein, Walter Kester, Gordon Baker and the members of the Town Board. Leo F. Jerge was appointed Chairman of the Committee and Fred. I. Sigman, Secretary. The Committee met regularly through the next two months, and 1,000 copies of the resulting code was published by the Town Board's authorization of April 10th, and circulated through the town. On April 30th a Public Hearing was held in Elma Hall where it was freely discussed by those present and the general opinion was favorable. On May 10th the Town Board approved the Code and the Code went into effect.

Adams & Klehm completed their new feed mill at Jamison Road and opened for business January 31st, 1946.

A barn and studio apartment owned by Clifford B. Marsh located on Bowen Road, was destroyed by fire, April 30th, 1946.

Robert E. McPherson received honorable mention in the Albright Art Gallery Service Men's display on June 29th, 1946, for the water color picture which he did while in New Guinea.

Roy C. Luders used DDT in combination with copper sulphate for potato spray July 13th, 1946. This was the first application of this agency in Elma.

Olney & Carpenter Canning Co. opened a pea vinery on the Creek Road, July 15th, 1946. The plant opened with four five ton machines in operation.

Cortland and George Briggs were granted a permit to build a dairy on Cemetery Road, August 7th, 1946.

1946 Community Chest drive in Elma was in charge of Mr. Urban and a total of \$1,400 was raised.

A 1906 Thomas Flyer, which was the American entry in the 22,000 mile race from New York to Paris in 1908, was purchased by C. E. Finnegan and stored in his barn on Bowen Road August 20th, 1946. The car was equipped with a four cylinder sixty horse power engine and had 125 gallon capacity in its tanks. The trip was by the way of Chicago, San Francisco and Alaska. It was driven by Montague Roberts.

On December 28th, 1946, the Town Board voted to enter the town in the New York State Retirement System.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin J. Eldridge celebrated their Golden Wedding December 31st, 1946. A dinner was held in their honor at Hotel Curtis, East Aurora, followed by a reception in the home of their daughter, Mrs. Clarence Schopper in East Aurora.

1947

Earl Hotwes was appointed the first Building Inspector by the Town Board on January 2nd, 1947.

On March 3rd, heavy snows and high winds completely closed both railroad and automobile traffic. More than 100 automobiles were stalled between Transit Road and Springbrook. The "jerk" on the Pennsylvania was stalled two days in the cut south of Rice Road. Most of the 280 passengers remained aboard all night with nothing to eat except some oranges they found in the baggage car. They were transported back to Buffalo the next morning by a relief train. Drifts of snow were piled up to the second story windows at Elma Center.

On April 9th, a building permit was granted to Harold Schettler for the erection of a restaurant at Seneca Street and Transit Road.

Charles Shabtac was captain of the Community Chest drive in Elma in 1947, and succeeded in raising the Town's quota.

On April 13th, the Town Board inspected several sites for the location of a town garage and offered to buy the triangular portion of property bounded by Bowen, Woodard and P. R. R. for the sum of \$1,500.

A building permit was granted to Robert Little for a restaurant at Springbrook May 14th.

On August 5th, a permit was granted Jerry Brown for the erection of a restaurant at Bowen and Jamison Roads.

On September 10th a permit was granted to Leo Burke for a Bake Shop in Seneca Street.

New York State Traffic Commission was requested by the Town Board on September 10th, to regular traffic on Bowen Road, from Bullis Road to Clinton Street to 35 miles per hour.

After several public hearings, the Town Board authorized Winona Road as a paving district on September 29th.

The barn owned by Fred Becker on Seneca Street in Springbrook, was destroyed by fire which started at 3 p. m. on October 2nd.

Robert Heim and Mr. Voght were granted a permit for the erection of a garage on Bowen Road October 15th.

1948

Pennsylvania Train No. 990, the last of the commuting trains to Buffalo and known as the "jerk", made its last run with 100 passengers aboard, January 24th. At one time there were a total of nine trains which carried commuters into Buffalo, six of which stopped at Jamison Road, Elma and Springbrook.

A meeting of the Zoning Committee was held in Elma Fire Hall April 14th.

On May 28th, the Town Board held a special Town election at District No. 6 School, to vote on a proposition to purchase appropriate land and erect a town garage and other necessary space to be used for general purposes at a total expenditure not to exceed \$40,000. The proposition was approved. On Oct. 13th, the Town Board set the date of Nov. 20th for a special election, to vote on the Bond issue for this project and at this election the Bond issue was voted down. Hence it appeared that the people of the town were desirous of a town Garage, but, were unwilling to pay for it.

Mrs. Louise Morath was elected President August 10th, by the Elma Ladies' Drum Corps at their first meeting.

The Elma Fire Company added an inhalator to their first aid equipment, December 9th.

The Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. William Marks of East Elma was celebrated December 21st. Forty guests were present at a dinner given by their children in Ebenezer Fire Hall.

The State Youth Commission notified the town on December 24th, 1948, that they would pay half of a \$2,000 recreation program. The four Volunteer Fire Companies were designated by the Town Board to arrange the programs.

1949

On January 25th, the Town Board appointed the following Zoning Committee: Leo Jerge, Herbert Stitz, Edward Compton, Gordon Baker, Franklin Lein, John Klehm, Harlan Luders, Edward Strief, Dr. G. J. Shaver, Myron A. Clark, Hardy Greis, Jessie Fournier, Lawrence Hoffman and designated Peace Justice Sigman, as Chairman.

On February 19th, Leo Birke was appointed Building Inspector.

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Becker, Seneca Street, Springbrook, was comemorated at the Elma Methodist Church March 19th, by a reception given by their children.

Lawrence Schneider was granted a permit March 28th, for a garage to be located at Bullis and Girdle Roads.

"Stop and Go" signals was authorized by the Town Board at Bullis and Bowen Roads, June 8th.

A record low freeze and low temperature of 26 degrees was established in Western New York on June 8th.

The new County bridge over Buffalo Creek at Girdle Road was completed in the summer of 1949 at a cost of \$250,000. This eliminated the dead end in this road which had existed for many years.

Streif Road was deeded to the Town by Edward and Ruth Streif and accepted by the Board August 10th, and Dorris Drive was accepted by the Board with the provision that it be made to conform to the standards of the Town and that a clear title be given to the Town for it. Dorris Road was officially accepted August 8th, 1951.

On October 12th, 1949, Louis Winch and the County of Erie deeds to Winona Road were accepted by the Town Board.

Fire destroyed the home of August Donak at Clinton Street and Stolle Road, on November 25th.

1950

On January 29th, the large barn and hen house on the farm of Leland and Kenneth Rupp on Ostrander Road was destroyed by fire. All the stock except five cows and 300 hens were saved.

Edward Compton was appointed by the Town Board on February 1st as Chairman of the Zoning Committee and Lawrence Hoffman was appointed Building Inspector, March 8th.

Iroquois Gas Corporation was granted a permit for a compressor station on Hempstreet Road, April 12th, 1950.

On July 12th, after a public hearing had been held and bids taken, a one ton Ford truck was purchased by the Town Board for \$1,387.45.

A public hearing was held on July 18th, for the consideration of the Zoning Ordinance which had been prepared by the Committee. The 23 people present having voted their approval, the Town Board adopted the ordinance.

The Town Board appointed Edward Compton, Chairman, Gordon Baker, Miles Brasted, Harold Schettler and Melvin Willert as Zoning and Building Code Board of Appeals.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathis of Schwartz Road celebrated

their 50th wedding anniversary by a reception given in their home October 21st, 1950.

1951

Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Bleekman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 11th at their home on Jamison Road.

Elma Civil Defense center was opened in the basement of Schultz General Store, Bowen Road, Elma Center, March 20th.

Bids were received May 23rd, on a tractor and mowers and a Ford tractor and mower purchased by the Town Board at a cost of \$1,868.75.

The eighty year old barn of Melvin Hurd on Bowen Road, was destroyed by fire July 7th. Blossom, Elma and Springbrook Fire Companies dropped out of the Firemen's parade at West Seneca, to fight the fire, and did an excellent job, on a very hot day, in saving the residence.

After a public hearing held July 26th, the Town Board established a Fire Protection District for all the Town of Elma exclusive of the Springbrook Fire District, and, set \$4,700 as the amount to be raised by taxation, distributed between the three districts. After a public hearing held on August 8th, contracts between the Town and the three Fire Companies were signed.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, August 14th, at their home on Maple Road.

Four miles of Little Buffalo Creek was dedicated officially in 1951, as the first artificial bait trout stream. Several thousand trout had been stocked here in the two previous years.

The barn of John Olszuvski on Bullis Road burned, August 31st, one of the hottest days in the year, with the temperature in the 90's. Several of the attending Blossom, Springbrook and Elma Firemen were overcome by the heat.

Mrs. G. Burwell Tyler headed the Community Chest drive in Elma in 1951. The quota for the town was over subscribed.

Fire badly damaged the home of Lester E. Hopper in Ostrander Road, December 27th. Jamison Road, East Aurora and Marilla Fire Companies did fine work in spite of the strong wind which was blowing and saved a large part of the house.

The Erie County Planning Board, in its 1951 report, proposed the Aurora Expressway originating in the contemplated Thruway interchange north of Seneca Street, between Harlem Road and Buffalo City line, paralleling the Pennsylvania Railroad on the south of the tracks, to West Blood Road.

Miles Brasted resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Fred Dollar was appointed to it, December 31st, 1951.

1952

On June 30th, the Town Board divided Voting District No. 2 and No. 3 and formed the No. 4 voting district in the town.

The Town Board adopted the State Building Code for Multiple Residences Law, July 9th.

Sodium Vapor lamps were authorized at Clinton and Girdle Roads and at Bowen and Blood Roads by the Town Board, August 13th.

On August 25th, a permit was granted to Iroquois Gas Corp. to erect a garage and warehouse on Hemstreet Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Prince, Rice Road, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 4th, 1952, with a reception at their home.

Ensign David J. Baker, while in flight from Corpus Christi, Texas to Jacksonville, Florida, on September 21, was caught in a bad storm and was killed, near Jacksonville, Florida, when his fighter plane crash landed.

A permit was granted Bruce Heineman for a garage to be erected on Seneca Street in Springbrook, September 17th.

The Community Chest drive in Elma was in charge of Colin A. Coates in 1952 and went over the top.

Moog Valve Company plant at Seneca Street and Jamison Road was damaged by fire September 25th, to an estimated amount of \$25,000.

1953

Fred Dollar was appointed Chairman of Zoning Board of Appeals, January 2nd.

Earl Lexo, having resigned as Supervisor to accept the appointment of Deputy County Clerk at the Auto License Bureau, Buffalo; a special meeting of the Town Board was called March 5th, 1953 to fill the vacancy. Merle Reuther was appointed as Supervisor to serve until January 1st, 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Wedemeyer observed their 50th wedding anniversary March 5th.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Clark were entertained at the Roycroft Inn, East Aurora, by Mrs. Clark's sister, Mrs. Richard Morgan, on June 3rd, honoring their 50th wedding anniversary. Guests included relatives and some of the original wedding party.

Mr. and Mrs. John Becker observed their 60th wedding anniversary August 2d. Members of the Springbrook Community Church held a reception in their honor in the church.

On April 1st Gordon Baker resigned from the Zoning Board of Appeals and Robert Sanborn was appointed in his place. Gordon Baker, Oscar Beckman, Robin Dale, Walter Kester,

Leonard Bainbridge, John Klehm and Edward Compton were appointed to the Planning Board.

On May 13th, a permit was granted Briggs Dairy to erect a retail milk store and processing plant on Bowen Road.

Robert Sanborn was appointed May 13th to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ed Compton on the Planning Board. Earl Lexo was also appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Walter Kester.

After a Public Hearing held on May 20th the Town Board adopted a resolution reducing the Justice of Peace to two in number and the election of two Councilmen, the first Councilman to be elected at the next election and the second on the following biennial election.

The new county bridge over Buffalo Creek at Blossom Road was completed and dedicated September 19th. The cost of the bridge was \$150,000. A large crowd attended the dedication when Jacob Horning, a life long Elma resident, was the principle speaker.

On September 23d a permit was granted to N. Y. State Electric and Gas Corp. for the erection of a substation on the south side of Bullis Road.

Fred Sigman was appointed first Town Historian September 23d.

Permit was granted on October 14th to Frank Unverdorben to erect an office and display room in front of his lumber mill.

Cortland M. Briggs and George A. Briggs opened a new dairy and ice cream bar on Bowen Road, November 19th.

1954

On January 4th Roy Luders was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Robert Sanborn to Chairman of that Board. Donald Bundy was also appointed as first Town Engineer.

George Blair was appointed Town Attorney on January 13th.

On March 10th Harry Neidig was appointed to the Planning Board replacing Gordon Baker who had resigned on February 3d.

March 10th Henry Fleischman was granted a permit to build a Dairy Salesroom on Seneca Street.

Kings Road was accepted by the Town Board in its meeting of April 14th. In this meeting the Board also granted the County of Erie the right to control, regulate, and prohibit pollution of the air by smoke, noxious gases and odors, deposits, dust or other pollution from sources within the county.

June 23d, a permit was granted to Robert Steinwachs to

erect a grocery store on Seneca Street, Lot No. 25. The Town Board also authorized the installation of "Stop" signs at Rice and Schultz Roads in this meeting.

On July 28th the Town Board requested the State Traffic Commission to install a stop and go signal at Bowen Road and Clinton Street, stating that there had been three accidents there within the preceding month.

The electors of School District No. 6, in its meeting in 1954, offered to sell for one dollar the building and grounds to the Town of Elma, to be used as a Town Hall. This offer was accepted by the Town Board on August 11th. However, the Board of Iroquois Central School Trustees, although represented at No. 6 School when the offer was voted, later decided that the electors did not have the right to sell the school.

After a public hearing held in September 15th, the Town Board adopted the Zoning Ordinance and new Building Code for the Town of Elma, the Building Code being that formulated by the New York State Building Code Commission.

The proposed Aurora Expressway right of way map was received by the Town Board October 4th, and made a part of the official town map.

Golfview Drive was accepted as a Town road on October 4th.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvine Robinson, Bowen Road, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 6th, 1954. They were married in England, came to this country 44 years ago, and moved to Elma 17 years ago.

Permit was granted October 15th to Kenneth Klechlin for a gas station on N. W. corner of Clinton and Town Line Roads.

The purchase of a general duty highway truck at a maximum price of \$7,000, was authorized by the Town Board October 13th. Bids were received on September 10th and a Ford truck purchased September 17th for the low bid price of \$5,108.

In its meeting of December 12th, the Town Board requested the Dept. of Mental Hygiene of the State of New York to locate its proposed school in some location other than Elma, stating that Elma was without adequate water supply, police protection, sewer facilities and transportation for the project.

1955

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Henderson, Schwartz Road, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20th.

On April 25th Mr. and Mrs. James Hurd gave a tea in their new home on Bowen Road, honoring the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hurd, Bowen Road.

On January 12th, Roland Martin was appointed to the Zoning Board, Harold Schettler to the Zoning Board of Appeals in place of Fred Dollar, who had resigned.

Ralph H. Simme was appointed Building Inspector by the Town Board, January 28th.

Frank Unverdorben was granted a permit to construct a lumber storage building on Lot No. 95, Pound Road, February 23d.

Gerald Wedemeyer was appointed to the Planning Board April 13th, to fill the unexpired term of Robin Dare who had resigned.

Regulations for Subdivisions prepared by Planning Board, were adopted by the Town Board April 27th.

Conrad Rock and John Simmons were granted a permit for a restaurant on Seneca Street on Lot No. 73 May 25th.

Pease Oil Co. was granted a permit to construct a restaurant adjacent to their garage on Transit Road, June 8th.

Donald Wooster was appointed Civil Defense Director in the Town of Elma.

During 1955, John Campbell made tentative layouts and estimate of costs of a water district in the Town of Elma which was to be presented to the people in an attempt to get signers on a petition for the same. The Town Board held several meetings in its interest and Albert VerCruysse of Elma Business Association, was given charge of the volunteers who were to circulate the petition.

Town Board gave tentative approval to Elma Heights Subdivision, Bullis and Windspear Roads, submitted by Stanley Spisiak on June 22d.

Billington Heights Subdivision plans submitted by Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Simon, were approved by the Town Board July 27th, including Billington Heights Road, Pleasant View Drive and Summerdale Drive.

Contract was signed by Supervisor Reuther July 27th with Kenneth E. Young and Donald Lamp, to act as Director and Assistant in Youth Recreation for the months of July to December.

Fleischman Subdivision plans were approved by the Town Board September 28th.

Street address numbering plan proposed by the Town Engineer was approved by the Town Board, September 28th and the Town Clerk's Office designated as the custodian of the numbers.

Elma's quota for the 1955 Community Chest and Red Cross appeal was \$6,521 and was oversubscribed. Fred I. Sigman was Chairman and Mrs. Mildred O'Donnell, Co-chairman.

The Iroquois Central School offered the use of No. 6 District School as a Town Hall and the Town Board accepted this offer on October 12th. The Tax Collector, having been assigned the collection of Iroquois Central School District taxes, received commensurate addition in salary in 1955.

Town Board gave tentative approval to Sullivan Subdivi-

sion Plan presented by Robert Martin on North Davis Road, Springbrook, October 26th.

Martin Royce was appointed temporary Chairman of the Centennial Committee by Supervisor Reuther on December 4th.

The Town made application for a Youth Program to the New York State Youth Commission by order of the Town Board on December 14th.

Kalla Subdivision plans on Ostrander and Blood Roads, submitted by Joseph Kalle, were tentatively approved by the Town Board December 28th.

1956

On January 4th, 1956 the Town Board made the following appointments: Charles E. Heintz to fill the unexpired term of Robert Sanborn on the Zoning Board of Appeals; Joseph Winiewiz, Jr., member of the Zoning Board; Mrs. Angiline Chimera, Clerk of Zoning Board of Appeals; John Griffiths, Charles MacIver, Mervin Reigh, Rita Donahue, Mrs. Stan Baranowski, and Harry Langendorfer to the Youth Committee.

Lewis Bartlet Subdivision, Bartlet Road, plans and Walter Garden Subdivision plans on Maple Street and Billington Road, were tentatively approved by the Town Board, January 25th.

Mrs. Florence Schlyer was appointed as Clerk of the Zoning Board and its Board of Appeals to replace Mrs. Chimera who resigned, February 15th.

North Subdivision revised plans were tentatively approved and Highland Subdivision plans submitted by Fred I. Sigman, Rice Road, were given final approval by the Town Board on February 15th.

Walter Gardens Subdivision revised plans, submitted by Mr. London, were approved by the Town Board, February 22d.

The Buffalo Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies, having purchased the former John Lee Estate from John Black in 1955, announced its use as a Boys' Camp in 1956. Mr. and Mrs. John Black had operated the place as a Girls' Camp, known as Sprucelands, since 1947.

The Town Board authorized the purchase of approximately eight acres of land owned by Melvin Hurd on west side of Bowen Road, north of the Pennsylvania Railroad for \$4,000, March 14th.

The Town Board granted a permit to Kent Fleischman for a dairy plant on Seneca Street, March 27th.

Town Board gave tentative approval to the Gaylord Court Subdivision plans located west of Bowen Road and north of Bullis Road on March 28th. The plans were submitted by the

owner, A. W. Fargo.

The Town Board purchased No. 6 District School and grounds at an auction April 9th, for \$2,000 for use as a Town Hall and the Town held its first meeting in its own hall on April 11th.

At its meeting on May 2d, 1956, the Town Board divided the Town into seven voting districts to replace the four districts then in use, and, on May 9th purchased, on a rental basis, three additional voting machines at \$1,345 each.

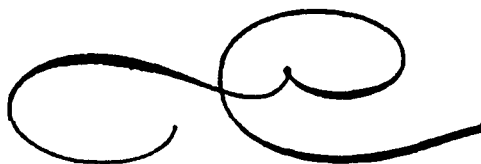
MOOG VALVE COMPANY, INC.

The Moog Valve Company, Inc., was organized in 1951, to manufacture electro hydraulic Servo valves, which William C. Moog, Jr., had developed while employed as an engineer with the Cornell Laboratory. The company rented a part of an airplane hangar at Jamison Road and Seneca Street in June of 1951, where it started into production with ten people on its payroll. The company has since purchased the property and built additions to the building so that they now have approximately forty thousand square feet of floor space and the payroll has increased to 620.

Their sales in the first year, totaled \$200,000 and have rapidly increased until in 1956, the company's business is running approximately, at the rate of ten million dollars per year.

The officers of the company are: William C. Moog, Jr., President; Arthur E. Moog and Lewis H. Geyer, Vice Presidents; and Kenneth J. McIlrath, Secretary and Treasurer.

Servo valves are used principally for the control of aircraft and are sold to all of the larger aircraft and guided missile manufacturers.



CHAPTER XVII.

HISTORY OF EAST ELMA

Written in 1938 by Henry L. Allen

KNOWING that my memories of East Elma extend back some 70 years since I came here with my parents in 1868, some of my acquaintances have suggested that I might appreciably add to the somewhat limited available information so far as it deals with the early history of this part of the town. In complying with these requests I wish to make it plain that I do not take up the task as a historian would, for that would be beyond my ken. What I will attempt to put into words will simply picture, as best I can, what East Elma was like when I first saw it, together with the memories of the men and women who were here when I, as a lad listened with avid interest to the tales of their first years here; tales which I have never forgotten; tales which pictured the parts they took in the up-building of the little settlement and the industries they assisted in establishing, which made East Elma for many years one of the busiest areas in the town of Elma.

Unfortunately there is little reliable information as to just when the first white people came to this corner of the town, but there is no doubt that the region commenced to attract the attention of settlers who were trekking westward from the eastern part of the state, and from the New England states, as early as 1805, for it was in that year that a town meeting was held in the neighboring town of Aurora, in the part of that town then known as Willink, now a part of the village of East Aurora.

The Holland Land Company made a survey of the lands of the Seneca Indian Reservation, in which what is now known as Erie County was incorporated, in 1800, and the report of that survey drew widespread attention to this end of New York. In 1810 the lands of the reservation were sold to the Ogden Land Company, and it was soon after that sale that settlers commenced to people this town. It was soon after 1820 that three brothers, Leonard, Elias and Willard Hatch, came to this section of the county from Eastern New York.

The first named of the three brothers settled in this corner

of the town of Elma, the other two settling in what is now the town of Marilla. Zina A. Hemstreet, a brother-in-law of Leonard Hatch followed shortly after the Hatch brothers, and others who came about the same time were Isaac Gail, Amos Rowley, Fowler Munger, John Dennison, Abel Button, Russell Howard, Isaac Van Campen, John Darcy, Albert Crain, Charles Morris, John Brooks, Thomas Hanvey, Edwin Persons and Thomas Ostrander. With the exception of Amos Rowley and Thomas Ostrander, all these were living here when my people came in 1868. Others who settled in this part of the town shortly before and soon after 1860, included Phillip Bodimer, John W. Griffin, Harry Dingman, William Bridgeman, Fred Badger, James Hopper, Jacob Bodimer, Joseph Smith, Edwin Fowler and Patrick Cassidy.

It is to be regretted that the pioneer settlers of this part of the town did not leave more documentary records than seem to be in existence of the first years of the settlement which became East Elma in later years. Even 59 years later much might have been learned by taking advantage of the memories of the then older residents who were conversant with the pioneering days of the settlement, but no one seems to have thought of doing so at the time.

Many of the features attendant upon the first years of himself and the other early settlers here, were depicted to me at different times by Mr. Hemstreet when in his reminescent moods and of all his listeners, I was one of the most eager. Mr. Hemstreet arrived here soon after this section had been opened to settlement. After a stay of some time he purchased a square mile of land on the east side of Buffalo Creek which included much of what afterward became East Elma. Then he went back to Eastern New York after his bride, and with an ox team for transportation, made the journey to his new home, a journey of some 300 miles literally through the wilderness much of the way, for at that time the settlements throughout Central and Western New York were few and far between. He followed what afterward became the Mohawk Trail through Central New York, much of the way just a widened trail through heavily forested country, to a point where he branched off on a trail leading to Genesee Falls, now Rochester, thence southwestward to the village of Buffalo, or more properly speaking, Black Rock, for at that time Black Rock was the larger of the twin settlements on the Niagara River at its confluence with Lake Erie. From Buffalo he continued over a trail which, in a general way, followed the course of the Cazenovia Creek to Willink, now the west end of East Aurora, and named after one of the earliest settlers in this end of the state, Wilhelm Willink.

From the junction of this trail now known as Seneca Street with Jamison Road which was little more than a wide foot-

path at this time, Mr. Hemstreet continued to his new home in East Elma. Jamison Road, which was named for a son of Mary Jamison who once made his home near the corner of Jamison Road and Seneca Street, was an important trail for it was used by all settlers who had established themselves east and south of Seneca Street along the Buffalo Creek as far south as the Town of Wales.

Soon after his arrival here Mr. Hemstreet erected a house on a rise of land overlooking Buffalo Creek, just about half a mile southeast of the juncture of what are now known as Jamison and Hemstreet Roads. That was the first frame house to be erected in this corner of the town. The Quality of the material and the workmanship that went into it, is attested by the fact that it is still standing, and that it has been continuously occupied since its erection about 1825. In all its long history that old house has been in the ownership of but two families. It passed from Mr. Hemstreet to James Hatch, a son of the pioneer, Leonard Hatch, and later to the late Frank A. Hatch, a grandson of the pioneer family, and it is now occupied — in 1938 — by Mrs. Hatch. It is thought to be the oldest frame house in the town of Elma that has been continuously occupied since its erection.

It was several years after the land in this section of the town was withdrawn from the Indian Reservation, before many of the Indians who had lived here for years—members of the Seneca tribe principally though members of other tribes were here at times — left here for their new reservation. This valley along the Buffalo Creek had been a rich hunting, trapping and fishing ground for them and they were loath to leave it. For a long time they continued to occupy their teepees along the banks of the Creek, and after they had, some years later, departed for the new reservation prepared for them, many of them came back to their old haunts each spring and fall to hunt and trap. Indeed, one family, that of one of the sachems of the tribe known as "Old Jack", but whose name, translated into English, was "Johnny Jack," refused to leave until his death appeared near. With his family he lived in a log hut on the "George Mason" farm on the Two Rod Road about three-quarters of a mile south of the village of Marilla. The men of the family trapped or fished mainly, though Old Jack, his wife and daughters made baskets and bead work articles which they sold or exchanged for articles of food with the wives of the white settlers who could use their offerings, white bread being especially in demand. The Indian women seemed never to have developed the ability to make the kind of bread the white women made. There is still in possession of a member of my family, a beautiful beaded bag made by one of "Old Jack's" daughters, and presented to one of my sisters when she was a girl in her early 'teens.

The burying ground of the Indians who peopled this part of the town, was located about a quarter of a mile south of the "four corners" in East Elma, on the west side of Hemstreet Road, on land which Mr. Hemstreet had purchased and which he permitted the Indians to use for that purpose. During his ownership of the land, the plot was never disturbed. For several years after the Indians had departed for their new reservation, a number of the members of the tribe came back here each autumn to cut and burn the underbrush and weeds which had grown up during the summer. Finally, as the older members of the tribe died, the visits for this purpose ceased, and later another owner of the property which included the plot, added it to the plowed land of the farm.

Those curious to see the last resting place of many of the once sole residents of this section of the town, will find it almost directly in the rear of the residence standing on what is now known as the Tolsma place. There was one other place in this part of the town where some of the Indians were buried, that being on the west side of Buffalo Creek on what was once known as the Bridgman farm, but now owned and occupied by Leland Rupp. This place of burial lies just at the foot of the bluff and a short distance from the creek. Among the Indians buried there, was one of the noted early sachems of the tribe whose name translated into English, was "Big Kettle".

In 1836 through an agreement with the Indians, who were still occupying this part of the town, Leonard Hatch and Robert McKean were enabled to build a dam across Buffalo Creek at East Elma and to erect a saw mill. This was the second point, outside the Village of Buffalo, where advantage was taken of the waters of the big stream to operate a mill of that kind. The agreement with the Indians whereby this mill was made possible, with the names of more than a dozen of the head men of the tribe attached, is still in possession of a member of the Hatch family. Each of the signatories tribal name is marked by the cross required to make the agreement legal, and the ink and the paper used is apparently as good as when the agreement was made more than one hundred years ago. Later Mr. McKean sold his interest in the mill to Jonas Riley who, at a still later date, sold his interest to Mr. Hatch who operated the mill until his death which occurred in 1842, after which the property passed to Zina A. Hemstreet.

The original mill and dam were washed away by the unprecedented highwater in the spring of 1861, but they were immediately replaced on a larger and better scale. This dam and mill were located just above the bathing pool in the recreation grounds owned by Burton J. Allen. Indeed that pool, which extends from bank to bank of the creek, was created in the rocky bottom of the stream by the water which poured

over the crest of the dam during more than the 80 years that the mill operated.

In about 1851, Fowler Munger and Russell Howard built and equipped a shingle mill which was located some 300 feet east of the junction of Jamison Road and Hemstreet Road in East Elma, on the south side of the first named road. On July 4th, 1867, that mill was destroyed by fire, but was at once replaced by Munger and Frank Crain, who had purchased Howard's interest in the property in 1858. These two men operated the last constructed mill for more than 35 years, it being discontinued only when the scarcity of pine timber made its further operation unprofitable. During the long period of its operation, it made into shingles a major part of all the pine timber within a radius of some ten or twelve miles.

In about 1855, sentiment for the erection of a school building become so rife that a school district was formed and in 1856 the construction of such a building was completed on land donated by Zina A. Hemstreet to the newly formed district, the location being the same plot on which the present more modern District School No. 3 building stands. Mr. Hemstreet not only gave the land for the building, but much of the lumber used in its construction, though there were others who contributed a portion of such material. The lumber, however, was sawed in Mr. Hemstreet's mill without charge; and much of the work of construction was donated by residents of the district. The building, when completed, was by all odds the finest and most modern school building in the town of Elma at that period. In the steeple which crowned the building there was a bell such as few school buildings in Western New York possessed at that time; a bell that sent its melodious tones with such ringing force that they could be heard for a mile or more in every direction. From all the information I have been able to gather, that bell was also the gift of Mr. Hemstreet. The old bell which has called the boys and girls of this district to school for nearly one hundred years, still sends its musical tones from its station in the steeple of the present more modern building.

How liberal minded Mr. Hemstreet was, is indicated by the conditions which he attached to his gift to the district. In the deed of the land it was provided that the school building was to be forever open to church and Sunday school services, regardless of religious denominations; and also for such social and recreative purposes as the residents of the district might desire. Due to those conditions, there have been very few periods in which church and Sunday school services have not been of weekly occurrence. And it may be said also, that ministers of almost every recognized religious denomination have preached in the old and new buildings. The buildings have also been the center for the social activities of the

district.

It was not until 1838 that the creek where the little settlement had been established, was spanned by a bridge. The first structure was a short distance south of where the present concrete arch crosses the stream. That first bridge, being unsafe, was replaced by another in 1846 in about the same place. The second bridge fell into the stream in 1858, carrying with it Christopher Peek, later a well known citizen of East Aurora, together with a team of horses and a wagon loaded with lumber. Almost miraculously neither Mr. Peek nor the horses he was driving, sustained other than slight injuries.

It was after the second bridge fell that the long covered bridge which was a landmark for more than fifty years, was erected where the present concrete arch stands. It may be stated, also, that the covered bridge which carried the traffic across the creek for so many years, was in excellent condition when it was demolished, though it had become evident that it was not heavy enough to stand the strain put on it by the heavier vehicles which had come into use such as trucks, tractors, engines, etc.

Even when my people came to East Elma in 1868, this part of the town was essentially a lumber region. In every direction the land was heavily forested except in those rather limited areas around the newly erected homes of the early settlers who foresaw that eventually this would be a rich farming country. Even in that period, what is now known as Jamison Road was a road, as we know roads now, in name only; it was then more like a lane cut through virgin forest land, and in any but the dry weather of summer was little used by vehicular travel. When it became necessary to go to Buffalo in spring or autumn, the residents of this part of town preferred to go south to the Town Line Road, which connects East Aurora with Marilla — called Slabtown—. From East Aurora they followed what is now known as Seneca Street to their destination. This was especially true after a lane of plank had been laid down on one side of Seneca Street from East Aurora to Buffalo. It was some years later when Jamison Road had become improved sufficiently to make it fairly passable in all seasons of the year.

What is now known as Maple Street, connecting East Aurora with Jamison Road, was but a miry, muddy lane except during the driest summer period. Girdled Road also connecting East Aurora and Jamison Road was a genuine log road since over the greater part of its length it was made of logs which had been laid on the marshy ground.

In 1850, the first of the Allen family reached Western New York, coming from Saratoga County in Eastern New York. Anthony Allen, Sr., whose family became so numerous in this corner of the town, was a brother-in-law of Leonard Hatch and

Zina A. Hemstreet, and it was relationship that started the migration of he and his family to this end of the state. David Allen, one of the older sons came first, arriving here in 1850. Soon after arriving here he went to Canada for a brief period after which, upon returning, he secured a position as gate keeper at one of the toll stations on the Buffalo and Aurora plank road that had just been finished. The gate was located at the south entrance of the covered bridge across the Buffalo Creek a few miles south of Buffalo, now a long way inside of that city. After a few years in that position, he purchased a farm on the Town Line Road, about two miles northeast of East Aurora, in the town of Marilla. Later he moved to East Elma to go into business with two of his brothers who came here later.

Another brother, Henry D., was the second of the family to come to Western New York, and a little later Anthony Allen, Sr., his wife, four other sons and a daughter joined David and Henry D. About 1864 a large factory or mill building was erected a few hundred feet north of the saw mill. However, owing to lack of capital on the part of its builder, the mill had not been equipped for any purpose. As my father, Ellery S. Allen, was at that time operating a woolen mill in Saratoga County, his brothers here brought this mill building to his attention, thinking it would be a better location for him than where he was in the east. Accordingly, in 1867 he came to East Elma to look the situation over with the result that, with his brothers, David and Anthony, Jr., the latter having been in the milling business in Canada, purchased the mill building with its water rights, the saw mill and several tracts of timber land, as well as three home sites. It was in the autumn of 1867 that another of the brothers arrived here, Silas H., who also purchased a home.

It was in the spring of 1868 that my people arrived here, and with them came also my father's brother-in-law, Harvey C. Palmer and their father-in-law, Amos Lawton. Mr. Palmer, after several years spent in the spinning room of the woolen mill, operated the general store built by George W. Hatch, for a period of years. It was largely due to Mr. Palmer's efforts that church and Sunday school services were conducted without a break during all the years he was a resident of the neighborhood. With the arrival of my father here, the number of the Allen family in East Elma was increased to eleven, Anthony Allen, Sr., and his wife, eight of his nine sons and one of his two daughters.

As soon as my father arrived here the mill was equipped with the necessary machinery for carding, spinning and weaving the wool that for many years was purchased from the farmers of an extended territory. At that time most of the farmers of Western New York made the keeping of sheep a

part of their farm live stock. Once in operation, the woolen mill together with the saw mill and the shingle mill, made East Elma the industrial center of the town, the woolen mill alone affording employment for twenty-five or thirty persons. Under the name of the Niagara Woolen Mill the mill, in a few years it became the principal producer of worsted knitting yarns in Western New York, the greater of which was used by two noted departments stores, Barnes & Bancroft (now the William Hengerer Co.,) of Buffalo and Sibley, Lindsey & Curr, of Rochester. In the partnership arrangement between the three brothers, it was my father, Ellery S., who had charge of the woolen mill, Anthony had charge of the saw mill, and David looked after the lumbering interests.

After a few years the partnership was dissolved, my father taking over the woolen mill, Anthony the saw mill and David the lands and lumber tracts. The woolen mill was operated successfully until the death of my father in 1885 and a short time after, when it was dismantled and finally demolished. The saw mill continued in operation for several years being discontinued only when timber became so scarce that it could no longer be carried on profitably.

My first memories of East Elma are of the long covered bridge, the two mills a short distance down the stream from it, the white steepled school house on the hill east of the four corners, and the log yard of the saw mill, an area some two acres in extent, piled high with logs awaiting their turn to be hauled to the logway, thence into the mill to be sawn into lumber. Just east of the two mills there were four or five shanty-like houses then occupied by families of men employed in the saw mill. All of those houses were demolished a few years alter.

On the southeast corner of the junction of Jamison and Hemstreet Roads, opposite the home and gas station of Burton Allen, Jr., there was a large two-story building which was erected about 1867. At the time my people came here, the lower storey was operated as a general store by a man named Williams. In 1871 that building was burned one night. That was the first conflagration of that nature I had seen, and the memory of it and the excitement it created has never been erased from my mind.

In 1869, George W. Hatch erected a building on the corner opposite the Williams store, on the site of the home and gas station of Burton Allen, Jr., which was operated by Mr. Hatch as a general store. It was in that store that a postoffice was established later in the year, Mr. Hatch being appointed postmaster. There had been a postoffice in East Elma for a brief period, having been established in 1862. with Isaac Gail as postmaster, but because the business it did was not sufficient to justify its continuance, it was discontinued a couple of

years later, after that, and until it was re-established in 1869, the residents of this part of the town received their mail through East Aurora office, and for sometime a goodly part of it was brought to East Elma by a simple-minded fellow named Aaron Forbes who was paid by voluntary contributions from those he served.

The building, which served as postoffice when Gail was postmaster, was on the northwest corner of Jamison and Hemstreet Roads, opposite the present home of Mrs. Minnie Smith and her son Cortland. Later, when there was a steady stream of teams passing that building hauling wood from the hardwood forests then being denuded, to Jamison Station, Josiah Gail established a saloon in part of the building. That period was during the years 1870 to 1876 when the railroad, now a part of the Pennsylvania system, was being constructed. Known then as the Buffalo & Aurora Railroad, it was soon extended to Arcade, and later to Emporium, Pa. It was later known as the Buffalo & Washington, then as the Buffalo, New York & Philadelphia, and still later as the Western New York & Pennsylvania. At that time the railroads were using hardwood as locomotive fuel, and the coming of this railroad to this section opened a vast market for the hardwood which covered much of the territory adjacent to East Elma. Jamison Station had been designated as a fueling point. This condition was responsible for the final clearing of thousands of acres of forest land which, after the pine and hemlock had been cut, were still quite heavily covered with hardwood such as maple, beech, and other varieties of hardwood timber.

The Gail building, used for various purposes after Josiah Gail disposed of it, was destroyed by fire in 1881. When occupied by Joseph Kratz and his family, a part of this building was used as a grocery store. The Hatch store building on the opposite corner, was destroyed by fire in about 1924 after having been operated as a general store for more than fifty years, first by George W. Hatch, then by Isaac Smith, James and Niles Hatch, Edwin Dingman, Harvey C. Palmer, George W. and Leonard Hatch, Charles Burman and William Blackmar, successively, and finally by a Jew whose name seems to have been forgotten.

Soon after the covered bridge was built, a large blacksmith shop was erected just at the foot of the bridge's eastern approach, and for more than forty years it was one of the busy places in the little hamlet. To it were brought the horses and oxen from a widespread territory to be shod. It was one of the few shoeing shops in this or the surrounding towns to be equipped with a sling required to make it possible to put shoes on the hoofs of oxen. It is no longer generally known that there are such things as shoes for those slow moving beasts once used for draft purposes in this part of the country. It

is impossible to attach shoes to their feet without raising them from the floor in a sling, and then trussing their feet to stout posts to keep them from kicking, which they can do with even greater force than a horse. The first smith to occupy this shop was John Kihm; he was followed by a jolly Irishman, named John Shea. Then the shop passed to John Hicks, a half-brother of Zina A. Hemstreet, who occupied it for some time. He was followed by Dudley Dennison and then successively by William Edwards, a Frenchman whose name seems to be forgotten, Thomas Moore, and Thomas Edwards. The shop was finally abandoned.

William Edwards, after he left the old shop, erected one of his own with living rooms on the second floor in about 1882. This building was located about two hundred feet east of the four corners on the south side of Jamison Road, a short distance west of the shingle mill. Edwards occupied this building until about 1885, when it was destroyed by fire.

A notable feature of the four corners around which East Elma is grouped, was the Liberty Pole which was erected in 1863 at the junction of the roads. The pole was a perfectly straight pine tree, dressed down to a sexangular form, painted white and surmounted by a shining metal globe and weather vane. Originally quite a bit more than one hundred feet high, its top could be seen from a great distance from the roads leading over the hills east and west. Its base became somewhat decayed after a long period, and in about 1882 it was taken down, several feet of its base removed, then re-painted, equipped with a new globe and vane and raised to its old position where it stood for many years before finally taken down as unsafe.

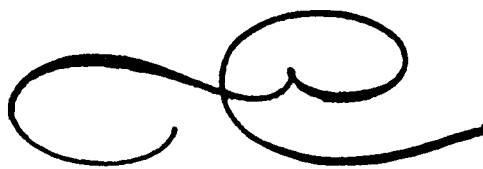
The social life of the little hamlet centered around the school house. The coming of the woolen mill attracted new families, many of the younger members of which securing employment in that institution, gave added impetus to the recreative features of the neighborhood. The number of pupils attending this country school was something quite remarkable for a district school in that period. There were more than one hundred names on the teacher's roll during several of the winter terms. As far back as 1870, under the sponsorship of the older residents, a class for the study of voice culture was organized, and on one night each week during the winter, a singing school was held in the school house under the tutelage of a competent instructor. The experiment was so successful that the school was continued during the winter months for many years.

The first teacher of voice engaged was George Ebbs, a musician of more than local note. Under his inspiration, a musical spirit was developed in the neighborhood that became stronger with the passing years until East Elma became quite widely famed for its large number of good singers. Many were the

calls they received from other and larger towns to assist in musical programs. Teachers who followed Mr. Ebbs were Addison Winch, Mrs. Ida Fenner (nee Mills), and Edwin Spooner, the two last named each teaching several winter terms.

The East Elma of to-day (1938) bears little resemblance to the busy little hamlet of some sixty years ago, with its three mills, some of which, at times, operated night and day, its two or three stores, blacksmith shops, etc., it was the industrial center of the town of Elma. Flood waters carried away the dam and saw mill. The woolen mill and shingle mill were demolished after operations in them ceased. Fire destroyed stores, dwellings and other buildings to the number of more than a dozen. There are few living in the neighborhood at the present time whose memories run back to the time when the little burg was as has been depicted in these notes. If I have pictured it in a way to give to the descendants of the men and women who made it what it was, a realization of its former importance, and to present some of the historical features attendant upon its beginnings, and in the period of its industrial activity, I will feel fully repaid for my efforts.

HENRY A. ALLEN, Editor.



CHAPTER XVIII.

HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN ELMA

THE first school houses in the Town of Elma were built on the Mile Strip. The first school house on the Mile Strip was made of logs and was built on the north side of Lot 15, at the corner of the Williams and Billington Roads in 1831.

The first school kept in that school house was taught by Miss Emily Paine in 1831. She married Nathan K. Hall, later a partner in the law firm of Hall & Fillmore of Buffalo, and Postmaster-General in President Fillmore's cabinet. A frame schoolhouse was built on the same site about 1848. The schoolhouse is continued and that school district is in 1900, known as School District No. 4 in the town of Elma.

The second school house built on the Mile Strip was on Lot 25, a plank building 18x22 feet in size. It has been replaced by a larger and better building on the northwest corner of Lot 28. The district is now known as School District No. 5 in the town of Elma.

The third schoolhouse was built near the center of Lot No. 36 in 1833. That schoolhouse, District No. 11, is now gone, and the territory west of the Cazenove Creek in that part of the town is joined to school district in the town of East Hamburg.

The early settlers in the town were anxious to give to their children the elements of a good education, and so schools were provided at this early day.

The original locations and dates on which the other School District buildings were built were as follows:

District No.	Year	Location
1	1852	Known as the Cotton District, built on Lot No. 20
2	1851	Known as the Bullis District, built on Lot No. 16
3	1856	Known as East Elma District, built on Lot No. 10
6	1856	Known as Rice District, built on Lot No. 52 where present Memorial Monument is now located
7	1847	Known as Elma Village District, built on Lot No. 57 where present Metho-

8	1849	dist Church is now located Known as Blossom District, built on south side of Main Street
9	1856	Known as Winspear District, built on Lot No. 89
10	1846	Known os Springbrook District, built on Lot No. 75.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Town of Elma, by resolution of the Board of Supervisors at the time the town was formed, was joined to and to be a part of the Second School Commissioner District of Erie County.

On July 16th, 1857, Amos Freeman, the Commissioner of the said Second District, altered and re-numbered the school districts in the town of Elma.

Eleven schoolhouses were in the town at that date, viz.: Three on the Mile Strip, three in the Aurora part of the town, and five in the Lancaster part.

School District No. 1—Schoolhouse on Clinton Street, known as the Cotton District.

School District No. 2—Schoolhouse on Bullis Road, known as the Bullis District.

School District No. 3—Schoolhouse on Jamison Road, known as the East Elma District.

School District No. 4—Schoolhouse on Billington and Williams roads, known as the Hitchcock District.

School District No. 5—Schoolhouse on Plank Road, known as North Star District.

School District No. 6—Schoolhouse on Bowen and Rice roads, known as Woodard District.

School District No. 7—Schoolhouse on Bowen Road, known as the Elma Village District.

School District No. 8—Schoolhouse in Blossom Valley, known as the Blossom District.

School District No. 9—Schoolhouse on Winspear Road, known as the Winspear District.

School District No. 10—Schoolhouse in Spring Brook, known as the Spring Brook District.

School District No. 11—Schoolhouse on Northrup and Paxon roads, known as the Davis District.

A Catholic schoolhouse was built in 1864 on the southeast corner of the Clinton Street and Girdled Roads.

The schoolhouses in 1900 are on the same old sites, except that District No. 11 after a few years was discontinued and the territory joined to two school districts in the town of East Hamburg, and that schoolhouse is gone.

The schoolhouse for District No. 1 is on the south side of the

Clinton Street Road, about 20 rods east from the Girdled Road, on the north end of Lot. No. 20.

The Catholic Schoolhouse is on the northwest corner of Lot No. 20, and southeast corner of the Clinton Street and Girdled Roads.

District No. 2—Schoolhouse is on the north side of the Bullis Road, on top of the hill east of the Big Buffalo Creek, and on south line of Lot 16.

District No. 3—Schoolhouse is on the north side of the Jami-son Road and south line of Lot 10, about 60 rods east from the East Elma store.

District No. 4—Schoolhouse is on the north line of Lot 15 of Mile Strip and on southwest corner of the Williams and Billington Roads.

District No. 5—Schoolhouse is on the north line of Lot 28 of the Mile Strip, on southwest side of the Plank Road.

District No. 6—Schoolhouse is on the southeast corner of Lot 52, and on northwest corner of the Bowen and Rice Roads.

District No. 7—Schoolhouse is on the west side of the Bowen Road, on top of the hill about 50 rods south from the Clinton Street Road.

District No. 8—Schoolhouse is in Blossom Village on the south side of the Main Street.

District No. 9—Schoolhouse is on the west line of Lot 89, and on the north side of the Winspear Road, about 108 rods north from the Bullis Road.

District No. 10—Schoolhouse is in Spring Brook Village, on Lot 75, and on northeast side of the Plank Road.

District No. 11—Schoolhouse was located near the centre of Lot 36 of Mile Strip, and on the southwest corner of the Northrup and Paxon roads. This district was united with Districts 8 and 11 of the town of East Hamburg.

The schools in the town are generally what are known as graded schools.

The number of children in the town, on July 1st, 1898, between five and eighteen years of age, as given by the trustees of the several school districts was 578. Of these, 476 attended school in the town some part of the school year, and 46 attended school out of town, making a total of 522 who were in school; the fifty-six who were not in school were mostly between 14 and 16 years of age, and by the school law, were not obliged to be in school, if they were regularly employed. School expenses for the school year ending July 1st, 1899:

Amount paid for teachers' wages.....	\$2,644.20
Amount paid for other expenses.....	948.54

Total \$3,592.74

By the returns of the trustees of the school districts there were on July 1st, 1899, 558 children in the town between 5 and

18 years of age, being 20 less than on July 1st, 1898.

Number of children in the town between 8 and 16 years of age:

On July 1st, 1898		On July 1st, 1899	
Boys	219	Boys	193
Girls	207	Girls	188
Total..... 426		Total..... 381	

Making a loss in the year of: Boys 26 Girls 19 Total 45

Each of the District Schools, in its annual meeting held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, elected a Trustee, a Collector and a Clerk. The Trustee hired the teacher or teachers and the janitor. He had general supervision of the school property and its improvements and signed all the vouchers for their payment by the collector. He further submitted a report of the year's expenses at the annual school meeting as well as a proposed budget for the ensuing year which, with modifications, was adopted at the school meeting.

At the time all of the District Schools were closed by Centralization into the Iroquois Central District, comprising the Towns of Elma, Marilla and Wales, all of the Elma District Schools contained two rooms except Nos. 1 and 2. High school students from Nos. 8 and 9 were sent to Lancaster High School while those from the other eight districts attended East Aurora High School.

William E. Pierce was Supt, of Schools in 1913 and under his direction an attempt was made to build a Central High School in the town of Elma. District No. 6 in its annual meeting of this year, voted \$1,500.00 toward the project but the proposal failed to materialize. The same year an unsuccessful attempt was made to combine Districts No. 6 and No. 7.

As early as 1935, it was apparent that Centralization of the Districts would be desirable. At that time, a Committee was formed which collected cost data from Holland, N. Y., which had recently centralized, and from various other sources. With the assistance of Supt. W. R. Buell, it was determined that the school enrollment in 1934 was 333 grade pupils and 112 High School students, totaling 445. Holland's total enrollment was 388 and they built their school building with a capacity for 515 on a thirty-nine year bond of \$200,000 having a 4.75% interest rate. With an assessed valuation of \$1,543,020, their tax rate was \$7 per thousand, and a large part of their landscaping was done by E.R.B.

The assessed valuation of the ten school districts in Elma at that time was \$3,373,515. Based on the Holland cost experience with corrections for the conditions in Elma, the committee estimated that the tax rate in Elma would be \$7.84 per thousand with a Centralized District. However, several dis-

tricts were in debt for new buildings which they would have to pay off and the cost of their payments would have been added to the \$7.84 in their respective rates. The average tax rates in 1934 was \$7.28 with the highest rates of \$10.05 and \$11.00 in districts No. 5 and No. 3 and the lowest rate \$5.50 in district No. 2.

The findings of the committee were presented at an open meeting held in the Grange Hall. Mrs. Claire Payne and Fred I. Sigman were the principal speakers in favor of centralization and Mrs. Henry Fleischman, the principal speaker opposing the change. The Hall was well filled and many spoke from the floor. It was finally announced that each District would vote on the proposal at the next annual meeting. Three of the ten districts voted in favor of Centralization in their annual meetings, the other seven districts were not ready for the change.

Centralization, at that time, would have included only the Town of Elma. The proposal was voted on in many of the districts annual meetings for several years and various Trustees tried to stir up enthusiasm for the change. Finally the state withdrew its offer to centralize the Town of Elma by itself into a single district and recommended that it centralize with the Towns of Aurora, Wales and Marilla, under the Rapp plan. This brought vigorous protests from Elma all of which were to no avail. However, the Town of Aurora refused to go along with centralization with the other four towns and Elma, Marilla and Wales proceeded with the attempt to centralize by themselves.

A Steering Committee was formed and after various meetings, circulation of petitions and preparations, the twenty-three school districts involved, voted June 28th, 1952, on the organization of a Central School District. The result of the secret ballot was 766 persons in favor of centralization and 724 against. Hence the proposal was carried by a margin of 42 votes.

On July 19th, 1952, a Central District School Board consisting of Walter Knell, J. Howard Smith, Kenneth Parkinson, George Field, Ralph J. Peterson, Howard Marshall and Leon A. Piguet was elected.

The School Board appointed Mrs. Cornelia Tyler, Clerk, and A. Donald Bartoo, Supervising Principal, Mr. Bartoo to assume his duties December 1st, 1952.

A bond issue of \$3,760,000 was approved by vote of 1148 to 476 in a special meeting, June 30th, 1953. New Elementary schools were built on Rice Road, Elma; Woodchuck Road, Wales; and Marilla Village school remodeled. A combined High School and Elementary School was built on Girdle Road in Elma.

The Rice Road Elementary School was completed and opened in September, 1954. Girdle Road Elementary School was

opened in January, 1955, and the High School in September, 1955.

The old District Schools were sold at auction. District No. 6 voted to transfer its property to the Town of Elma for a Town Hall but the school authorities, although represented at the district school meeting, later refused to allow the transfer. The Town, however, acquired the property by bid at a public auction.



CHAPTER XIX.

CHURCHES IN ELMA

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRING BROOK

REV. NEHEMIAH COBB, who had been sent by some Presbyterian Church in Buffalo as a missionary to Spring Brook, held meetings in the schoolhouse in the summer of 1849. As a result of his labors "The First Presbyterian Church" was organized by a committee of the Buffalo Presbytery, on February 6th, 1850. Mr. Cobb, by contributions and subscriptions, gathered materials for a church building, which was erected in 1851 or 1852, on the western part of Lot 75, on land conveyed to the Society by David J. Morris—to revert to said Morris whenever the Society should cease to occupy the premises for church purposes.

The membership of the Society, in 1858, had become so reduced by deaths and removals that regular services were discontinued; most of the few remaining members attending the Presbyterian meetings which were held in the Elma Village schoolhouse, where Rev. William Waith preached every alternate Sunday afternoon. The Spring Brook Society was thus gradually absorbed by the Elma Society. By an order of the Presbytery the Society was disbanded June 5th, 1873. The church property reverted to David J. Morris in 1868.

UNION CHURCH AND GERMAN EVANGELICAL SOCIETIES OF SPRING BROOK

In January, 1869, "The Union Church Society of Spring Brook" was organized, and Mr. Morris on January 18th, 1869, conveyed the former Presbyterian property to the Union Society. Different denominations held services there but the building was most regularly occupied by the Methodist Society, until 1893 when they bought the German Evangelical Church property. Since 1893 the Union Church building has been unoccupied most of the time.

The German Evangelical Society of Spring Brook, built their church on the north side of the Aurora Plank Road, near the west end of Lot 75 in 1872. They held services there for sev-

eral years, but in time the membership became so small that they sold their building and lot to the Methodist Society in 1893.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL SOCIETY OF SPRING BROOK

It could not be learned from residents of Spring Brook the date of the organization of this society, but that they had for many years held regular services in the Union Church building, and for most of these years they have kept up a Sunday school, generally through the entire year.

In 1893 the society thought best to have a house of their own, over which they could have perfect control, so that year they bought of the German Evangelical Society their building and lot. After making extensive repairs and alterations the building was rededicated December 29th, 1896.

The Society, in 1901 had regular services and were, as well as their Sunday school, in a prosperous condition. During most of these years they have had no resident pastor, but have been supplied from Elma and Aurora, most of the time from Aurora. The names of the several pastors cannot now be given.

EAST ELMA

There has never been a church building in East Elma.

A schoolhouse was built in 1856, and all religious meetings and their Sunday schools have been held in this schoolhouse.

The people have been supplied most of the time by Methodist preachers from Elma and Marilla or by Baptist preachers from Aurora, or by the United Brethren Society of Williston. Occasionally an evangelist or some side preacher would hold meetings for a few days or nights and pass on.

A very prosperous undenominational Sunday school had been kept up all the year for many years, and at times this Sunday school constituted the only religious service held in the schoolhouse, or in the place for months together.

Mrs. Eugene Simmons was Superintendent of the Sunday School for over thirty years and many, in 1956, can recall the work which she carried out every Sunday until her death in 1929.

A Lutheran minister, the late Rev. Hugo Dressler, from Buffalo, conducted afternoon services from Easter until Christmas each year from 1922 or 1923 until 1950.

PRESBYTERIAN SOCIETY OF ELMA VILLAGE

In the summer of 1849, Rev. L. A. Skinner, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, commenced preaching in

the schoolhouse in Elma Village at 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoons, alternating with Rev. George E. Havens, Methodist minister from Lancaster, and later with Rev. C. S. Baker, who was sent to Lancaster by the Methodist Conference.

Mr. Skinner was obliged to give up the Elma appointment on account of failing health. Rev. Nehemiah Cobb from Spring Brook then took up the work in Elma Village, holding meetings there occasionally until the spring of 1852. In October, 1851, Rev. William Waith became the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Lancaster and he came occasionally to Elma during that winter; in the spring of 1852 he took up regular work, and continued meetings on alternate Sunday afternoons until 1868. In 1858 most of the remaining members of the Presbyterian Church of Spring Brook came to Mr. Waith's meetings in the Elma Village schoolhouse and in that way the Spring Brook church gradually became a part of the Elma Society. After the Methodist Church was built in Elma Village in 1859, by invitation from that society, the Presbyterians held their services in the church building every alternate Sunday afternoon.

There was never a regularly organized Presbyterian Society of Elma Village, but the Spring Brook members brought their Society with them, and after that time it was generally called the Elma Presbyterian Society.

The Society was disbanded by order of the Presbytery on June 5, 1873. most of the remaining members joining the Lancaster church.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL PARISH **Springbrook, N. Y.**

St. Vincent de Paul Parish was organized in 1850 and was first known as St. John's Parish. The first church built was 20 by 30 feet, on the North side of Plank Road, now Seneca St., and the East side of Rice Road, the deed being from Thomas Flannigan to John Timon, dated Feb. 23d, 1850, and another deed with some differences in the boundary lines is dated Sept. 18th, 1850, and here at the corner of Rice Rd. and Seneca St. the church was built.

At that time there were about 15 Catholic families in Springbrook and Mass was said once a month in the Flannigan home by Father Thomas McAvoy of Java.

Father McAvoy was succeeded by Father John Doran who broke ground for the first church in 1853. At first the church was very primitive but additions and improvements were made, a little at a time, until it was finished in 1855.

Father Doran was succeeded by the Rev. James M. Early who directed the building of a Mission church in Marilla. which was later moved to Springbrook and used for a school. He was

succeeded by the Rev. J. V. O'Donohue, who decided to build a rectory in the upper part of the cemetery. This was later sold and moved to the Wiley farm on Seneca St.

The first priest to occupy the new rectory was Father Denis English. He left in 1861 after a residence of three years and for some time Springbrook was without a resident pastor. There then followed a number of priests until Father P. V. O'Brien came in 1874 and built the present St. Vincent's church. He left in 1875.

The Rev. B. B. Grattan came in 1876 and remained for over seven years. He was succeeded by Father McNearney and later by Father Reilly who left in 1890 and was succeeded by Father Lafferty, then the Rev. James C. Cain. During Father Cain's pastorate the residence was changed from Springbrook to East Aurora and this parish became a Mission church of East Aurora in 1874, remaining so until Sept. 1919 when the Rev. Roman J. Nuwer was sent here as resident pastor.

Father Nuwer remained until April, 1926, and was succeeded by the Rev. Leo G. Link who built the new Rectory and improved the grounds. In July of 1940 Father Link was transferred and was replaced by the Rev. Joseph A. Bach. In June of 1948, Father Bach was transferred to Swormville and was succeeded by the Rev. Richard J. Deasy, the present pastor.

St. Vincent's School had its beginning in the Choir Loft of the church in 1905. The school building was erected in 1908 under Father Scheidel. This building was the Marilla church and was moved here, the property still being owned by this Parish.

On Sept. 19, 1910, the Sisters of St. Francis of Williamsville came to this Parish and became the teachers of the school. The McGiveron home was rented for them at first and in October, 1918, Father Schmitt purchased this property to be used as a permanent Convent.

The parishioners of St. Vincent's celebrated the occasion of their Centennary in September of 1950, under the guidance of Father Deasy.

OSCAR BECKMAN, Editor.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ELMA METHODIST CHURCH

The Elma Methodist Church was organized December 28th, 1851, in what we know as School Number Seven where non-sectarian Sunday school had been held since 1851. Church services were held in the school until the present church was built in the Fall of 1859 and dedicated February 9th, 1860. At that time the Town of Elma had just been organized in the territory that had, up to that time, been an Indian Reservation. The entire Town was heavily wooded and the early residents were almost wholly employed in turning the forest into lumber and fire wood. The Church as it was then built is the

main part of the Church as it stands today. The front entrance or vestibule was added in 1892. From time to time quite extensive repair and re-conditioning projects were carried out and some additions made. The most extensive was made in 1930 when the whole Church was re-conditioned, a new kitchen built and a modern heating system installed.

This bald statement of facts gives but a meager idea of the drama and resourcefulness that went into the building of the Elma Methodist Church. The middle nineteenth century was a time of greatly debased currency, so barter or Store Trade, as it was called, was the usual way of doing business. All labor and materials used in the building of the Church were accounted for in cash but actually they were contributed in kind or in something that could be traded for the things that could not be produced locally. The local products were mainly lumber and fire wood which was the principal fuel used in Buffalo at that time. These local products were traded for the paints, nails, stained glass windows, etc. The lumber used was cut locally and fabricated by hand on the job. You can see today the hand plane marks on the seats and wainscoting. In this way the church was built at a total cost of thirty-four hundred dollars and fully paid for at the time of the dedication. This spirit of ingenuity and originality has continued through the hundred years of the church's life. Even today the vigorous young people of the congregation are inventing new ways of bettering the Church and the community. From the very beginning every one was welcomed into the fellowship of our Church and today its membership is made up of many denominations.

Various organizations within the Elma Methodist Church have contributed to the growth and success of Church work. In early days, the Young People's Association was the active force in many church and community projects. Later, as the church membership increased, the Young People's Assn. was broken up into more classified groups. The Woman's Society of Christian Service is probably the backbone of church work. A Methodist Men's Club is always ready to help where help is needed. The Church has a large and enthusiastic Sunday school that has greatly outgrown the present facilities and is looking forward to occupying the new building now under construction. An active Young People's department is popular with the teen agers. In later years the Service League, an organization of young married and business women has been very active in the promotion of church and community work.

The Church is now in its greatest era of expansion and money has been pledged to build a very substantial addition to the church building to take care of the overflowing congregation and Sunday school. Architectural plans have been completed, a contract let and the construction of the addition is

now well underway. The expected cost of this addition will be approximately \$90,000.

The following Ministers have served the Elma Methodist Church with the date of the start of their ministry:

1849 Rev. George Haven, 1849 Rev. C. S. Baker, 1850 Rev. Gustavus Hines, 1852 Rev. Nelson Reasoner, 1853 Rev. Scuyler Parker, 1855 Rev. Gordon, 1856 Rev. Alonzo Newton, 1858 Rev. Lewis Chapin, 1859 Rev. S. H. Baker, 1861 Rev. James McClelland, 1862 Rev. W. H. Shaw, 1862 Rev. F. W. Conable, 1863 Rev. Alexander, 1864 Rev. Hiram May, 1865 Rev. H. W. Ripley, 1868 Rev. George W. McPherson, 1874 Rev. P. P. Reese, 1875 Rev. George M. Harris, 1878 Rev. John B. Wright, 1880 Rev. W. R. Henderson, 1881 Rev. C. S. Baker, 1883 Rev. J. F. Brown, 1884 Rev. R. I. Robinson, 1885 Rev. Wallace, 1886 Rev. C. S. Baker, 1888 Rev. Fred Dark, 1889 Rev. C. Robson, 1890 Rev. E. W. Shrigley, 1892 Rev. Louis A. Wright, 1897 Rev. J. E. Armstrong, 1899 Rev. S. W. Wyman, 1900 Rev. J. E. Armstrong, 1905 Rev. Ralph Pierce, 1906 Rev. E. S. Beacom, 1909 Rev. W. D. Allen, 1917 Rev. Walter Dynes, 1919 Rev. H. A. Reed, 1926 Rev. A. D. Stevens, 1927 Rev. H. J. Charles, 1930 Rev. J. E. Pauley, 1932 Rev. W. H. Smith, 1934 Rev. D. W. Howell, 1937 Rev. E. J. Burton, 1941 Rev. H. E. Kenrick, 1943, Rev. W. H. Jessup, 1948 Rev. Percy H. Woodruff, 1952 Rev. Edward P. Gill.

MYRON A. CLARK, Elma Methodist Church Historian.

ANNUNCIATION B. V. M. CHURCH HISTORICAL SKETCH

The informal and unofficial rise of Annunciation Church can be traced back to the year 1854, when Mr. Freiburger, at the insistence of his mother, erected a small private chapel on Lot 45, situated about one mile and a half from the site of the present Church on the north side of Clinton St. Priests from St. Mary's Church in Lancaster visited the Chapel to administer to the spiritual needs of the people of the community as often as their duties permitted. At other times, the residents had to travel to St. Mary's in Lancaster to fulfill their religious duties. Later, when the Freiburgers moved from Elma in 1870, the chapel and properties were purchased by Gardner Cotton, who converted the tiny Chapel into a tool house. After a varied history, the building was obtained from George Unselt in 1943 and restored to its original condition. It now can be found at the rear of Annunciation's grove along the east boundary of the cemetery.

In 1866, Father Feldman of Lancaster, erected a school building for the Catholic children of Elma. Lay catechists taught in the school for many years. Father John V. Schaus, also of Lancaster, began to celebrate Mass regularly for the Catholics of the district on the First Friday of each month in the year

1900.

The growth of the community caused Bishop Charles E. Colton to appoint Father Adam Scheidel as the first resident pastor of Annunciation in the year 1905. He was also charged with caring for a small mission Church in Springbrook. Father Scheidel celebrated Mass on the first floor of the school building, and he used the second floor as his residence. He appointed Phillip Phillips and Charles Schlum as the first trustees of the parish. They in turn, through the years, have been succeeded by Edward Phillips, George Hilbert, Thomas Schneider, Mark Phillips, Martin Royce, and Henry Maday. On September 15, 1956, Mark Phillips, who had served as trustee for thirty-five years, found it necessary to resign because of a change in residence.

Under the leadership of Father Scheidel and his trustees, plans were drawn up for the erection of a Church on the properties. The Church was completed in 1906. Mr. Hilbert donated the parcel of land adjoining the present rectory for use as a parish cemetery. The rectory was constructed in 1910, and two years later, the lay teachers, still working in the parish school, were replaced by the Sisters of St. Francis.

Father Scheidel was transferred to St. Paul's parish, Kenmore, N. Y., in 1914. He was succeeded by Father Joseph Stephen, who after three years was followed by Father John Schmitt. During Father Schmitt's pastorate, the school was enlarged, an auditorium was constructed, the convent was remodeled and stained glass windows were installed in the Church. After eight years of unceasing work, Father Schmitt was named pastor of St. Mary's parish in Lancaster and Father Aloysius Sander was appointed pastor of Annunciation Church. The 25th Anniversary of the parish was observed during Father Sander's pastorate.

Upon the death of Father Sander in the year 1938, Father Eugene Selbert was appointed pastor of Annunciation. He immediately set about renovating the parish properties which had been neglected due to the prolonged depression of the "thirties". The interior of the rectory was remodeled, the hall was reinforced with structural steel, the school was repainted, and the convent was renovated. Two years later the interior of the Church was completely modernized. The now famous "Elma Picnics", which Father Selbert inaugurated soon after his arrival in Annunciation, helped him to finance these improvements. The following years witnessed further work accomplished. A cement floor was laid in the hall, new toilet facilities were provided for the school, large expanses of blacktop providing parking areas, a well was dug, and the convent and Church were completely insulated. The rectory was again remodeled in 1948, and two years later additional classroom space was provided for the school children.

Father Selbert's pastorate ended in June, 1951, when he was transferred to St. Gerard's parish in Buffalo. Father Joseph Vogel, pastor of St. Mary's parish, Strykersville, was appointed as his successor. Father Vogel took up where his predecessor had left off. The school hall was remodeled, drives were blacktopped, a second well was dug to accommodate the growing water needs of the school, and several parish societies sprang into existence.

In 1953, plans were discussed for the erection of a new school. The Sodality set out to purchase a new organ for the Church. After long discussion, a Building Committee was appointed by Father Vogel to lead in the drive to erect a new school. A Building Fund Campaign soon secured \$40,000.00 in funds to finance the undertaking. Bishop Burke gave his approval for a new school. Mr. Rumschick was chosen as architect, and the Gruber Construction Company was given the main contract. Ground was broken for the new school by Bishop Smith in February, 1955, and in the spring construction work began.

The walls of the new school were only ten feet high when Father Vogel was named pastor of a new parish, Queen of Heaven, in West Seneca, on June 22, 1955. Rev. Nelson V. Logal, long an assistant pastor in St. Joseph's Old Cathedral, Buffalo, was named pastor of Annunciation in Father Vogel's place.

Construction progressed rapidly on the new school, despite incidental delays caused by a few building trades strikes during the summer months. On Sunday, October 16, 1956, the cornerstone of the new school was laid by Monsignor Martin Ebner of Gardenville, who acted as delegate for Bishop Burke.

In January, 1956, after the Christmas holidays, the school children of Annunciation moved into the still unfinished building. During the Easter holidays, new furnishings were installed in the school. In June, the auditorium was used as a temporary Church to accommodate the growing number of parishioners moving into the Elma territory.

Costing \$225,000.00, Annunciation parish has reduced the total of its school indebtedness to \$120,000.00 within the short space of a single year. The parishioners now look forward to the eventual construction of a new Church which will be necessary to keep pace with the rapid growth and expansion of Elma.

REV. NELSON W. LOGAL

EVANGELICAL SOCIETY AND WESLYN METHODIST CHURCH OF BLOSSOM

The German Evangelical Society of Blossom was organized in 1862 and occupied the church built by the Ebenezer Society

in 1849 or 1850 on the north side of Main Street in Blossom, until 1880 when the old building was demolished and a new church erected in its place. Services continued to be held in German until 1902, when they were changed to English. The Evangelical Society continued until 1949 when the church was purchased by the Weslyn Methodists.

The Evangelical Society was served by the following pastors listed approximately in the order of their tenure: Rev. Fitzinger, Rev. Wagner, Rev. Schler, Rev. Ott, Rev. Herman Rex, Rev. Galser, Rev. Heist, Rev. Spath, Rev. Devitt, Rev. Hawkins, Rev. Drew, Rev. Able Gishler, Rev. Lempke.

The Evangelicals maintained a Sunday School continuously during their occupancy. Henry C. Hoffman was Sunday School Superintendent continuously for thirty-five years.

Rev. Richard Weber has served as the Weslyn Methodist pastor since they organized in 1949. The church has a constituency of approximately fifty and a membership of twenty-five. It has a Sunday school, Missionary Society, Young Peoples Society and a Men's Club.

MRS. H. C. HOFFMAN, Editor

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—BLOSSOM

When Lutherans of German origin residing in Blossom, the northwestern corner of Elma began the formation of a congregation, little time was lost in taking the first steps. From August 31st, 1862 until September 28th thirty-six heads of families, including some neighbors from West Seneca held several meetings with the Rev. J. Gottlieb Ade with this result: a congregation was organized, its constitution was adopted, the church council of six members was elected and finally the Pastor was persuaded to become the leader of the congregation. The name chosen for this group was "St. Paul's United Evangelical Church" and the first services were held in the hall of one of the Ebenezer dwellings in the village. The decision to build its own church was reached in March 1863, a parcel of ground having been donated by Mr. Philip Schuster and on May 16th, 1864 the modest frame building was dedicated.

The early days were difficult reflecting in part the tensions of war-time. In the first nine years five pastors served the congregation and a discordant spirit often prevailed. In order to secure a more stable ministry and make for better pastoral relationships the congregation voted on September 10th, 1871 to unite with the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of New York, a connection which exists to this day. This Lutheran body is one of the parent groups forming the present United Lutheran Synod of New York, a member of the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA).

The action was accelerated by the heavy blow suffered by the church on August 19th, 1871 — when fire destroyed the building, which was covered by an insurance of only \$1,000. Three days later the members voted to re-build upon the exact spot, and on November 1st the corner-stone was laid. In the weeks between the time of the fire and the laying of the corner-stone, the Rev. J. A. Hengerer became Pastor, and the congregation was highly elated when the service of dedication was held April 1st, 1872. Pastors Christian Voss of Buffalo, C. L. Knapp of Lancaster and A. V. Kuss of Gardenville assisted at the Service. The cost of the “new church” was \$2,500.

In 1879 the congregation voted to build a parsonage, in which the day-school should also be housed . . . The school room now serves as kitchen and laundry . . . Pastor L. Zuber moved into the home in May 1880 and two years later the final payment on the building was made. At the same time the congregation acquired a new reed organ at a cost of \$74.99 — of which it was, of course, proud.

When Pastor O. E. Lorenz came to the field in October 1894, a Ladies' Aid Society was organized immediately, which has continued until now. A young people's group was also formed and this also has had a continuing existence. The Men's Club was called into being in 1924, when the Rev. Henry Freseman was Pastor, and the Missionary Society in 1942, during the pastorate of the Rev. Paul G. Hoffman. A choir has always assisted in the services and in 1949 a Junior Choir of twenty-five voices was organized while the Rev. John W. Vannorsdall was on the field.

For the first half-century church services, Sunday School sessions and confirmation instruction were conducted in German. There were some English classes in the Sunday School in 1908, and during the ministry of Pastor Otto Posselt, English Services were introduced. At first they were held in the evening, on alternate Sundays; later they were held in the morning also; and finally some years after World War I, the use of German in the worship of the church was abandoned altogether.

From time to time changes and improvements have been made to the Church building, in the arrangement of the pews and the location of the pulpit. In 1924 a small parish house was built for social and educational purposes. The greatest forward step until then was taken in 1949-50 when the project of a new brick parish house was planned, begun and completed. Services of dedication were held in May 1950 for the building, modern in design, forty by eighty feet in size and equipped with kitchen, stage and electric organ.

In September 1951, the Rev. Herbert A. Bosch became Pastor. Since then many improvements have been made to the

parsonage and the church building has been completely renovated. Dry-wall was applied and painted in soft tones of coral and grey, with pews and chancel furniture in darker shades. A wall-to-wall carpet has added its own quiet beauty. A Hammond electric organ was secured for which a quick campaign provided the necessary funds. The most recent acquisition was the purchase of two parcels of ground to the east for present parking space and future expansion purposes.

The growth of the population of Elma recently is reflected in the progress of the Church. The communicant membership now numbers more than 200 and Sunday School enrollment is above 170. Indications are that greater growth lies ahead, and St. Paul's looks prayerfully into the future with confidence and hope.

These are the church organizations and their leaders: The Church Council, Mr. Russell Vogel, chairman; The Sunday School, Mr. Harold Sager, Superintendent; The Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. George Kling, President; The Missionary Society, Miss Doris Sager, President; The Men's Club, Mr. Henry Kling, President; The Luther League, Mr. Paul Mausteller, President; The Choir, Mrs. Albert Ernst, Organist; The Junior Choir, Mrs. Charles Elliott, Director. In addition to these, the following community groups make use of the parish hall facilities: The Blossom unit of the Home Bureau, the Cloverettes of the 4-H Club national organization, and Boy Scout Troop 196 with its junior branch Cub Pack 196.

The list of Pastors of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Blossom:

The Rev. J. G. Ade (Founder), September 28, 1862-February 19, 1865.

The Rev. Fr. Menzel, March 5, 1865-May 29, 1868.

The Rev. A. Zerneck, May 29, 1868-February 20, 1869.

The Rev. Wm. Wallner, March 1, 1869-March 1, 1870.

The Rev. L. H. Gerndt, June 24, 1870-October 1, 1871.

The Rev. J. A. Hengerer, October 1, 1871-July 6, 1879.

The Rev. L. Zuber, July 16, 1879-October 20, 1894.

The Rev. O. E. Lorenz, October 21, 1894-February 1, 1898.

The Rev. J. Flierl, May 1, 1898-September 10, 1905.

The Rev. C. Stolz, October 1, 1905-August, 1906.

The Rev. Otto Posselt, November 1, 1906-September, 1917.

The Rev. C. F. Blunk, December, 1917-September, 1919.

The Rev. J. Flierl, October, 1919-January 20, 1921.

The Rev. Martin Baum, January 31, 1921-August, 1924.

The Rev. Henry Freseman, November 1, 1924-July 7, 1938.

The Rev. William Voss, September 1, 1938-June 30, 1940.

The Rev. Paul C. Hoffman, September 16, 1940-October 5, 1948.

The Rev. John W. Vannorsdall, February 13, 1949-July 1, 1951.

The Rev. Herbert A. Bosch, September 1, 1951.

THE REV. HERBERT A. BOSCH, Editor

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—WOODARD ROAD

St. John's Lutheran Church was organized by Pastor Kuss in the red school house at the corner of Bowen and Rice Roads, November 6th, 1870, and incorporated as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1874. For many years services were provided by German pastors from Town Line. From 1870 to 1886 the congregation was served by Pastors Kuss, Doelke and Ekingier but no one in the community is sure as to the length of pastorates. After 1886 came the following pastors: The Rev. Richard F. Schulz, 1886-1929. On May 21, 1928, it was decided to call a pastor of the United Lutheran Synod of New York. Rev. Paul C. Hoffman was called. The church became a member of the United Lutheran Synod in New York in 1931. The Rev. Paul C. Hoffman, 1929-1932; the Rev. W. J. Huthman, 1932-1934; the Rev. Elmer C. Dressel, 1934-1935; the Rev. Harold C. Earhart, 1936-1940; the Rev. Paul C. Hoffman, 1940-1949; the Rev. John W. Vannorsdal, 1949-1951; the present pastor, the Rev. Herbert A. Bosch, came in 1951.

In April, 1874, Henry W. Stitz deeded to St. John's Church, one acre of land from his farm on Woodard Road. In later years his son deeded another acre in back of the church as an addition to the cemetery and this second acre was a gift.

A small frame chapel was built and used until 1887 when the present church was built by Christian Stolle, contractor. In 1926 this church was beautified by the addition of a steeple.

In 1950 facilities for educational and social purposes were installed when the structure was raised and a basement and an addition at the rear of the church were built to provide Sunday school rooms, pastor's study and choir room. Modern plumbing and automatic heat was installed.

In 1955 the interior was redecorated and altar rail and new carpet was installed.

St. John's Ladies Aid was organized in 1918 with four charter members. Present membership is 32 which includes the four charter members.

Luther League has a membership of 22, ranging in age from twelve to seventeen years.

The Junior Choir has 13 members and the Senior Choir 15 members. Both Choirs are directed by Mrs. Louis Zimmerman.

The United Lutheran Church Women, recently organized, has a membership of 14. Its purpose is to assist in all the church work, educational service, stewardship and to promote missionary activities.

The Picnic aid organized in 1953 for the purpose of preparing materials and programs for the annual church picnic. It has a membership of 15. This organization meets in the homes of its members and in addition to its original purpose, makes gifts to Orphanages and Lutheran World Action and visits the sick

and shut-ins on the church membership.

The Sunday School has had Lester Fisher, Howard Schroeder, and Carolyn Ruttan for its Superintendents. At the present time, Frederick Luders is Superintendent and the membership is 110.

MRS. ROSE LUDERS, Editor.

**RICE ROAD EVANGELICAL CHURCH
and
ELMA COMMUNITY SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The German Evangelical Society of Rice Road built their church in 1874 on the north end of Lot 53, and on the south side of the Rice Road, where they regularly held their services in the German language. For several years they had a German Sunday school, but the attendance kept growing less and less, and the school was given up.

For many years prior to 1919, the Evangelical Society of Rice Road had been holding services in English in place of German during the summer months. Rev. George C. Deegan of Ebenezer came to the church twice each month during the summer from 1919 until, approximately, the autumn of 1924.

In the fall of 1919, since there was no Sunday School available for the children around Elma Center nearer than the Methodist Church in Elma Village, Mr. and Mrs. Fred I. Sigman obtained permission from the Evangelical Society to start a Community Sunday School in their Rice Road Church. The Sunday School was well attended and grew rapidly. In the spring of 1922, the Lutherans invited the Community Sunday School to move over to the St. John's Lutheran Church on Woodard Road. Since they had regular janitor service, which the Evangelical Rice Road Church did not have and which required Mr. Sigman to build fires in the wood burning stove as well as to keep the premises clean, it was decided to accept the Lutherans' invitation. The first Elma Community Sunday School services held at the St. John's Lutheran Church, was on April 22nd, 1922.

The Community Sunday School continued to grow until its membership was over 200 and attendance frequently numbered over 150. The school not only furthered religious non-sectarian instruction, but became a social center and backed a number of worth while projects. Thus, in 1925, it formed Troop No. 18, Boy Scouts of America. It had its own orchestra, debating team and male quartette and became a strong factor in the Erie County Sunday School Association.

In 1925, it sponsored the erection of a Military and Naval Memorial monument at the corner of Rice and Bowen Roads, which is the geographical center of the town. A Committee consisting of L. P. Reuther, Chairman; Benjamin Eldridge,

Harry Luders, William Pontlitz and Fred Sigman, searched the town for a suitable boulder and finally found one located in the Buffalo Creek at Girdle Road. Harry Luders and William Pontlitz rolled the boulder onto a "stone boat" and hauled it to the present location with a tractor where it was set in place under the supervision of L. P. Reuther and dedicated with a suitable ceremony, November 11th, 1927.

Mr. Sigman continued as superintendent with Raymond Tank, Walter Merkle and Gustave Matchulat as assistants until 1927 when Raymond Tank became Superintendent. The School continued to function as a Community institution until 1931 when the church became a member of the United Lutheran Synod.

Unquestionably the greatest benefits derived by the members of the Elma Community Sunday School by their association with it, were the lasting friendships and memories of whole-hearted co-operation in worthwhile objectives which they obtained.

RAYMOND TANK, Editor.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

As a result of missionary explorations conducted by New York Missouri Synod Lutherans from 1924 to 1928, regular services were conducted by Rev. Eric C. Malte in the then independent St. John's Lutheran Church from January, 1928, until the fall of 1928, when services were moved to an unoccupied residence owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Stitz at Girdle and Bullis Roads.

Rev. Victor H. Neeb was installed as missionary pastor here on January 27th, 1929, and on March 5th, 1929, the congregation was formally organized with a membership of 33.

The cornerstone of the present church at Bowen and Jamison Roads was laid June 22, 1930. The church was constructed on plans provided by Maynard Yaw, Architect. Harlan Luders acted as general contractor and completed the building at a cost of \$22,000 for its dedication on January 25th, 1931.

Rev. Neeb continued as pastor until May, 1949, when he accepted a call to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Aurora, exclusively. Rev. Walter A. Maier, Jr., served the church from June, 1949, and was ordained and installed as pastor, Sept. 11th, 1949. He served the church until May, 1954, when he accepted a call to the newly organized Hope Lutheran Church in Levittown, Pa. Rev. H. Earl Miller, who had served as missionary to India from 1928 to 1954, was installed as Faith's third pastor on Sept. 5th, 1954.

The present parsonage was built in 1951 at a cost of \$19,500. A two-manual Schlicker pipe organ with chimes was installed in the church at a cost of about \$5,000 and was dedicated on

Nov. 16, 1947. Two purchases of land adjacent to the church have brought the total to 6½ acres.

The congregation numbers 324 baptized members, of whom 213 are active communicants. The Sunday School has an enrollment of 175. The Men's Club has a membership of 31, the Ladies' Aid 30, the Young Adults Group 20, the Junior Walther League 18, the choir 14.

REV. H. EARL MILLER, Pastor.

ST. GABRIEL'S R. C. CHURCH

At the suggestion of Rev. M. Tymek, pastor of St. Augustine Church in Depew, N. Y., Rev. John Glazik with the permission of Bishop Turner, enrolled about 36 families in the new St. Gabriel's Parish of Blossom. The first Mass was celebrated by Father Glazik in the old Blossom Fire Company Hall, May 1st, 1925.

The parish was incorporated Sept. 25th, 1925, with John Mary and John Rozeski as the first Trustees under the title of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, and on Nov. 1st, 1925, Bishop Turner appointed Rev. John Zeuczak as its first pastor. Twelve and one-half acres of land were purchased from the Gebhard family on Clinton St. and the church erected by voluntary labor using prefabricated materials. The rectory was completed the following year, 1926.

After Father Zeuczaki's unexpected demise, Nov. 1st, 1932, he was succeeded by Rev. Ignatus A. Wozciehowski on Nov. 12th. Father Wozciehowski had horticulture for a hobby and put it to good use in beautifying the parish grounds. He not only supervised the work, but dressed in overalls, assisted the men of the parish in laying out the lawn and gardens, in the construction of stone posts and planting of trees. He also assisted the men of the parish in the building of a storage hall. New pews and many other accessories, including an addition to the rectory, were made during Father Wozciehowski's pastorate.

Father Wozciehowski was assigned to St. Mary's Church, Albion, N. Y., and Rev. Henry R. Wozniak was installed to succeed him, Aug. 12th, 1948. During Father Wozniak's pastorate, new driveways, parking lots, play field and other improvement have been acquired.

The church has an active Holy Name Society, Mother's Club, Rosary Mothers Club and St. Teresa Sodality and provides a nine o'clock and eleven o'clock Mass Choirs. It also has its Bowling team and Softball team playing in the Holy Name District.

(Extracts from History dated 1950 by Rev. Henry R. Wozniak, Pastor).

SPRINGBROOK METHODIST CHURCH
and
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SPRINGBROOK

The Methodists continued to hold services in the German Evangelical Society Church which they acquired in 1893 until 1936. Rev. David Parcells was pastor of the church at the time of its dedication as a Methodist Church in 1893. He also served the Methodist Church in East Aurora.

Various Methodist pastors served the church, some of them from East Aurora and some from Elma Village Methodist churches.

In 1936 the Methodist church severed its relation with the church and in 1937 the church was reorganized as the Community Church of Springbrook with Rev. Stillman as its first pastor. Rev. Eugene Barnett, Rev. Paulison and Rev. William Peek also served as pastors to the Community Church.

In 1956 Rev. George Huff was called to the pastorate.

The church has a constituency of approximately 150 of which 75 are members. It has an active Sunday school, Woman's Missionary Society, Young Peoples Society and Young Adult Society.

JOSHUA TSUJIMOTO, Editor.



CHAPTER XX.

HISTORY OF THE ELMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE first attempt to establish a public library in the town of Elma was made by the Home Bureau in 1931. That enterprising and community minded group of women sent Mrs. Claire Payne as a delegate to interview the librarian of the Buffalo Public Library to see what could be done. He was very co-operative and offered to compile a group of books from their collection which would be available to the people of Elma. This embryo library consisted of 246 books—mostly classics—covering biography, history, travel and fiction. These books were divided into three lots and placed in homes in different parts of town, and the ladies waited for the townspeople to rush in to borrow them. This did not occur and it soon became evident that people were hesitant about troubling their neighbors for books.

Unwilling to concede defeat, volunteers started delivering books from house to house on Clinton and Bowen Roads. This worked for a time, but often people were given a biography or travel book when they preferred fiction or a good mystery. This situation, plus an unusually severe winter that year, robbed the volunteers of their enthusiasm for these house to house deliveries and the library seemed doomed to fail before it had really been established.

In 1940 Elma's Home Bureau delegate, Mrs. Sommerville, to Farm and Home Week at Cornell returned with so much enthusiasm for a library for Elma that she inspired that group to call together a meeting of community-minded citizens from all parts of town to discuss ways and means of providing one. Representatives from the different school districts, churches, fire companies, auxiliaries, lodges, ladies' aids, Men's Clubs, political groups, P. T. A.'s town board and Elma teachers met, formed a committee, made plans and elected the first five member board of trustees, consisting of: Mrs. Myron Clark, president; Mrs. Doris Wagner, treasurer; Mrs. H. J. Davies,

secretary; Mrs. Catherine Strief, and, Miss Betsy Ross. The library committee worked with the board of trustees until the library was fully established. The board at their first meeting unanimously agreed to accept the offer of the trustee of No. 6 school, at Rice and Bowen Roads, to use a part of the school basement for the "Elma Public Library". This first library room measured ten by twelve feet.

The two biggest problems confronting the new board at this time were the raising of money and the training of personnel. Mrs. Horace Briggs of the Buffalo Public Library offered to train the new volunteers in selecting, processing and cataloguing the books. She continued to work closely with them for several years, insisting at all times on proper library procedure. Her patience, skill and faithfulness seemed unlimited and it was due largely to her that the library was correctly organized and managed from the start.

The second problem of obtaining funds was solved, when an appeal was made to all ten school districts and the library committee also conducted a house to house canvas for money or books or both. The school districts responded by contributing \$300.00, an average of one dollar per pupil, stipulating only that the money be used for new books for children. Two hundred twenty-one dollars was raised in the house to house drive and this was used to purchase supplies, second-hand furniture and adult books.

The Elma Public Library opened its doors to the public in February 1941 with 1103 books and 130 registered borrowers. By September of that same year, it became necessary to enlarge the library room and from then on it continued to move further and further across the basement. During this time the staff of volunteers had many problems besides circulation, book selection and library management. Flooded floors, defective flues, mold forming on books on the lower shelves and inadequate heat were among the distractions the first library home provided for its enthusiastic attendants.

In January 1942, the town board responded to the appeal of the library committee and other interested citizens by granting \$500.00 yearly, from the town's budgeted funds, for the support of the Elma public library. Since the staff and board had already fulfilled all the other requirements for the granting of a charter by the New York State Board of Regents, this was now assured and Elma's library was officially a proud institution.

In 1947 the Erie County Library system was formed and Elma joined. This made available to patrons in this area all the resources of the county and Buffalo Public Libraries. Financial support of the library was also assumed by the county.

At this time school enrollments all over the town were in-

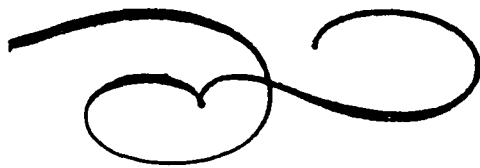
creasing rapidly and the trustees of No. 6 school were forced to ask the library to vacate to make room for a much needed new classroom. New quarters had to be found. In November 1948 the Elma Public Library moved to its present site on Bullis Road. This building — 36x36 — was built to the specifications of the board by Dan Yacobush and rented to the library for five years. The formal opening at the new location was held November 15, 1948. The book collection then consisted of 4000 volumes.

The new library, located in a center of activity next to the postoffice, barber shop and grocery store, grew very rapidly and circulation doubled to 24,000 the first year. In May 1949, Mrs. Myron Clark resigned as president of the board to become librarian. She has served in this capacity ever since.

Keeping pace with the growth of the town, the library continued to increase its circulation, its number of registered borrowers and its book collection. In December 1953, the librarian reported a circulation of 57,756 and a book stock of 8447 volumes. This could mean only one thing. The library had to expand. The little shop next door was vacant and Mr. Yacobush listened to the request of the library board to remodel it for additional library space. This became the present young people's and reference room as well as providing a small work room for the staff. The original work section became a reading room for the younger children.

Before Iroquois Central School opened its doors for adult education classes, the library sponsored art courses and typing. Public relations programs, book reviews, story hours, vacation reading clubs, hobby shows and poster contests all helped in stimulating the growth of the Elma public library until today it is a very vital force in the community. The library came into being as a result of co-operation between all the organizations in town and now, in 1956, it stands as a tribute to the people of Elma for it is theirs.

MRS. CATHERINE BRIDGMAN, Editor



CHAPTER XXI.

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES IN ELMA BLOSSOM BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION AND FIRE COMPANY

IN THE year 1872 the following men organized the Blossom Benevolent Association and Fire Company: Jacob Koch, William Kleinfelder, Christian Lorey, John Walter, Jr., John Koch, Alois Dusch, Hieman Shuster, Charles Schun, Bernard Walter, Jacob Knab, Joseph Knab, William Koch, Michael Becker, Frank Eckert, Louis Mayer, George Hensel, Albert Mayer, Fredrick Darsteen, Adam Antone, George Dorstein, Edward Stilb, Charles Stilb, Henry Kleinfelder.

In the year 1873 a Hook and Ladder and Bucket Brigade hand drawn apparatus was purchased and was housed in the Lutheran church shed. Fire alarms were sounded by ringing the Lutheran Church bell.

In 1893 a building was built to house the fire fighting equipment and to provide for fire company meetings.

In 1903 a hand pumper was purchased from the Village of Lancaster, N. Y. for \$300.00. This apparatus was drawn by the first team of horses to arrive at the Fire Hall and the driver was given \$10.00.

In 1924 the Fire Hall was remodeled and in 1932 a Ladies' Auxiliary was organized which has assisted the Fire Company in many of its projects.

In 1934 a 350 gallon Triple Combination Pumper was purchased from Buffalo Fire Appliance Company mounted on a Ford Chassis.

In 1945 four acres of land was purchased across from the Fire Hall and in 1947 the Fire Hall was moved to the new property. At this time the building was remodeled and a truck room was added.

In 1951 a First Aid team was organized and a First Aid Truck was purchased.

In 1952 a new high pressure fire truck was purchased from the Young Fire Appliance Company for the sum of \$12,000.

The present Fire Company's membership is 66.

ALBERT ERNST, Editor

SPRING BROOK FIRE COMPANY, INC. SPRING BROOK, N. Y.

The company was started in 1913 by Herman Wagner. Among the early members were Frank Kirsh, Charles Reamer, C. V. Conley, W. L. Schrueler, Henry Schrader, W. M. Dollar, Roy E. Dollar, D. A. Donahue, Charles Weston, Julius Marshall, William Leger, H. D. Stevenson, and A. L. Willson.

The equipment of the company at that time consisted of a horse or hand drawn side-bar pumper and hose reel.

The company was incorporated on May 25th, 1919 by the then Secretary of State, Mr. Hugo.

The fire district was established by a petition signed by 51% of the taxpayers of said district in 1925. These signatures were verified by Amos L. Willison, Notary Public. After the district was created a bond issue was voted for \$10,000 to extend over a period of ten years. With this money the first Board of Fire Commissioners consisting of the Rev. Roman Newer, Messers. William M. Dollar and Joseph Grace along with town supervisor, Ralph Tillou, who acted as treasurer, was elected. The Commissioners bought the lot, contracted for the original fire house and a tank chemical truck.

Today the fire district is the proud possessor of a modern fire house with the following equipment: one High Pressure John Beam Fog Truck, one G. M. C. 250 gal. per minute pumper truck and an Emergency Panel Truck equipped with all necessary tools for operation.

As for the Fire Company itself, today (April 4th, 1954) it has a membership roll of better than 140 men, 50% of which are active, delving in all phases of Firematic work, such as First Aid, Fire Police and Basic and Advanced Fire Training. The company owns its own picnic grounds and is financially sound.

ROY DOLLAR, Editor

ELMA FIRE COMPANY, INC.

In the fall of 1936, a model T Chemical fire truck was acquired and housed at Jerge Truck and Body Garage. This resulted in the holding of enthusiastic meetings to form a fire company. These meetings were held at the Elma Grange Hall Bowen Road, Elma.

On February 9th, 1937, the following firemen were elected as officers: Cortland M. Briggs, President; James P. Jerge, Secretary; Norman Lund, Treasurer and Phillip Jerge, Fire Chief.

On April 13th, 1937, the following persons signed corporation papers of the Elma Fire Co., Inc., as charter members:

Cortland M. Briggs	Allen G. Seigel
James P. Jerge	George B. Tyler
Norman Lund	Michael Nuwer
Arthur Breton	Clark W. Hurd
B. H. Briggs	Benjamin Eldredge
Bradley J. Hurd	Myron A. Clark
Oscar Gilbert	Everett E. Green
Jacob J. Jerge	Walter M. Beels
Peter Nosbisch	Harry Luders

On September 25th, 1937, the fire company negotiated to purchase the Elma Grange Hall for the sum, not to exceed \$4500. On February 1, 1943, a banquet was held for the burning of the mortgage.

The annual picnics, for several years, were held on vacant property at Clinton and Bowen Roads, later at Annunciation Church Grounds, and at present, are held at Elma Fire Company grounds.

The parading unit has been well known, winning numerous prizes at Hamburg Fair, for most men in the line with as many as 80 men in uniform.

In the ensuing years, the Fire Company made substantial improvements to the hall and acquired additional land, with equipment expanding to fully equipped pumper, two tankers and an emergency first aid truck.

In 1952, increased expenses made it necessary for the company to seek aid from the Town of Elma, and, as a result there was created a fire protection district.

During 1955, the firemen organized their own Drum Corps with approximately 34 instruments.

Present membership is composed of 83 regular members, 19 exempt members and 5 honorary members.

The present officers are: James Hotwes, President; Carl Metzger, Vice President; Harry Conrad, Secretary; John Lund, Treasurer and Robert Heim, Fire Chief.

JAMES JERGE, Editor

THE HISTORY OF THE JAMISON ROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

The Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. was organized in 1940 to provide fire protection for the residents of the southeastern section of the town of Elma. With three other fire companies already organized, this afforded adequate coverage for the entire town.

The following men were the organizers and charter members with the first five named being chosen to serve as the Board of Directors. Of them Claude McCubbin served as the

first president and Elia Nicoloff was the first fire chief. Lester E. Hopper, Thomas McCubbin, Claude McCubbin, Ernest Bleeck, Herman Walter, Merle E. Newton, Leland Rupp, Floyd Offhaus, Joseph E. Kalla, Joseph H. Kalla, Daniel E. Shaver, Albert W. Bray, Harold S. Tyler and Elia Nicoloff.

Mr. Ernest Bleeck offered the use of a building on Jamison Road at Maple to house equipment. This and an adjoining building with 7 acres of land was purchased by the company for a permanent site in 1950.

The first apparatus, a pumper, was purchased in 1941 and was used until replaced by a new one, a Buffalo, in May 1947.

In 1948 a 2300 gallon tanker was acquired and later, another smaller truck was fitted with two tanks each holding 275 gallons. This gave the company a total capacity of 3200 gallons, including 350 gallons in the pumper. These tankers have proved invaluable at fires where there was an inadequate water supply.

We now have forty-four members with Charles Simmons as our president and Arthur Schoenthal, our Fire Chief.

WARREN H. BLEEKMAN, Editor

AUXILIARY OF THE BLOSSOM FIREMEN

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Blossom Firemen was organized June 6th, 1932, by twenty-two ladies. Of these twenty-two charter members the following eight ladies are still active members: Mrs. W. Bentz, Mrs. E. Borschel, Mrs. A. Ernst, Mrs. H. Greis, Mrs. G. Kling, Mrs. H. Schultz, Mrs. C. Van Splunder and Mrs. M. Willert.

The purpose of the Auxiliary is to give aid to the firemen financially as well as to help them at the picnic, dances and other money raising functions.

Many improvements were made to the Fire Hall building through the aid of the Auxiliary which includes redecorating the dance hall, remodeling the dining room with knotty pine walls, installing hard wood floors and remodeling the kitchen.

Donation of money is made to the Community Chest and Red Cross appeals. During World War II some of the ladies took First Aid training and did sewing and knitting for the Red Cross.

A Drill Team was formed. The ladies attended many firemen's parades and the Hamburg Fair. Many prizes in money were won by the group at these parades.

At the present time, September 1956, we have 36 members. The acting officers are: President, Mrs. Leonard Van Splunder; Vice President, Mrs. Melvin Willert; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Albert Ernst; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Fred Willis; Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Knell.

MRS. ALBERT ERNST, Editor

CHAPTER XXII.

HISTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS IN ELMA

EVENING STAR LODGE, NO. 657, I.O.O.F.

EVENING STAR LODGE NO. 657, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was Instituted February 11th, 1893. A group of the leading men of Springbrook was behind the movement. Eli Northrup was the first Noble Grand. After operating under a dispensation for a short period, a Charter was granted. The lodge at first met in a large room over Cole and Fish's store (now Walters Restaurant) at the corner of Mill Road (now Northrup Road) and Buffalo and Aurora Plank Road (now Seneca Street). Meetings were held there for about three years, and during this period plans were laid for the building of an Odd Fellows Temple in the village of Springbrook. After many activities and affairs of various kinds, and of course the help of a mortgage, and a subscription to the fund by some members, the money was raised to start the Temple. Land was purchased at the present site of the Temple on Seneca Street. It is built entirely of wood, with the banquet and ballroom on the lower floor, and the lodge rooms on the second. Much of the lumber was sawed from trees grown in this area, it is said, and much of it was sawed at Mr. Eli Northrup's saw mill on Cazenovia Creek and Mill Road. The building has no posts on the lower floor, but large wooden beams are framed together for the supports of the second floor and round iron rods 2½ inches in circumference are trussed underneath the timbers to give it sturdy support. Old Members have said that this construction caused lots of favorable comment at the time it was built. For its age this building is still in excellent condition, and straight and sound.

Old records show that members were admitted from Elma, East Aurora, East Hamburg, (now Orchard Park) and West Seneca. West Seneca members show addresses of Ebenezer and Gardenville, as there were only those two post offices operating at that time.

For many years the lodge held an Easter Monday Dance at the Hall. This event was known for miles around and was always attended by large crowds. Horses and buggies filled

the church sheds, and extra stalls for horses were donated by members in town for people who had to drive them for transportation. Music was furnished by Clayton Fattey's Orchestra of East Aurora. We speak of these dances because the mortgage on the building was paid off in this way. Many members joined this lodge from West Seneca and later withdrew and formed Garden Lodge No. 283 I.O.O.F.

When the Hall was completed, a very large delegation of Odd Fellows from Buffalo, with many dignitaries, attended its dedication. They came to Springbrook by way of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and marched up Pound Road to the Hall, to the tunes of a brass Band.

Through the years this Lodge has practised the Odd Fellow principles of Fraternal benefits, Charity, and Civic participation. Patriotic duties have been carried out by its members, who have served our armed forces. Many of the Charter members were veterans of the Union Army in the Civil War. Some of these members are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Springbrook. In later years members served in World Wars I and II.

On Memorial Day all graves of deceased members are decorated by the Lodge with flags and emblems of the order.

Many residents of the Town of Elma have served as officers of this lodge. A list of Past Grands, the highest office of the lodge, follows. Eli Northrup, Feb. 11, 1893; William Cole, June 30, 1893; James A. Woodard, Jan. 1, 1894; Seward Griffen, June 30, 1894; James A. Woodard, Jan. 1, 1895; H. L. Tillou, June 30, 1895; Erwin W. Buggerin, Jan. 1, 1896; Edward S. Hampton, June 30, 1896; W. J. Weir, Jan. 1, 1897.

George J. Heim, June 30, 1897; Amos Willson, Jan. 1, 1898; Charles H. Sweet, June 30, 1898; Julius Marshall, Jan. 1, 1899; Charles H. Heim, June 30, 1899; Albert Mayer, Jan. 1, 1900; Alpheus Tillou, June 30, 1900; Adolph Hesse, Jan. 1, 1901; Ellery J. Allen, June 1901; Andrew Marks, Jan. 1, 1902; George J. Heim, June 30, 1902; Frank Hatch, Jan. 1, 1903; Arthur Bergtold, Jan. 1, 1904; Henry Heller, June 30, 1904; A. A. Hawley, Jan. 1, 1905.

John Gould, June 30, 1905; George Thomas, Jan. 1, 1906; Eugene Simmons, June 30, 1906; Gersten Sterns, Jan. 1, 1907; Charles Reamer, June 30, 1907; John W. Luders, Jan. 1, 1908; Albert Badger, June 30, 1908; Charles Reamer, Jan. 1, 1909; John Klump, June 30, 1909; Henry Kihm, Jan. 1, 1910; D. J. Tillou, June 30, 1910; Charles H. Howard, June 30, 1911; Edward Bippert, June 30, 1912; Charles Schluter, Jan. 1, 1913; C. A. Justin, June 30, 1913.

William A. Smith, Jan. 1, 1914; John Gould, June 30, 1914; George H. Bennett, Jan. 1, 1915; Albert J. Badger, Jan. 1, 1916; Thomas A. Bills, Jan. 1, 1917; Cortland N. Woodard, June 30, 1917; Seward Griffin, Jan. 1, 1918; William F. Schrader, June

30, 1918; Elmer P. Bowell, Jan. 1, 1919; Valentine H. Merkle, June 30, 1919; Benjamin J. Eldridge, Jan. 1, 1920; George W. Stutzman, June 30, 1920; Ernst C. Gregor, Jr., Jan. 1, 1921; Roy E. Dollar, June 30, 1921; Silas Lexo, Jan. 1, 1922.

Herbert E. Stitz, June 30, 1922; Harvey Miller, Jan. 1, 1923; Gus Matchulet, June 30, 1923; Earl Lexo, Jan. 1, 1924; Henry Schrader, June 30, 1924; Eldred R. Adams, Jan. 1, 1925; Fred Dollar, June 30, 1925; William Langendorfer, Jan. 1, 1926; Walter Leger, June 30, 1926; Harry Luders, Jan. 1, 1927; Bernard L. Wahl, June 30, 1927; Charles E. Bergtold, Jan. 1, 1928; William F. Lempke, June 30, 1928; Ralph J. Bridgman, Jan. 1, 1929; Harold E. Wahl, June 30, 1929.

Edmond Reinhardt, Jan. 1, 1930; Walter Gick, June 30, 1930; Arthur Bender, Jan. 1, 1931; Henry Schrader, June 30, 1931; Louis Schneckenberger, Jan. 1, 1932; Elmer R. Gick, June 30, 1932; George Drews, Jan. 1, 1933; August Petrie, June 30, 1933; Clarence W. Ferrand, Jan. 1, 1934; Richard Ferrand, June 30, 1934; Richard M. Eastland, Jan. 1, 1935; Harry T. Langendorfer, June 30, 1935; Charles Snyder, Jan. 1, 1936; Gerald Wedemeyer, Jan. 1, 1937; Hugh D. Stevenson, Jan. 1, 1938.

Richard Ferrand, June 30, 1938; George P. Kalle, Jan. 1, 1939; Albert Lublow, June 30, 1939; Robert A. Badger, Jan. 1, 1940; Charles Schaefer, June 30, 1940; Richard Scheuneman, June 30, 1941; Albert Lublow, June 30, 1942; Raymond Langendorfer, Jan. 1, 1943; Edmund Reinhardt, June 30, 1943; Henry J. Schroeder, Jan. 1, 1944; Richard A. Scheuneman, Jan. 1, 1945; John S. Wheeler, June 30, 1945.

A. Milton Badger, Jan. 1, 1946; Ferdinand Nagle, Jan. 1, 1947; Merrill C. Smith, Jan. 1, 1948; Glenn C. Herrick, Jan. 1, 1949; Fred Mueller, Jan. 1, 1950; Aaron H. Rice, Jan. 1, 1951; Aaron H. Rice, Jan. 1, 1952; Edward Streif, Jan. 1, 1953; Fred Mueller, Jan. 1, 1954; Roy Knibloe, Jan. 1, 1955; Chauncey R. Eckam, Jan. 1, 1956.

The Town of Elma has for many years used the Hall for voting on Primary and Election days. Old time caucuses have been held, arousing heated political discussions preceding elections. The Lodge has donated the use of the Hall for Red Cross Blood Banks, Red Cross Lessons in nursing and first aid courses during World War II, and the building was designated for hospital use with emergency equipment and supplies stored there for instant use if the war demanded. Many wedding receptions are held here. Supervised teen age dances have been held of late years. The Building was remodeled and modernized about 1950. The lodge room was redecorated with new ceilings and side walls and new seats were installed. Modern heating and plumbing followed. Debts were assumed again for these purposes, but with the help of Ivanhoe Rebekah Lodge No. 191, which is the women's branch of the Order, and

hard work by the members these debts were soon paid off. Ivanhoe Rebekah Lodge No. 191 which will be sixty years old in April 1957, has always met in this Hall, and assisted in projects for the betterment of the Hall and the Order.

Evening Star Lodge No. 657 will always do their part in projects for the betterment and progress of the Town of Elma.

HUGH D. STEVENSON, PDDGM,
Recording Secretary

IVANHOE REBEKAH LODGE SPRINGBROOK, N. Y.

Ivanhoe Rebekah Lodge No. 191 of Springbrook, N. Y. was instituted on April 10th, 1897 by Mrs. Hannah M. Dorian, District Deputy Grand Master of Erie District No. 2. The Petition was approved March 15th, 1897 by Grand Lodge dispensation and the charter was granted at Grand Lodge session in Syracuse, N. Y., August 1897. The petitioners were as follows for the charter: Henry Kihm, Jane Kihm, George Heim, Katherine Heim, John Gould, Carrie Gould, Seward Griffen, Ida Griffin, W. T. Weir, Delilah Weir, Hattie Talmadge. At the celebration of the 50th anniversary in April, 1947, two charter members were present namely, George and Katherine Heim. Mary B. Stevenson was District Deputy that year and also chairman of the anniversary banquet which was served in their own meeting place, the I.O.O.F. Temple at Seneca and Pound Road, Springbrook.

The first officers of the Lodge were Jane Kihm, Noble Grand; Carrie Gould, Vice Grand; Ida M. Griffin, Recording Secretary; Delilah Weir, Financial Secretary; and Catherine Heim, Treasurer.

The following is a complete list of Noble Grands and their terms of office: Carrie Gould 1898-1899, Kate Heim 1900, Angie Wilson 1901, Carrie Gould 1902 (second term), Jennie Morris 1903, Lucy Baker 1904, Ida Smith 1905, Jane Kihm 1906, Amorette Spenser 1907, Hattie Tillou 1908, Ida Griffin 1909, Eliza Reimer 1910, Blanche Kelsey 1911, Bertha Hatch 1912, Effie Smithson Hall 1913, Emma Wilson 1914, Kitty A. M. Simmons 1915, Lora Dollar 1916, Margaret Kurtzhals Wheeler 1917, Carrie Gould 1918 (third term), Lora Dollar 1919 (second term), Lena Ebert 1920. At this time the Lodge was placed in Dist. No. 7. Margaret Stutzman 1921, Ada Leger 1922, Maude Stitz 1923, Mildred Klas 1924, Edith Marks 1925, Amelia Matchulat 1926, Julia Luders 1927, Imogene Lexo 1928, Irene Schneckenberger 1929, Edna Wahl 1930, Mamie Hoth 1931, Grace Woodard 1932, Velda Miller 1933, Nora Bridgman 1934, Rose Luders 1935, Lillian McHale 1936, Harriet Schneckenberger 1937, Irene Marks 1938, Louise Rapp 1939, Rose Luders 1940 (second term), Mary Stevenson 1941,

Elsie Heller 1942, Lillian Langendorfer 1945 and 1946, Ruth Nagel 1947, Florence Heck 1948, Ruth Miller 1949, Ethel Rice 1950, Alice Yunke 1951, Vera Cody 1952, Ellen Zoeller 1953, Ethel Rice 1954 (second term). The 1955 Noble Grand is Florence Matchulat with 99 active members. There are 27 past Noble Grands living. One member, Past Noble Grand, Bertha Hatch, is a resident of the I.O.O.F. Home at Lockport, N. Y. with which this lodge is affiliated and helps in its support.

Ivanhoe has had six Deputy Presidents: Lora Dollar in 1921, now deceased, Lena Ebert 1927, Irene Schneckenberger 1933-34, Mamie Hoth 1946-47 (resigned), Mary B. Stevenson 1946-47, Ruth Nagel 1952-53. Louise Rapp by transfer from Garden Rebekah Lodge is a member.

Looking through the history of Ivanhoe was of great interest and a real pleasure. One feels a great satisfaction in belonging to an organization that has made such strides in 57 years of activity and has been able to contribute to the care and well being of elderly members of Rebekah Lodges.

MRS. AARON RICE, Editor

THE ELMA GRANGE AND THE ELMA HALL ASSOCIATION

The Elma Grange and The Elma Hall Association were so closely associated that their stories are interlocked. The Grange was organized about 1910. They at first, held their meetings in the Elma Methodist Church, however, very soon there arose a desire for a meeting place of their own. To secure such a meeting place the Elma Hall Association, Inc., was incorporated, including Grange members and all others interested in building such a hall. Stock was sold and the hall built in 1912. The Grange disbanded in 1933 and the Hall Association carried on the maintenance of the property until the building was acquired by the Elma Volunteer Fire Company.

Among those who served as Masters of the Grange were Myron H. Clark, Cornelius Eiss, Myron A. Clark and Ralph M. Tillou.

MYRON A. CLARK, Editor

ELMA BRANCH RED CROSS

The Elma Township Branch of the American Red Cross was organized by Mrs. Edward Fellows in 1915.

Records show that there were about 15 active members. This small group met weekly, either at the Rowley home or Mrs. Harvey Hurd's to make all kinds of surgical dressings and other articles for soldiers. Many long hard hours were given

during the flu epidemic. In October 1918, the Elma Branch was duly registered as a part of the Buffalo Chapter American Red Cross. Mrs. Harvey Hurd and Mrs. Burton Hurd were co-chairmen, with Mrs. Melvin Hurd as treasurer. It is interesting to note that during these years members paid weekly dues and paid for all materials. Occasionally dances, or card parties were held to help raise funds to purchase supplies and make monthly contributions to the Buffalo Chapter. Membership drives were started in 1917 and from then until 1933, the Buffalo Chapter rebated 50% of funds collected.

In 1918 Junior Red Cross was organized in the Elma schools, with a membership of 50 students. A \$100.00 contribution is noted in the records of July, 1918, and this money was raised by the students holding candy sales and a dance.

After the World War I years, Mrs. Thomas Hurd was chairman and Mrs. Melvin Hurd continued as treasurer. The organization was not active, but continued to make contributions to the Marine Hospital, and emergency disasters in New Jersey, Florida, Mississippi, Maine and Japan, and each Christmas for American Red Cross Christmas Bags.

In 1931 the Elma Red Cross again became an active organization, under the leadership of Mrs. Ralph Payne, working with Mr. Earl Lexo, then Supervisor, and the Buffalo Chapter. A great deal of welfare work was done during the years 1931-1936. Government food and new clothing was dispersed to those in need. The government also gave bolts of cloth and many of the ladies worked long hours making this material into men's shirts, children's clothing and bedding. Mrs. Payne's home was used to store these articles and any used garments the ladies were able to acquire. Membership Drives were held during these years but funds were scarce. Mrs. Henry Fleischman worked as Membership Drive Chairman for several years. From 1936 to 1941 Red Cross in Elma was inactive.

In December 1941, the first meeting of the reorganized Elma Branch was held at the home of Mrs. Ralph Payne, who was nominated chairman and held office until 1944. All during World War II, the organization was very active — members were taking First Aid, Canteen, Nurse's Aid, Motor Corps, Disaster Preparedness and Home Nursing courses. Many meetings were held in a room at the Methodist Parsonage, where workers made surgical dressings and other sewing. Home Service committees were kept busy making contacts for soldiers and their families and other hardship cases. American Red Cross Bloodmobile visited Elma three times in 1942 and a total of 302 pints of blood was collected, and in 1943, 316 pints. In 1943, an Emergency Loan Closet was established and all articles were kept at Mrs. George Starker's home on Rice Road. Mrs. Jessie Tillou and Dr. Grace Shaver assisted Mrs.

Starker in purchasing items for the Loan Closet. First Aid Stations were set up in Springbrook and Elma Fire Halls. Mrs. George Starker has continued as chairman of this service until June 1956. Junior Red Cross was also very active during these war years, making afghans, sweaters, scrapbooks for soldiers and assisted in scrap drives and War Fund drives. War Fund and Red Cross Drives were very successful during these years, with Elma always going over it's quota.

Since 1945, the Elma Red Cross has continued to be an active organization in our community. The Loan Closet, now located in the Elma Fire Hall and Springbrook Fire Hall, continues to furnish articles when requested and new equipment has been added. Home Service calls are fewer, but the organization is ready to help, in conjunction with the Buffalo Chapter, whenever called upon. The Red Cross Blood Program, with Buffalo one of the country's leading blood centers, was put into operation in 1950. Since Elma is a participating group in this program, all residents are entitled to receive blood should the need arise. Junior Red Cross is well established in our Iroquois Central School system. Students contribute to the Junior Red Cross Fund Drives, make favors for hospitals, gift boxes, gowns for Buffalo Cancer Society and food baskets at Christmas.

Since 1944 the following ladies have been Elma Branch Chairmen:

1944.....	Mrs. Eloise Britt
	Mrs. Raymond Sly
1945.....	Mrs. Della Heineman
1946-1950.....	Mrs. Henry Fleischman
1951-1952.....	Miss Mary Stevenson
1953-June 1956.....	Mrs. Allen O'Donnell
June 1956.....	Mrs. E. J. Williamson

Fund Drive Chairmen:

1943.....	Mrs. Ralph Payne
1944.....	Mrs. Eloise Britt
1945-1947.....	Mrs. Henry Fleischman
1948.....	Mrs. Esther Oldman
1949-1950.....	Mrs. George Handy
1951.....	Mr. Martin Royce
1952.....	Mrs. George Handy
1953.....	Mr. Martin Royce
	Mrs. Edward Valentine
1954.....	Mrs. Edward Valentine
1955 (Combined Charities Drive)	Mr. Fred Sigman

MRS. MADALINE WILLIAMSON, Editor

ELMA HOME BUREAU

The Elma Home Bureau was organized in June 1921 at the

home of Mrs. Allie Gilbert, Maple Street, Jamison Road. It was then called the Jamison Road Unit and had seven members. The first officers were: Chairman, Mrs. Eldred Adams; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Allie Gilbert; Secretary, Mrs. Ruby Chizlett; Treasurer, Mrs. Nelle Benzel. The other three members were: Mrs. Robert Martin, Mrs. Eric Walters and Mrs. Fred Schilling.

The early projects were dress forms, making fireless cookers, sewing and cooking lessons, nutrition, canning and preserving foods, millinery. One of the first community projects was making and giving quilts and clothing to two or three families who had been burned out in the town. Much of the social life for the women of the town was centered in the Home Bureau as all day meetings were held combining work with learning and pleasure.

Community projects included a Barn Dance in McCubbins Barn, in 1924, Redecoration of the Reception Hall in Elma Grange Building, including the making of draperies. Other activities included Card Parties, dinners on Election Days, a nine cent (9c) meal served to the public, the initial institution of the Elma Public Library, sponsoring the 4-H Club, collecting and donating of clothing and furniture for a needy family, collection of toys for Indian children, preparation of a Black Out Room for demonstration to the Community in 1941, collecting clothing to be sent abroad, to Holland (1945), collecting books to send to Armed Forces in Hospitals (1945).

In 1926 the name was changed to Jamison-Elma Home Bureau.

In 1934 the name was again changed to Elma Home Bureau.

The first Achievement Day was held May 1st, 1941 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organization.

Besides the early projects mentioned many more have been included in the programs throughout the years such as Arrangement of Furniture in different rooms, Household Budgets, Packing School Lunches, Correction of Foot Ailments, Good Grooming, Dramatics, Meal Planning, Slip Covers, Remodeling Clothing, Nursing Courses, Landscaping, Child Guidance, Block Printing, Hooked and Braided Rugs, Refinishing Furniture, Glove Making, Knitting, Health, Family Life, Games for the Family, Chair Canning, Good Government, Lampshades, Hand Bags, Homemade Toys, Aluminum Trays, Gardening.

In 1945 the Unit adopted an overseas family in Holland and sent them many boxes of food, clothing and toys. Many appreciative letters were received from them. A scrap book was compiled by Mrs. Dorothy Pfeil of this project.

In 1931 the Home Bureau sponsored tuberculosis tests for the children of the town. Those reacting to the tests were sent to Buffalo at the expense of the Home Bureau.

The membership having grown to 174 in 1951, it was decided to divide the unit and the Springbrook Home Bureau was organized.

A list of the Chairmen throughout the years follows:

1925-26	Mrs. Eldred Adams
1926-27	Mrs. Elon Clark
1927-29	Mrs. Hubert Davies
1929-30	Mrs. Elon Clark
1930-33	Miss Ruth Clark
1933-34	Mrs. Elsie Heller
1934-35	no record
1935-36	Mrs. Nina Brigham
1936-38	Mrs. Della Heineman
1938-39	Mrs. Nina Brigham
1939-40	Mrs. Irma Slade
1940-42	Mrs. Ethel Sigman
1942-44	Mrs. Dorothy Pfeil
1944-45	Mrs. Gertrude Tross
1945-48	Mrs. Esther Oldman
1948-50	Mrs. Alice Griffiths
1950-52	Mrs. Dorothy Jasel
1952-54	Mrs. Betty Ruth Koch
1954-56	Mrs. Susan Klotz
1956-	Mrs. Mildred Bove

ETHEL G. SIGMAN, Editor

BOY SCOUTS AND CUBS

Records in Scout Headquarters in Buffalo show that Troop No. 18 sponsored by the Elma Community Sunday School March 29th, 1925 was the first troop of Boy Scouts registered in Elma. The Troop Committee consisted of Benjamin J. Eldridge, Chairman; Jacob Egli, Gustavis Matchulat. John F. Hagmire was the Scoutmaster and Fred I. Sigman, Assistant Scoutmaster and the troop registered eighteen Scouts.

The Troop continued under the sponsorship of the Elma Community Sunday School, holding regular meetings at St. John's Lutheran Church through 1925, 1926 and 1927. Herbert Stitz replaced John Hagmire as Scoutmaster in 1927 and L. P. Reuther, Earl Lexo, V. H. Merkle, and Carl Kreuger served as committeemen.

Troop No. 18 lapsed in 1928 but in 1929 Elma Community Men's Club was formed and took over the sponsorship of the Troop. Everett E. Green became Chairman, V. H. Merkle, Howard J. Charles, Harry W. Heim, committeemen; Fred I. Sigman, Scoutmaster; John F. Hagmire, Assistant Scoutmaster. The Troop registered 15 boys. The same leaders handled the Troop from 1929 to 1932 with the addition of Ralph Tillou, Cornelius J. Eiss and Edgar Morrow serving for

periods on the committee and Kenneth Kreuger as Assistant Scoutmaster and the Scouts ranged in numbers from 15 to 20, holding the meetings at No. 6 School.

In May of 1932 as a contribution to the Washington Bicentennial Celebration, the Troop prepared a Nature Trail through the woods on the Farm of Julius Silleman, Rice Road. The Trail was approximately three-tenths of a mile long and tagged forty different specimens of trees, ferns and flowers with their common names and notes on their uses. In addition, thirty duplicate specimens were tagged with cards asking questions about them.

The Trail was officially opened after the Memorial Day program at the monument. About 100 visitors attended its dedication. G. A. Gay was awarded first senior prize and Melvia Seilman received first Junior prize for the most perfect answers to the questions on the specimens.

The Troop maintained the Trail until after July 4th for the convenience of visitors.

In 1933, Fred I. Sigman became Chairman of the Troop and Burr Tyler, Scoutmaster and the Troop continued its regular weekly meetings at No. 6 school through 1933 to 1939 with enrollment varying from 15 to 20 Scouts. Merle Reuther and Arthur Brigham served on the committee during a portion of this period.

During this period the Troop rendered valuable service in parking cars and handling crowds, particularly at Golf tournaments.

In 1939 Arthur Brigham became chairman, James E. Shaw, Scoutmaster; John W. Carlson and C. R. Simons, Assistant Scoutmasters; Thomas H. Speller, C. E. Maxwell, Myron Clark and Raymond Tanke, Committeemen, and the Troop enrolled 14 Scouts.

In 1940 Raynor Robinson became Scoutmaster, John Carlson and W. H. Welk, Assistant Scoutmasters. Hubert Davies and Claude Munn Committeemen, with a Troop enrollment of 12 Scouts.

In 1941 I. N. Meline replaced Claude Munn on the Committee and the Troop enrolled 15 Scouts.

In 1942 Claude Munn became Scoutmaster and Clarence Hesse joined the Troop Committee. Sixteen Scouts were enrolled.

In 1943 the Troop sponsorship was transferred to the Town Club of Elma, Myron A. Clark became Chairman with Troop Committee consisting of Clarence Hesse, John Klehm, Everett Maxwell and Irving Meline. Claude Munn continued as Scoutmaster, with George B. Tyler and Paul Green as Assistants. The Troop enrollment increased to 28 and Troop meetings were held in Elma Fire Hall.

In 1944 Ted Sobieski became Assistant Scoutmaster in

place of Paul Green. Rev. Selbert, Reuben Brost and Perry B. Campbell joined the Troop Committee and the enrollment reduced to 24 Scouts. The Troop moved its meeting place to the Perry Campbell barn and spent considerable money and work in remodeling the building. During the summer the Troop invited several other Troops for a Jamboree at their meeting place and a number of Troops camped out over the week end at Camp Bell.

In 1946, John Carlson became Scoutmaster and Franklin Maddox, Assistant Scoutmaster, with 20 Scouts. In 1947, Franklin Maddox became Scoutmaster with 23 Scouts. In 1948 Franklin Maddox continued as Scoutmaster with Herman Moesennger and John Carlson as Assistants and Troop Committee consisting of Joseph Nicpon, Chairman; John Eberth, Myron T. Clark, Rev. Selbert, Leslie Radder and Albert Stanki on committee, with 18 Scouts enrolled.

In 1950, the sponsorship was assumed by Annunciation R. C. Church Parish. Joseph Nicpon, Chairman; Myron T. Clark, Rev. E. H. Selbert, Committeemen. Joseph Bodeker, Scoutmaster; John R. Shoemaker, Assistant Scoutmaster, with 11 Scouts enrolled.

During its long and active existence Troop 18 served many useful purposes, among them the raising and the lowering of the flag at the monument on all patriotic days, attendance at parades and church Scout days.

In 1942, a Troop was organized at St. Vincent's R. C. Church in Springbrook with 18 members. However, no records are available relative to its existence.

In 1953, Troop No. 238 was sponsored by the Elma Methodist Church with Merle E. Reuther, Chairman and Troop Committee consisting of Hobart V. Roberts, Raynor Robinson, George R. Blair, Milton A. Bender, Ralph B. Bridgman, Everett W. Pentz, and Leo Ostabski. Robert Holden, Scoutmaster and Elon B. Clark, Jr., Assistant Scoutmaster.

In 1954, Charles Goehle joined the Troop as Explorer Advisor and E. M. Donohue as a Troop Committeeman.

In 1956, Everett W. Pentz became Scoutmaster of Troop No. 238 with James T. Grey and Michael J. Vickson as Assistant Scoutmasters. The Troop enrolled 25 Scouts and 3 Explorers.

In 1955, Troop No. 196 was organized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Blossom with Edward Flick as Chairman; Herbert Bosch, Jr., Herbert Cannon, Lee C. Murroy, Troop Committeemen; Emerell Pitkin, Scoutmaster, and Robert C. Borchert, Assistant Scoutmaster; enrollment 6 Scouts. In 1956 Karl F. Swenson joined the Troop Committee and the enrollment increased to 12 Scouts.

In 1948 Cub Pack No. 18 was formed with G. W. Handy as Cub Master. James Hurd. Assistant Cub Master. A Committee of Dr. Palmer, M. E. Reuther and L. A. Zimmerman.

Twelve Cubs were enrolled.

In 1955 Cub Pack No. 196 was formed under sponsorship of St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Blossom with Committeemen Edward F. Flick, Herbert Cannon, Lee C. Murroy, F. Carl Swenson; Herbert Bosch, Jr., was Cub Master. Five Cubs were enrolled.

It is estimated that Scouting has touched the lives of approximately 60 adults and 250 boys during its history in Elma. Many of the Scouts have gone on into other communities to assist in Scout activities and so the influence grows wider as years go by.

GIRL SCOUTING IN ELMA

Girl Scout Troops have been active from time to time in Elma. Records show that the first troop was organized Nov. 6th, 1926 with a Committee consisting of Mrs. Howard Bavis, Mrs. Cortland Woodard, Mrs. Ray Tank, Mrs. Louis Reuther, Mrs. Benjamin Eldridge, Mrs. John Hagmire, Mrs. Bert Prey and Mrs. F. I. Sigman, Chairman.

Miss Helen Klehm served as first Captain of this troop and Miss Magdalene Stitz (Mrs. Wesley Finch) as Lieutenant. There were 24 members registered in the troop and they met at the St. John's Lutheran Church. Miss Marion Kruschke later became Lieutenant when Miss Stitz resigned, Oct. 28th, 1927.

In 1927, Mrs. Marie Cook and Mrs. Charles Kruschke were added to the Committee and Mrs. Prey resigned.

The Board of Examiners for the Troop during this time were: Mrs. Ralph Bridgman, Miss Helen Tillou, Mrs. Ralph Tillou and Mrs. F. I. Sigman.

On Feb. 20th, 1928, Captain Klehm resigned. At this time the Methodist Church became the sponsoring organization and the meetings were held in the church with Mrs. Charles Kruschke as Captain.

Due to the meagre records, credit can not be given to the many loyal women who gave so freely of their time and efforts in carrying on this project in the early days of the Girl Scout activities.

During 1928 and later, Miss Rowan Travers, Miss Aldine Jerge. Miss Naomi Bavis were leaders in succession over a period of approximately seven years.

Between the years 1945 and 1949 a new Girl Scout group was formed under the leaderships of Mrs. Aldine Jerge Hitzel, Mrs. Evelyn Campbell, Mrs. Jack Bridgman, Mrs. George Briggs and Mrs. Edward Spink. During this time the troop, consisting of 10 girls, worked for their merit badges, earned their Junior Red Cross and enjoyed troop camping at Camp Sky High near Chestnut Ridge Park. They met at the Elma

Fire Hall and were sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary who presented the group with their first American and Girl Scout Troop flag. During this same period, a Girl Scout Troop was formed in School District No. 3 with the help of the newly formed P. T. A., Mrs. Buno, Mrs. Charles Newton and Mrs. Warren Bleekman. There were 8 girls in this group and they met at the school. It is interesting to note that during this time there were two troops functioning in Elma unbeknown to each other. The troops disbanded, one for lack of leadership and the other for disinterest of the girls.

From 1949 on, those interested in Scouting attended meetings in East Aurora where well established troops were functioning.

In 1954 the Town of Elma took on a new look. Movement to the country increased. A Central School District was formed. There was great need for a Girl Scout troop in our town. Mrs. Robert James rallied a few mothers and a group of Brownies (junior Girl Scouts) was started. The immediate registration was 40 children. Mrs. August Schmidt, their first leader met with the children at the West Elma Primary School.

In the spring of 1955, Mrs. Anthony Vallone became Chairman of a newly formed Neighborhood Committee. She divided the group into troops with Mrs. Tom Vines, Mrs. Victor Pratt and Mrs. August Schmidt as leaders. The membership mushroomed. There was a great necessity for an Intermediate troop as many girls were eagerly waiting to become scouts. Mrs. Richard Moritz and Mrs. Roy Offhaus volunteered to be leaders. In September 1955, the Intermediate troop together with four Brownie troops under the leadership of Mrs. August Schmidt, Mrs. Merle Buffum, Mrs. Victor Pratt and Mrs. Karl Swenson were in full swing. We also acquired a troop with Mrs. Louis Kicak as leader from the Annunciation Catholic Church. This group had been registered with Lancaster but because of transportation problems was assigned to Elma.

All troops have participated in district wide events, Juliette Low (founder of Girl Scouts) parties and Cookie Sale directed by Mrs. George Halliday. Camping, Community Service projects, field trips and troop activities rounded out the Girl Scout program.

Our recent registration shows an increase from forty to ninety girls, thus making it necessary to expand the number of troops. An efficient Neighborhood Committee co-operating with well trained leaders has made Scouting a successful endeavor in Elma.

MRS. ANTHONY L. VALLONE,
Chairman of Committee, Editor

THE 4-H CLUBS

The first 4-H Clubs in Elma were organized by Mrs. Myron A. Clark at Elma Village, Earl Lexo at East Elma, and Henry Fleischman at North Star District in the 1930's. No definite information is available relative to their activities.

During the summer of 1946, the people of the Elma School District No. 3 decided to do something about and for their children. The P. T. A. of the No. 3 School was formed and with its aid the East Elma 4-H Boosters, a boys' club, and the East Elma Busy Beavers, its companion 4-H girls' club were formed. The undertaking had substantial support and the two 4-H Clubs then formed are at present, very active and tremendously progressive.

The East Elma 4-H Boosters were organized by the 4-H Agent, John D. Walker and had an excellent start under the leadership of Ralph Drosendahl. The male members of the P. T. A. helped Bob with his projects and demonstrations and the boys were willing and co-operative which made for a progressive club from the start.

After Mr. Drosendahl moved away, John Griffiths became leader. The meetings were held in the basement of No. 3 School and as most of the boys were interested in mechanics, it slowly became a 4-H Mechanics' Club. Various projects and money raising plans were put into operation and carpentry tools were purchased. Anthony Pinski became one of the leaders to help Mr. Griffiths and a little later, Rex Lloyd became the leader. The school allowed the club the use of the garage for their shop, so it was wired, ceiling put in and a heating stove. Benches, vises, and more tools were added and the Club became active in County 4-H affairs.

The Club continued its residence in the garage until Centralization of the Elma Schools, when it then became necessary to obtain a new shop for the Boosters. Jamison Road Volunteer Firemen had the old Jamison Road station available and offered to sponsor the Boosters. This has been their permanent shop since. They painted it, fixed it up, added more benches and tools and now have one of the best equipped 4-H shops in the United States. Fred Wagner, one of its charter members became a leader and served until he went into service. Last year the Club began to use the grounds of the Jamison Firemen for recreation and are now in the process of making a ball diamond. Two new leaders were added to the club, Mr. Gary Schoenthal and Mr. Herbert McCabe. The club is progressing very nicely under its present leadership and has 30 members.

The East Elma Busy Beavers 4-H Club was organized Jan. 10th, 1947. under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Slade and Mrs. John Griffiths. They started with 16 members and met in

the East Elma school. The following year Mrs. Buno and Mrs. Zale led the club. In 1949 Mrs. Jean MacDonald with Miss Alice Foss as an assistant, led the club.

In 1950, due to Mrs. MacDonald moving to New York, Mrs. Wesley Handy of Marilla took the club in charge and is still the leader. Mrs. David Buffum has been the sewing leader. Mrs. Garth Brink was assistant leader for two years and at the present time Mrs. Rex Lloyd is assistant leader. For the past six years, the meetings have been held in Mrs. Handy's home. Each year we have had several sewing projects, at least one cooking project and for the last two years, home improvement projects. The club has participated in county demonstrations, dress revues and county fair. At present there are 14 in the club.

The Rainbow Circle 4-H Club of Elma was organized in 1949 with Mrs. Harry Langendorfer and Mrs. Margaret Greenfield as leaders with 9 members. Between 1949 and 1951 Mrs. Leon Cursons, Mrs. Howard Marshall and Mrs. John Starr assisted the leader. In the fall of 1951 Mrs. Charles MacIver took over the leadership of the club with Mrs. Robert James as assistant. At present there are 17 members in this club. Each year they have sewing and cooking projects and participate in county demonstrations, dress revues and other county activities.

Mrs. Clifford Luders organized a club in the fall of 1953 with 8 members. The club grew to a membership of 14. Mrs. Fred Wagner, Miss June Klehm and Mrs. John Post have been associated with this club as assistant leaders. The group has exhibited at the Hamburg Fair and entered the dress revues.

In 1953 Joshua Tsujimoto organized a 4-H Club with 8 members. In 1954 Albert Holzborn became its leader. In 1956 this club was discontinued.

MRS. WESLEY HANDY, Editor

ELMA GRANT REPUBLICAN CLUB AND ELMA REPUBLICAN CLUB

As a result of three meetings held by interested Republicans in May of 1934, the Elma Grant Republican Club was organized on May 21st of that year. Hugh D. Stevenson was the first President; Mrs. H. W. Fleischman, 1st Vice President; Isaac Herlan, 2nd Vice President; Merle Reuther, Secretary; and Benjamin Buffum, Treasurer. Erie Wheeler, Father of the Erie County Republican Club, and Clark W. Hurd, Chairman of the Elma Republican Committee were instrumental in its organization.

The Grant Club continued for several years until Erie County Grant Club was discontinued. The Elma Grant Republican Club then decided to change its name to Elma Repub-

lican Club and hence, became an heir to the original Grant Club. The by-laws drawn by the county organization were adopted. These by-laws called for the General Committeeman of the town to be chairman of the Club.

Mr. Clark W. Hurd was the first Chairman, followed by Hubert Davies, Merle Smith, Merle Reuther and Robert Sanborn, who is the present General Committeeman of the town.

The Club sponsors a family picnic each summer, a pre-election oyster stew and informative meetings as parts of its program.

The Club is guided by an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers, Committeemen, and lay directors elected from the membership. The Club meets once a month except during July and August.

There can be no climax to this historical sketch because the Club is a live, functioning organization.

MRS. DELLA HEINEMAN, Secretary
Editor

THE ELMA DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Elma Democratic Club originated in approximately 1937. Prior to this, there was formed in 1933 The Roosevelt Club. Their first meeting was held in Springbrook Fire Hall with 25 or 30 members present.

The first officers of this organization were: Mr. A. Poppenberg, President; Fred Donner, Secretary; Roland Martin, Treasurer.

During the period of 1933 to 1936, membership grew to about 250.

The Elma Democratic Club under which name it is now known, has an approximate-membership of 150 persons.

Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at the Elma Fire Hall with the following officers presiding: Robert Stone, President; Walter Herbart, Treasurer; and Mrs. Stressing, Secretary.

JAMES JERGE, Editor

ELMA CONSERVATION CLUB

The organization meeting of Hunter's Club of Elma was held February 24th, 1944 at Bleack's Restaurant, Jamison Road. Earl Lexo was appointed temporary Chairman and Lawrence Hoffman as temporary secretary. At that meeting the following officers were elected: Walter Koester, President; Earl Hotwes, Vice President; Lawrence Hoffman, Secretary; Oscar Beckman, Treasurer. Five Directors were elected as follows: Alton Schoenthal, Kenneth Morgan, Roy Luders, Edward Miller, Ralph Luders.

The Club operated under the name of Hunter's Club of Elma until April 27th, 1944 when the name was changed to Elma Conservation Club. The number of directors was increased at this time to eleven.

In May of 1944, the Club was Incorporated under the name of the Elma Conservation Club.

In June 1945, the members of the Club voted to purchase a piece of property from Benjiman Buffum on the Creek Road in the Town of Elma. From the time the Club was organized until the fall of 1948 the meetings were held at Bleek's Restaurant and in the basement of Earl Hotwes' store.

In September, 1948, the Club purchased a barn from C. W. Hurd and used the lumber to erect a Club House on its Creek Road property. Since the erection of the Club House the following improvements have been made to the property: erection of a trap shelter, a trap pit, new road to the trap field and in 1954, a large addition to the Club House.

The following presidents have served the Club: 1944 Walter Koester, 1945 Clifford Tierce, 1946 Herman Holzschuh, 1947 Walter Koester, 1948 Leonard Larson, 1949 Lawrence Hoffman, 1950 Elmer Oldman, 1951 Ralph B. Bridgman, 1952 Walton Schoenthal, 1953 Leonard Larson, 1954 Roy Luders, 1955 Pat Sullivan, 1956 Leonard Larson.

Since the Club was organized some of the conservation activities have been restocking of fish and game, stream improvement, planting of evergreens and wildlife feeding plants. Approximately 1000 pheasants have been raised and released by Club members.

The Club is a member of the Erie County Farm Bureau and the Erie County Federation of Sportsmans' Clubs.

Each year the Club sponsors and pays a weeks expense for one or more boys to a summer camp under supervision of the New York State Conservation Department.

Other educational and recreational facilities at the Club are, a trap shooting range and a rifle range.

For the past four years a trap team from the Club has participated in the Western New York Amateur Trap League.

The Club is co-sponsor of Explorer's Post 145 Boy Scouts of America and under the direction of the National Rifle Association sponsors and instructs three nights a week, about 35 boys on the rifle range.

Also under authorization of the N. R. A. and in co-operation with the Conservation Department, the Club has graduated its first class of young hunters in the hunter safety course, a program started by the Conservation Department to promote safe gun handling.

At present there are about 150 members in the Club.

ROY LUDERS, Editor

BLOSSOM HOME DEMONSTRATION UNIT

On April 30th, 1945 thirty-four eager and interested homemakers met at St. Paul's Lutheran Parish Hall in Blossom to organize a Home Bureau Unit, as it was then called. The Blossom Unit became the 50th unit organized in Erie County. The following were elected officers at the organization meeting: Chairman, Mrs. Henry Kling; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Elmer Boeschel; Secretary, Mrs. Eugene Flanagan; Treasurer, Mrs. Curtis Borchert.

The first project chosen was on foods. Mrs. Mary S. Sweitzer, County Home Demonstration Agent, demonstrated and explained the various methods of caning. This was followed by projects coming under the general heading of Clothing, Family Life, Foods and Nutrition, Housing, Household Management, Gardening and Citizenship. Special projects included Millinery, Tours, Farm and Home Week at Cornell University, Christmas Parties, Membership Teas, Picnics, Assembling Historical Record Books, Sponsoring Health Talks and holding Achievement Days.

The membership for the first year, 1945-46, was 52. The highest was 59 in 1950-51, lowest 35 in 1953-54. The Unit still meets at the Lutheran Parish Hall. Officers for 1956-57 are: Chairman, Mrs. John Bachman; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Henry Shrader; Secretary, Mrs. Chester Bykowicz; Treasurer, Mrs. Alfred Willis.

The program of home economics has brought to the homemakers of the Community knowledge, information and skills to be carried out in everyday living.

MRS. ELMER BORSCHEL, Editor

THE ELMA DRUM CORPS STORY — PROGRESS THROUGH DETERMINATION

In the summer of 1948, a group of determined women of the town of Elma, thought the town of Elma needed a drum corps to aid in local functions and participate in parades and services in the surrounding areas of Elma. With this motive in mind, a letter was drafted and sent to all organizations in the area requesting their help in aiding the cause by attending a fund raising picnic for this benefit. The response was so great that the picnic was a huge success and the Corps had a start toward the purchase of equipment for the organization.

In 1949, the Corps went on the road as the Elma Ladies' Drum Corps and captured many awards and compliments everywhere they went and the name Elma was given a rebirth. That year, a field day was held and this also was a success like the first.

As time progressed, the Corps realized that it could no longer

function as a ladies' unit, so it became necessary for them to become a mixed unit by extending membership to men and from then to the present time it has been called the Elma Drum Corps.

Although the Drum Corps has had many trying times when other units might have folded up, the Elma Drum Corps has always seemed to come out of them stronger and more determined to stick together and make a better Corps. Because of this, the unit has progressed and is recognized throughout the area as a splendid Corps and one that can be depended on at all times.

RICHARD CISZAK, Editor

YOUNG REPUBLICAN CLUB

The thought grew in the minds of some of the members of the Elma Republican Club that by attracting some of the younger people in town to Republican activities, the Republican Party might gain added impetus. So it was that a Young Republican Club was organized in February, 1950 at Hill's Restaurant, Springbrook.

Mrs. James Kideney, Republican Committee Vice Chairman, and Tom Roberts of Buffalo spoke to the forty-four people assembled, offering suggestions and advice on the formation of such a Club. Temporary officers were elected and a committee was appointed to formulate a constitution and by-laws. A constitution and by-laws were adopted in March and in April an election of officers was held with Ralph B. Bridgman becoming the new club's first President. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Elma Fire Hall. Attendance at these meetings is usually about thirty-five people but actual membership is over one hundred.

The interest of the group is primarily good government. Much has been done to acquaint the membership with the different aspects of government, not only in the town, but in county, state and federal government as well. This has been done through a wide variety of speakers.

Throughout the almost five years of its existence, however, the Young Republican Club's interest has widened until it has become a real civic minded group. Among some of its interests have been the development of Niagara Power by private enterprise, the Centralization of Elma Schools, the methods by which assessments are made, more rigid control of traffic, the publication each month of a bulletin for the members on current happenings and the publication of a booklet called "This Is Elma" as a source of helpful information for newcomers to the town.

More recently the Club has been concerned with the campaign against elm disease, with improvement in telephone and

postal systems and with the future development of park areas.

The Presidents of the club are as follows: Ralph B. Bridgman, 1950; Donald L. Bundy, 1951; Harry Neidig, 1952; Donald Wooster, 1953; Robert Sanborn and George Kester, 1954; Joseph McCormick, 1955; Norman Schueckler, 1956.

MARJORIE BRIGGS, Editor

HISTORY OF SPRINGBROOK HOME BUREAU

During the summer of 1951 the ladies of Springbrook organized the unit. This was under the leadership of Mrs. Yuhnke. It was decided that the meeting place would be the Springbrook Fire Hall. The meetings to be held on the fourth Monday of each month.

The unit started with 62 paid members. Approximately half of this number were previous members of the Elma Unit. Appointed as temporary officers were: Mrs. Alice Yuhnke, Chairman; Mrs. Cora Wagner, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Evelyn Schneckenberger, Treasurer; Mrs. Lena Warning, Secretary.

The first meeting was held September 24th, 1951 with these people as charter members:

Mrs. Francis Alexander	Mrs. Irene Oldman
Mrs. Mary Bell	Mrs. Francis Palmer
Mrs. Florence Boldt	Mrs. Ethel Pfeil
Mrs. Vera Cody	Mrs. Helen Peterson
Mrs. Florence Donahue	Mrs. John Phillips
Mrs. Eleanor Brasted	Mrs. Ethel Rice
Mrs. Josephine Doster	Mrs. Freida Rickert
Mrs. Lena Ebert	Mrs. Honor Sams
Mrs. John Fisch	Mrs. Margaret Schaub
Mrs. Irene Felsner	Mrs. Helen Siegele
Mrs. Gertrude Haas	Mrs. Bernadette Striegel
Mrs. Arthur Hagner	Mrs. Ruth Streif
Mrs. LeRoy Harvey	Mrs. Florence Siebert
Mrs. Charlotte Harvey	Mrs. Evelyn Schneckenberger
Mrs. Agnes Garrigon	Mrs. Betty Sullivan
Mrs. Phillippa Geib	Mrs. Eleanor Smith
Mrs. Geneva Graham	Mrs. Caroline Smith
Mrs. George Hinterberger	Mrs. Marta Stauss
Mrs. Rita Hibbard	Mrs. Peggy Savage
Mrs. Emma Hibbard	Mrs. Ruth Schultz
Mrs. Katherine Jerome	Mrs. Rose Thessen
Mrs. Marie Johnson	Mrs. Edna Thurston
Mrs. Mildred Kavanaugh	Mrs. Mary Tokarz
Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrence	Mrs. Grace Walters
Mrs. Betty Maul	Mrs. Mabel Wannamaker
Mrs. Margaret McCormic	Mrs. Cora Wagner
Mrs. Mary McCormic	Mrs. Lea Waring
Mrs. Anna Morgan	Mrs. Ethel Wischman
Mrs. Era Nahrgang	Mrs. Anna Weiss
Mrs. Jane Neu	Mrs. Edna White
Mrs. Arlotta Northrup	Mrs. Alice Yuhnke
Mrs. Marie Norwig	Miss Christine Zydel

Officers for 1951 - 1952

Mrs. Ernest Yuhnke.....	Chairman
Mrs. Herbert Wagner.....	Vice Chairman
Mrs. Ashley Schneckenberger.....	Secretary
Mrs. Lea Waring.....	Treasurer

Officers for 1952 - 1953

Mrs. Ernest Yuhnke.....	Chairman
Mrs. Herbert Wagner.....	Vice Chairman
Mrs. George Maul.....	Secretary
Mrs. Ashley Schneckenberger.....	Treasurer
Mrs. Charles Seigel.....	Recreation Leader

Officers for 1953 - 1954

Mrs. Herbert Wagner.....	Chairman
Mrs. Allen Graham.....	Vice Chairman
Mrs. George Maul.....	Secretary
Mrs. Leo Gutkowski.....	Treasurer

Officers for 1954 - 1955

Mrs. Herbert Wagner.....	Chairman
Mrs. John Phillips.....	Vice Chairman
Mrs. Robert Debo.....	Secretary
Mrs. Leo Gutkowski.....	Treasurer
Mrs. Ashley Schneckenberger.....	Sunshine
Mrs. Joseph Wagner.....	Recreational

Officers for 1955 - 1956

Mrs. John Phillips.....	Chairman
Mrs. Harry Geib.....	Vice Chairman
Mrs. Robert Debo.....	Secretary
Mrs. Edward Streif.....	Treasurer
Mrs. Herbert Wagner.....	Sunshine
Mrs. Joseph Wagner.....	Recreational

Up to this date, April 1956, we have had many fine officers, leaders, speakers and projects.

KATHRYN DEBO, Secretary

CAMPFIRE GIRLS

In the spring of 1952, a group of mothers decided that there was a great need to form a Campfire Group here in Elma, as about twelve of our girls had already joined a Campfire Group in East Aurora and had to be transported back and forth to each activity.

A meeting was called of all who were interested with a representative from the Buffalo Council, who explained that the Campfire Girls of Buffalo and Erie County are a part of the National Campfire Girls and a Red Feather recipient.

The organization consists of a younger girls group called the "Bluebirds" who are from seven to nine years of age, the Campfire Group who are from nine to fourteen and the group for older girls, fourteen and older which is called the Horizon

Club.

The program, a well diversified one, includes all the things that girls like to do, such as Homecraft, Outdoors, Creative Arts, Citizenship, Business, Frontiers, Sports and Games and suited to the different age groups.

One thing that most girls enjoy is camping out, so they have a summer camp at Wales Center which is called "Camp Aloha" where the girls can swim, cook outside, make friends with others their own age, and really learn the true meaning of their song:

"Seek Beauty, Give Service and Knowledge Pursue,
Be trustworthy ever in all that you do
Hold fast onto Health and your work glorify
And you will be happy in the law of Campfire."

As a result of this meeting one Bluebird Group and one Campfire Group were formed. It did not take long before the organization grew into one Bluebird Group, three Campfire Groups and one Horizon Club.

The present leaders are: Mrs. Kermit DuMolin, Horizon Club; Mrs. William Jasel, Mrs. Ralph Simme, Mrs. Walter Lenz and Mrs. E. Ward Pentz, Campfire Groups and Mrs. Hobart Roberts the Bluebird Group.

MRS. E. WARD PENTZ, Editor

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The Parent-Teacher Association of Elma had its birth as small individual units, in each of our District schools. As our population grew so our "country" schools closed and Iroquois Central District was voted into existence June 28th, 1952. With this, all P.T.A. units in this district were united into four large units including Marilla and Wales. There is a Council uniting these four units: Marilla, Wales, West Elma Primary, and Elma Elementary.

Marilla school had a fine brick building and so only an addition was needed and the unit that was started in January 18th, 1949 continued and grew as the school's enrollment increased.

Wales received their charter on November 23d, 1954 and has carried on an extensive program each year.

West Elma Primary school P.T.A. first met on October 28th, 1954. By the end of November, there was a total membership of 127, continually increasing as the years unfolded. Executive and regular meetings proved their worth, for this group had one successful program after another. The accomplishments varied by helping at the Christmas party; having a panel discussion; presenting the history of Elma; sponsoring a baked goods sale and assisting the day of kindergarten registration. So, as time moves on, the P.T.A. elected new officers

and produced another year of achievements with apparent success in all of its undertaking.

The Elma Elementary Parent-Teacher Association met at the Girdle Road School on February 23d, 1955 and organized their group. In the following meetings officers were elected and the unit's aim was to endeavor to bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parents and teachers might co-operate to promote the welfare of children in our community. The first year had a membership of 85 chartered members and grew to a membership of 152. A delightful tea was held in May 1955 in recognition of the teaching staff; an October Harvest Dance was a pleasing success; and a snow storm seemed only to delay the pleasant evening enjoyed by everyone at the Family Night pot luck supper in December; in March the program included a panel discussion by the Board of Education. The first year passed with each meeting a success and now, the school year 1956-57 presents a challenge to the new officers.

The Iroquois Central Council unites the above groups and was organized in March 24th, 1955 by delegates from the four P.T.A. units. This Council brings the local P.T.A. units closer together in co-operation with the National, State and District P.T.A.'s. It provides opportunities for units to compare methods of work, co-ordinates many functional duties; such as membership, enrollment, publicity for special activities; gives instruction in parliamentary procedure, program planning and offers help and guidance to unit chairmen in their respective duties. The Council had a wonderful first year due to the mutual helpfulness it endeavored to establish between parents and teachers. Its chief accomplishment was the Variety Show, in which the Council was in the unique position of having a "sell out" before curtain time. The money gained from that show was used to set up a scholarship to encourage young people to enter the field of teaching. Other big events were: a "welcome tea" for all new teachers; sponsoring of dancing lessons for all children in the district; the Sunday afternoon Swim-Gym and Teacher Recognition Day. Speakers presented interesting discussions on Parent Education, Parliamentary Law, Membership and Legislation. This Fall, the P.T.A. group will have the newly organized High School P.T.A. to add to its ever growing Parent-Teacher Association.

The P.T.A. welcomes into membership parents, teachers, and all other citizens interested in promoting the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community.

MRS. RAYNOR ROBINSON, Editor

ELMA BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

First informal meeting held February 1st, 1954 at Luder's

Log Cabin with six persons present. Purpose of this meeting to plan an organization for the businessmen of Elma.

Mr. Harold Stitz appointed temporary chairman and Mr. Joseph Davis, secretary.

An invitation was mailed to all the businessmen and women of Elma, explaining the organization and asking them to attend the next meeting.

On March 8th, 1954 the second meeting was called to order with 43 in attendance. A committee was formed to decide on whether to organize as a Chamber of Commerce or a Businessmen's Association. Mr. Joseph Scheminger, Edward Clabeaux, Bruce Heineman, Andy Berry, Frank Bierl and William Yuntzen were the members appointed to this committee.

The group met a third time on March 22d, 1954 and it was unanimously agreed to organize as the Elma Businessmen's Association.

Mr. Andy Berry was elected president; Frank Bierl, vice president; Joe Davis, secretary and Henry Therolf, treasurer. The directors were: Harold Stitz, Wilbur Stradman and Bruce Heineman.

It was agreed that the association support charities in fund raising drives subject to the approval of the association and work for the good of Elma in all matters.

New officers were installed May 11, 1954. It was moved and carried that the association print a business directory and mail a copy to every home in the Town of Elma.

The following officers were elected on March 8th, 1955: Don F. Johnson, President; Harold Stitz, Vice President; Albert E. Ver Cruysse, Secretary; Henry Therolf, Treasurer; Directors elected were Andy Berry, Joseph Scheminger, Bruce Heineman, Ed Suchocki, James Jerge and Ed Clabeaux.

On April 12th, 1955, the Association made application to affiliate with the Buffalo Business Federation and were accepted for membership, thus being the first organization outside of the city of Buffalo with a membership to the Federation.

On June 14th, 1955, the association voted to assist in the preparation of the petitions necessary for the procuring of city water for Elma. However, it was made clear that the Association makes no stand for or against city water due to that as many members were against it as there were for it.

The Businessmen's Association carried the ball, from this point on, to acquaint the people of Elma with the problem of water and the need for it in some sections.

On November 1st, 1955, Albert E. Ver Cruysse appointed delegate to the Elma Centennial Committee. Upon report from Mr. Ver Cruysse it was moved that the association give full support to the Centennial Committee for the proposed 1957 Centennial.

New Officers elected in March, 1956: Don F. Johnson, President; Ed Clabeaux, Vice President; Albert E. Ver Cruysse, Secretary; Richard Jerome, Treasurer. Directors, Henry Therolf, Charles Goehle, Mrs. Schmiegel, Joseph Scheminger, Ed Suchocki and James Jerge.

On June 12th, 1956, the association turned over its entire folio on water with the petitions ready for circulation to the newly organized Elma Citizens' Committee for water.

ALBERT E. VER CRUYSSE, Secretary

SPRINGBROOK ROD AND GUN CLUB, INC.

A non-profit organization formed for the interest of better hunting and fishing and for a better appreciation of the out of doors and our natural resources. To actively co-operate in protection of forests, soils, waters and natural habitat of fish and game. To maintain interest in the passage and enforcement of adequate wild life laws. To educate the general public as to the importance to our economy, health and welfare of conservation and restoration work.

The Club was formed with twenty-five members and held its first meeting October 27th, 1954. The original officers were: President, William Wilson; Vice President, James Henry; Secretary, Albert Peterson; Treasurer, Allan Wishman; Sergeant at Arms, William Kaufman. The Club was officially incorporated November 30th, 1955. The meeting place is Springbrook Fire Hall. The meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month. A new project of the Club has been adopted and a good number have submitted application for proficiency, known as the N.R.A., and established in 1949 for the purpose of teaching the inexperienced hunter, adult and junior, how to conduct himself safely in the field; also, safety rules governing the handling of firearms. This instruction is a worth while service for the protection of the hunter and general public, now adopted in some form in eleven states. The Conservation Department of New York State is in full charge of the movement and assists when ever necessary.

HORACE R. PALMER, Editor



CHAPTER XXIII.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS IN THE TOWN OF ELMA

BEFORE the Town of Elma was formed, December 4th, 1856, most of the roads were laid out by the Commissioner of Highways of the towns of Aurora and Lancaster.

When the town was fully organized in order to have a proper record of the roads of the town, recourse was had to the records of roads in the town clerk's office of Aurora and Lancaster. The descriptions of many of the Elma roads were found to be very indefinite and imperfect.

The Commissioners of Highways of the Town of Elma ordered a re-survey, and re-description of the imperfectly described roads and later, several new roads were laid out, and as many alterations and discontinuations of roads or parts of roads had in a few years been made, the records became so mixed up that in many instances it was found to be impossible to locate some of the roads from the best that could be learned from the records.

In October 1889, on the petition of Eli Northrup, Supervisor of Elma, the Board of Supervisors ordered the Commissioner of Highways of the Town of Elma to have a survey made of such roads as were so imperfect in description and have a revision of the records of roads so to as have a correct record. The surveys were made, the records revised and the Commissioner completed his work by signing the new records February 15th, 1890.

Most of the roads when laid out had been given the names of some prominent old settler or resident on the new road and, in some cases, when alterations or additions had been made a new name would be given and so it came to pass that some of the roads were called by two or more names.

The Town Board directed that in the revision, so far as possible, the roads should be given the name of an old resident on the road and in that way to help to keep the names of some of the old early settlers in remembrance.

This plan was adopted and the roads were so entered in the records and are known by these names.

NAME OF ROAD	NAME OF RESIDENT
Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road.....	
Adams Road.....	Luther Adams
Baker Road.....	Salem Baker
Barto Road.....	Jesse Barto
Billington Road.....	Stickney Billington
Blood Road.....	Horace Blood
Blossom Road.....	Blossom Village
Bowen Road.....	
Bullis Road.....	Lewis M. Bullis
Central Road.....	
Chair Factory Road.....	
Clinton Street Road.....	
Conley, or Toll Gate Road.....	
Davis Road.....	James Davis
Ebenezer Village Road.....	
Elma Cemetery Road.....	
Girdled Road.....	
Griffin Road.....	John Griffin
Hemstreet Road.....	Z. A. Hemstreet
Hill Road.....	Zenas Hill
Jamison Road.....	
Kinsley Road.....	Stephen Kinsley
Knaab Road.....	Jacob Knaab
Lancaster Town Line Road.....	
Marilla Town Line Road.....	
North Star Road.....	
Northrup Road.....	Lewis Northrup
Ostrander Road.....	John W. Ostrander
Paxon Road.....	Henry Paxon
Pound Road.....	Samuel Pound
Rice Road.....	Wm. M. Rice
Rickertson Road.....	James B. Rickertson
Schmaltz Road.....	John Schmaltz
Schultz Road.....	Philip Schultz
Seneca Creek Road.....	
Standart Road.....	George Standart
Stolle Road.....	Christian Stolle
Thompson Road.....	Joseph Thompson
Williams Road.....	Isaac Williams
Winspear Road.....	Wm. Winspear
Woodard Road.....	Eron Woodard

The roads as named and their locations are here given.

AURORA AND BUFFALO PLANK ROAD—Four rods wide. Beginning on the Aurora town line at the corner of Lots No. 21 and 26 of the Mile Strip, thence northwesterly on lot lines, through Spring Brook to the Transit line at the corner of Lots No. 96 and 97 of the Aurora part of Elma. The

road across the Mile Strip was laid out April 21st, 1832, and from the Mile Strip to the Transit line, March 31st, 1834, but this survey was changed somewhat when Sperry surveyed the lands for the Ogden Company, so that the road should be on the lot lines as he surveyed them in 1840. (Seneca St.)

ADAMS ROAD—Four rods wide. Luther Adams. Begins at the Marilla town line, on the east line of Lot 2 of the Mile Strip, near the bridge across the Big Buffalo Creek, thence westerly to the Girdled Road on the west line of Lot 11, at a point 83 links north from the corner of Lots 12 and 13. Road laid out June 15, 1832; re-surveyed July 13, 1839. (Blood Rd.)

SALEM BAKER ROAD—Four rods wide. Begins on the Aurora town line at the southwest corner of Lot 6 of Mile Strip, thence east to the Marilla town line, thence north on the town line to the east end of the Adams Road near the bridge. First laid out August 23d, 1843. (Aurora-Porterville Rd.)

BARTO ROAD—Three rods wide—Jesse Barto. Begins on the Marilla town line at the east end of the Adams Road, thence across the Big Buffalo Creek and northeast, and north and northwest to the east end of the Hemstreet Road, 38 links north from the southeast corner of Lot No. 4; also from a few rods easterly from the east end of the Hemstreet Road, thence northerly to the northeast corner of Lot No. 4. First laid out May 4th, 1853.

BILLINGTON ROAD—Three rods wide—Stickney Billington. Begins at the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road, at the corner of Lots 21, 25, 26 and 28 of the Mile Strip, thence east on lot lines to a point in the line between Lots 13 and 14, five chains east from the northwest corner of Lot 14 and across the railroad lands, and near the Matthew Hansenberg house, formerly the residence of Willard Fairbanks. First laid out April 21st, 1832.

BLOOD ROAD—Four rods wide—Horace Blood. Begins in the center of the Girdled Road at the west end of the Adams Road, thence west to the Plank Road at the corner of Lots 24, 25, 28 and 29 of the Mile Strip. First laid out January 15th, 1832; re-surveyed July 13th, 1839.

BLOSSOM ROAD — Four rods wide — Blossom Village. Begins in the Clinton Street Road on the south line of Lot No. 96 of the Lancaster part of Elma, thence southwesterly to and across the Blossom bridge over the Big Buffalo Creek, and southerly, most of the way on Lot lines to the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road at the corner of Lots 90, 91, 96 and 97 of the Aurora part of Elma. First laid out as the Dr. Jake Road April 29th, 1848, from Clinton Street Road to Upper Ebenezer Village. now Blossom, and from Ebenezer Village south on April 2d, 1849.

BOWEN ROAD—Four rods wide. Begins on the Lancaster town line near the center of the north line of Lot 56 of the

Lancaster part of Elma, thence southerly through Elma Village and Elma Centre, most of the way on lot lines, to the Aurora town line on the south line of Lot 20 of the Mile Strip. First laid out across the Ogden Company's last purchase, October 23d, 1841, by Commissioners appointed by Act of Legislature, dated May 4th, 1841, and across the Mile Strip by the Aurora Commissioners of Highways October 29th, 1841.

BULLIS ROAD—Four rods wide—Lewis M. Bullis. Begins on the Marilla town line at the corner of Lots 3 and 4 of the Lancaster part of Elma, and lots 8 and 13, of the Alden part of Marilla, thence west on lot lines, except for crossing the Big Buffalo Creek at the Bullis bridge to the Transit line at the southwest corner of Lot 380 of Ebenezer survey. First laid out west of the Creek September 21st, 1845, and east of the creek February 26th, 1849.

CENTRAL ROAD—Four rods wide. Begins in the center of the Blossom Road, at the northeast corner of Lot No. 383, of the Ebenezer survey, thence west on the north line of Lot 383 to the Transit. First surveyed and laid out April 9th, 1858. (Main St.)

CHAIR FACTORY ROAD—Four rods wide—Begins in the Girdled Road at the corner of Lots 21, 22, 28 and 29 of the Lancaster part of Elma, thence west to the Bowen Road near the south end of the bridge over the Big Buffalo Creek in Elma Village. First laid out September 10th, 1847.

CLINTON STREET ROAD—Four rods wide. Begins at the Marilla town line at the corner of Lots 1 and 2 in the Town of Elma, and 1 and 5 in Marilla, thence west to the Transit line. First laid out west of the Bowen Road June 2d, 1845, and east of the Bowen Road June 10th, 1847.

CONLEY, OR TOLL GATE ROAD—Three rods wide. Begins on the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road, a little west of the Toll gate, on Lot 77 of the Aurora part of Elma, thence southwest to the south line of said lot No. 77, thence west to the Davis Road on said lot. Laid out February 16th, 1852.

DAVIS ROAD—Four rods wide—James Davis. Begins on the Aurora town line on south line of Lot 32 of Mile Strip near the school house, thence northerly to the Plank Road in Spring Brook near the west end of Lot 71. First laid out June 20th, 1842.

EBENEZER (Blossom) VILLAGE ROAD—Four rods wide—Begins in Ebenezer (Blossom) Village near the southwest end of the bridge across the creek, thence westerly to the Transit line. First laid out April 9th, 1858.

ELMA CEMETERY ROAD—Three Rods wide. Begins in the Bowen Road in Elma Village, thence west to the range of the west line of the Elma cemetery. First laid out July 11th, 1891.

GIRDLED ROAD—Four rods wide. Begins on the Lan-

caster town line at the corner of Lots 19 and 26, thence south mostly on lot lines to Aurora town line at the corner of Lots 10 and 14 of Mile Strip. First laid out in the Lancaster part of Elma November 10th, 1841, and in Aurora part June 13th, 1843. (Girdle Rd.)

GRIFFIN ROAD—Three rods wide—John W. Griffin. Begins at the corner of Lots 16, 17, 22, 23 of the Aurora part of Elma, thence west on lot line to the Girdled Road.

HEMSTREET ROAD—Three rods wide—Z. A. Hemstreet. Begins on the Marilla town line, thirty-eight links north from the southeast corner of Lot 4 of the Aurora part of Elma, thence northwesterly to the Jamison Road at East Elma. First laid out April 19th, 1845.

HILL ROAD—Four rods wide—Zenas Hill. Begins in Clinton Street Road at the corner of Lots 9, 10, 13, 14, thence south on lot lines to the Bullis Road at the corner of Lots 11, 12, 16, 17. First laid out December 6th, 1847. (Stolle Rd.)

JAMISON ROAD—Four rods wide—Begins on the Marilla town line at the corner of Lots 3 and 4 in the Aurora part of Elma, and 9 and 13 in the Wales part of Marilla, thence west through East Elma and Jamison to the Plank Road at the corner of Lots 63, 68, 72, 77. First laid out April 19th, 1845.

KINSLEY ROAD—Three rods wide—Stephen Kinsley. Begins on the Transit line at the corner of Lots 99 and 100 of the Aurora part of Elma, thence east on lot lines to the Northrup Road.

KNAAB ROAD—Four rods wide—Jacob Knaab. Begins in the Standart Road at the corner of Lots 72, 73, 77, 78, thence west on lot line to the Winspear Road at the corner of Lots 82, 83, 87, 88.

LANCASTER TOWN LINE ROAD—Four rods wide. Begins at the northwest corner of Lot No. 5 of the Lancaster part of Elma, thence west on the town line to Cyrus Hurd's northeast corner on Lot 61. (Hall Rd)

MARILLA TOWN LINE ROAD—Three rods wide. Begins at the northeast corner of the town of Elma, thence south mostly along the Marilla town line to the Bullis Road.

NORTH STAR ROAD—Three rods wide. Begins in the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road on the north line of the Mile Strip at the corner of lots 24 and 29, of the Mile Strip and lots 64 and 73 of the Aurora part of the last purchase, thence west on lot lines to the Davis Road.

OSTRANDER ROAD—Three rods wide—John W. Ostrander—Begins at the east end of the Griffin Road, and corner of Lots 16, 17, 22, 23, thence south to the Adams Road on Lot 8 of the Mile Strip. First laid out December 4th, 1857.

NORTHROP ROAD—Four rods wide—Lewis Northrup. Begins in the Aurora and Buffalo Plank Road on the north line of Lot 84 and a little west of the west end of Lot 75 in Spring

Brook Village, thence southwesterly across the Cazenove Creek and on to the Transit line at the northwest corner of Lot 102, thence south along the Transit to the east and west road, thence east across Lot 102, thence southerly, on, to, and across the Mile Strip to the Aurora town line and south line of Lot 37 of the Mile Strip. First laid out February 29th, 1848; altered December 21st, 1848.

PAXON ROAD—Four rods wide—Henry Paxon. Begins on Transit line near the middle of the west line of Lot 36 of the Mile Strip, thence east to the Northrup Road near the middle of said Lot No. 36. (Mile Strip Rd.)

POUND ROAD—Four rods wide—Samuel Pound. From the Bullis Road at the corner of Lots 89, 90, 94, 95, thence south to north line of lot 75, thence west to the Plank Road at west corner of Lot 75 in Spring Brook Village. First laid out September 19th, 1845.

RICE ROAD—Four rods wide—William M. Rice. From the Girdled Road at the corner of Lots 21, 22, 28, 29, thence west to the Plank Road at the Catholic church in Spring Brook. First laid out April 19th, 1845.

RICKERTSON ROAD—Four rods wide—James B. Rickertson. From the Aurora town line at corner of Lots 6, 8, thence north about twenty-five chains to James B. Rickertson's land on Lot 8 of the Mile Strip. (Ostrander Rd.)

SCHMALTZ ROAD—Four rods wide—John Schmaltz. From the Clinton Street Road near the angle on Lot 86, thence north to the Lancaster town line. This is the south part of the road that has been known in the town of Lancaster as the New England Road; now they call it the Aurora Road.

SCHULTZ ROAD—Four rods wide—Philip Schultz. From the Jamison Road near the corner of Lots 38, 39, 42, 43, thence north to the Woodard Road on the line between Lots 40 and 45 at the Lutheran church. First laid out October 1st, 1852.

SENECA CREEK ROAD—Four rods wide. From the Blossom Road at the corner of Lots 388, 390, 391 of Ebenezer survey, thence west to the Transit line. First laid out April 9th, 1858.

STANDART ROAD—Three rods wide—George Standart. From the Bullis Road at the corner of Lots 74, 75, 79, 80, thence north to the Clinton Street Road at the corner of Lots 71, 72, 76, 77. First laid out January 9th, 1858.

STOLLE ROAD—Three rods wide—Christian Stolle. From a point in the Marilla town line one chain north from the southeast corner of Lot No. 1. of the Aurora part of Elma, thence northwesterly to the Bullis Road at the corner of Lots 11, 12, 16, 17. First laid out November 13th, 1856.

THOMPSON ROAD—Three rods wide—Joseph Thompson. From the Jamison Road at East Elma, thence northerly to the Stolle Road on Lot 1. (Creek Rd.)

WILLIAMS ROAD—Four rods wide—Isaac Williams. From the Jamison Road at the corner of Lots 38, 39, 42, 43, thence south to the Aurora town line on south line of Lot 15 of Mile Strip. First laid out April 21st, 1832; altered April 2nd, 1849, and again north part October 1st, 1852. (Maple Rd.)

WINSPEAR ROAD—Four rods wide—William Winspear. From the Bullis Road at the corner of Lots 89, 90, 94, 95, thence northerly across the Big Buffalo Creek and to the Clinton Street Road on line between Lots 81 and 86. First laid out February 26th, 1849; altered October 14th, 1850.

WOODARD ROAD—Three rods wide—Eron Woodard. From the Bowen Road at Elma Centre, thence easterly to the Girdled Road at a point ten chains eighty-two links south from the corner of Lots 23, 24, 29, 30, at the Bullis Road.

ROADS NOT INCLUDED IN JACKMAN'S HISTORY

BILLINGTON ROAD (Fairbanks Road) east from Seneca Street at the corner of Lots 21 and 25 to Penna. R.R., four rods wide.

CREEK ROAD—Three rods wide—begins east of Buffalo Creek at Jamison Road and runs northeasterly to Stolle Road.

EAST CENTER ROAD—Four rods wide—west from Blossom Road to Transit Road in Lot 105.

HALL ROAD—Four rods wide—begins at northeast corner of Lot No. 9 and runs west on the border line of Town of Lancaster and Elma to Aurora Road. Also known as Lancaster Town Line Road and Bordimer Road. West end of road not opened at present time.

HANDY ROAD (Standard Road) south from Clinton Street at corner of Lots 77 and 72 to Bullis Road. Three rods wide.

LANCASTER-CLINTON ROAD (Small's Road) (Aurora Road) north from Clinton Street in Lot 86, 4 rods wide.

MILE STRIP (Paxon Road) west from Northrup through Lot 36 to Transit Road. Four rods wide.

NORTH DAVIS ROAD, south from Buffalo Aurora Road in Lot 81 to south town line. Laid out 1839.

PORTERVILLE ROAD (Hammond Road) (Salem Baker Road)—four rods wide—begins at the corner of lots No. 6 and No. 8 on south line of Mile Strip to southeast corner of lot No. 1, then north to Blood Road. Also portion formerly known as East Aurora-Porterville Road and Salem Baker Road and Cain Road.

RANSOM ROAD, south from Hall Road on east line of Lot No. 9, four rods wide.

SCHWARTZ ROAD, north from Clinton Street and Girdle Road, four rods wide.

TITUS MILL ROAD, northeast from Bullis Road in Lot No. 11 to northeast side of Little Buffalo Creek, surveyed 1855.

TOWN LINE ROAD, north from Bullis Road on east line of the Town of Elma to Town of Lancaster.

NEW SUBDIVISION ROADS

BARTLETT ROAD, south from North Star Road in Lot No. 30 to a future road to be known as SOUTH ROAD.

DORIS DRIVE, southeast from Woodard Road in Lot No. 50 to a circle.

EAST JERGE DRIVE, south from Chairfactory Road in Lot No. 44.

ELDERBERRY LANE, south from Rice Road in Lot No. 53.

GAYLORD DRIVE, southwest from Bowen Road and then southeast to a circle in Lot No. 59.

GOLF VIEW DRIVE, north from Billington Road in Lot No. 16.

HIGHLAND DRIVE, north from Rice Road in Lot No. 40 to Hilltop Drive in Lot No. 44.

HILLTOP DRIVE, south from Woodard Road in Lot No. 50, east, south, west and northwesterly in Lot No. 44 to form a quadrilateral.

JUNE ROAD, north from Bullis Road to Woodside in Lot No. 49.

KALLA LANE, north from Blood Road in Lot No. 9, bearing west, then north and finally east in Lot No. 11 and Lot No. 9 to Ostrander Road.

KINGS ROAD, north from Seneca Street in Lot No. 90 then west along line between Lots No. 90 and No. 100 to Transit Road.

MAY ROAD, north from Bullis Road to Woodside in Lot No. 49.

PLEASANT VIEW DRIVE, from the west end of Summerdale Drive south and west in Lot No. 13 to Billington Road.

STREIF ROAD, south in Lot No. 91 from Seneca Street.

SUMMERDALE DRIVE, west from Girdle Road in Lot No. 13 to the north end of Pleasant View Drive.

WEST JERGE DRIVE, south from Chairfactory Road in Lot No. 49.

WINONA ROAD, north from Seneca Street in Lot No. 90 to Kings Road.

WOODSIDE DRIVE, east from May Road to June Road in Lot No. 49.

CHAPTER XXIV.

STATISTICS

CENSUS OF THE TOWN OF ELMA

WHEN the State census was taken in 1855 there were but few persons residing in the town of Elma, except those on the Mile Strip; the Indian Reservation being part in the town of Aurora and part in the town of Lancaster. There is no way to ascertain the population at that time, of what was later to be the town of Elma.

The same township conditions were continued at the time the United States Census was taken in 1850, and at the taking of the census by the State in 1855.

The town having been organized December 4th, 1856, we have our first knowledge of the population of the town, in the Census as taken by the United States in 1860.

This Census of 1860 gave the total population of Elma as 2,136.

The New York State census of 1865 gave Elma as follows:			
White Males.....	1,502	Total Males.....	1,506
“ Females	1,399	“ Females	1,401
Colored Males	4		
“ Females	2	Total	2,907
		Single persons	1,727
Total	2,907	Married “	1,098
Native born voters.....	276	Widows	51
Naturalized “	273	Widowers	31
Total “	549	Total.....	2,907
			575 families

333 aliens residing in the town 415 owners of land
123 persons over 21 years of age who could not read or write.

United States Census of 1870:

Native born residents....	1,980	White	2,823
Foreign “ “	847	Colored	4

New York State Census for 1875:

Native born	2,019	White	2,798	Males	1,444
Foreign “	790	Colored	11	Females	1,365

Total.... 2,809

Total.... 2,809

Total.... 2,809

Native voters	323	Of school age, males....	501
Naturalized voters	301	Of school age females	460
Total voters		Total	961

171 aliens—69 over 21 who cannot read or write.

483 of military age—437 owners of land.

United States Census of 1880:

Total population of the town..... 2,555

No State Census for 1885, or 1895.

United States Census for 1890:

Total population of the town..... 2,163

United States Census for 1900:

Total population of the town..... 2,202

Total population of the town for 1920..... 1,966

Total population of the town for 1930..... 2,320

Total population of the town for 1940..... 2,801

Total population of the town for 1950..... 4,020

Estimated 1956 6,000

ASSESSMENTS OF THE TOWN OF ELMA, 1857 to 1900

YEAR	ASSESSMENT			TOWN EQUALIZED	TOWN AUDITS	ROADS AND BRIDGES	TOTAL TAX
	PERSONAL	REAL	TOTAL ASSESSED				
1857	9,400	530,840	540,240	483,763	335.94	861.47	4,290.98
1858	7,600	405,625	413,225	458,578	415.14	1,462.53	4,535.43
1859	5,600	430,325	435,525	414,520	304.77	475.68	4,982.63
1860	13,000	406,280	419,280	416,843	593.57	392.67	5,172.59
1861	8,000	405,246	413,246	395,028	551.20	1,600.00	6,211.52
1862	7,400	396,850	404,250	426,355	559.03	1,000.00	2,178.38
1863	5,000	398,796	403,796	424,086	542.68	250.00	6,897.41
1864	5,000	396,610	401,610	425,718	741.23	1,250.00	12,190.59
1865	10,600	399,270	409,870	395,920		450.00	8,047.66
1866	4,000	398,203	402,203	400,820	1,440.24	250.00	6,876.02
1867	7,000	393,975	400,975	401,820	589.10	1,672.96	11,960.25
1868	14,000	420,090	434,090	427,823	852.00	690.00	8,456.10
1869	15,500	405,515	421,015	450,151	694.78	871.47	6,694.19
1870	24,200	407,950	432,150	433,857	859.55	698.19	10,963.10
1871	23,900	401,725	425,625	462,742	641.10	5,417.15	11,960.25
1872	30,700	401,495	432,195	501,280	677.00	1,487.41	10,489.17
1873	16,700	401,340	418,040	477,516	804.61	2,304.44	12,111.24
1874	12,800	392,662	405,462	508,349	811.66	1,148.07	9,384.15
1875	28,000	1,226,389	1,254,389	1,220,420	806.47	525.32	7,989.68
1876	64,563	1,345,699	1,410,262	1,419,848	960.00	1,064.61	9,410.91
1877	27,634	1,283,985	1,311,559	1,266,921	668.75	3,662.49	12,088.02
1878	27,039	1,267,730	1,294,769	1,146,362	674.05	1,012.39	8,716.81
1879	21,400	1,198,300	1,219,700	1,125,564	665.06	2,079.16	10,661.13
1880	24,400	1,135,395	1,159,795	1,139,850	615.64	974.06	8,225.24
1881	18,100	1,086,370	1,104,470	1,053,129	642.70	814.63	6,535.31
1882	7,100	1,066,538	1,073,638	1,300,823	857.25	1,503.91	10,007.42
1883	7,700	1,080,298	1,087,998	1,318,061	1,025.24	714.79	9,733.80
1884	25,200	1,080,875	1,106,075	1,312,160	836.50	1,503.88	9,054.04
1885	26,950	1,054,850	1,081,800	1,236,183	775.52	977.39	9,211.60
1886	26,800	1,045,632	1,072,432	1,290,056	794.70	1,411.77	9,295.15
1887	29,500	1,071,057	1,100,557	1,238,327	741.18	1,269.03	8,453.76

1888	20,100	1,065,857	1,085,957	1,222,427	733.44	6,188.38	13,589.04
1889	16,300	1,063,632	1,079,932	1,264,026	659.06	824.62	7,943.94
1890	12,000	1,070,057	1,082,057	1,202,956	605.91	1,337.02	7,117.04
1891	20,500	1,055,762	1,076,262	1,167,183	743.21	3,062.22	8,082.57
1892	20,700	1,183,020	1,203,720	1,195,685	956.65	660.81	6,962.19
1893	21,000	1,083,942	1,104,942	1,269,067	810.41	1,255.29	9,419.39
1894	19,900	1,083,372	1,103,272	1,267,967	1,115.48	1,703.48	7,163.90
1895	23,600	1,084,812	1,108,412	1,238,132	939.13	1,202.59	8,534.43
1896	26,050	1,079,777	1,105,827	1,522,070	1,139.42	1,508.88	8,800.45
1897	34,000	1,080,247	1,114,247	1,194,522	847.29	1,375.91	7,712.83
1898	30,850	1,078,253	1,109,103	1,200,463	664.44	1,204.03	7,086.24
1899	29,150	1,067,513	1,096,663	1,162,710	931.97	1,983.28	7,939.96
1900	35,150	1,065,869	1,103,836	1,148,289	1,313.95	1,540.43	7,143.30

For the purpose of Assessment comparisons the following recent total Town of Elma assessments are submitted:

1935	\$3,907,544
1939	4,069,300
1941	4,207,442
1945	4,366,980
1955	8,837,864
1956	9,729,946

REGISTRATION OF GRAVES OF WAR TIME VETERANS BURIED IN THE SEVEN CEMETERIES IN THE TOWN OF ELMA, N. Y., AS COMPILED BY THE WASHINGTON POST 287 AMERICAN LEGION

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN (Woodard Road)

WAR

1. Garby, John	Civil
2. Hoffman, Wm. H.	WW1
3. Koester, Herman	USWV
4. Yost, William	WW1
5. Luders, Elmer	WW1
6. Krohn, Franklin R.	WW2
7. Stitz, Herbert	WW1
8. Wolter, Herman C.	WW2
9. Umber, Fred G.	WW1

METHODIST (Cemetery Road)

1. Briggs, Col. A. H.	USWV
2. Briggs, Horace A.	WW1
3. Briggs, Joseph	Civil
4. Brooks, John	Civil
5. Brown, Leslie	USWV
6. Clark, James	Civil
7. Clements, Samuel	Civil
8. Goulding, Hugh F.	WW1
9. Hurd, Allen J.	Civil
10. Standart, Joseph	Civil
11. Standart, Wm. W.	Civil
12. Standart, George	1812
13. Townsend, George	Civil
14. Baker, David G.	Korean
15. Morrow, Edgar J.	WW1

UNION NON-SECT (Rice Road)

1. Allen, Byron	Civil
2. Baker, W. W.	Civil
3. Gould, John A.	Civil
4. Grace, W. W.	Civil
5. Hunt, Joseph	Civil
6. Middleton, Kenneth	WW2
7. Miller, Fred	WW1
8. Northrup, Eli	Civil
9. Peters, Fred	Civil
10. Thayer, Charles	Civil
11. Tillou, Joseph	Mexican
12. Worth, Charles	Civil
13. Landahl, George W.	WW2
14. Hakes, Ralph L.	WW2
15. Hinterberger, Edwin	WW2

ST. VINCENT CATHOLIC (Rice Road)

1. Donnelly, Francis	WW1
2. Duffy, Edward	Civil
3. Kelly, Dennis D.	WW1
4. Leydecker, Arnold J.	WW1
5. Seibold, August	Civil
6. Scheiwiller, George	WW1
7. Kaufman, Martin J.	WW2
8. Gatti, Frank W.	WW1

TEMPLETON (PRIVATE) (North David Road)

1. Markle, Cornelius J.	Civil
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ANNUNCIATION, R. C.
(Clinton-Swartz)

1. Halter, Louis	Civil
2. Monnin, Joseph	Civil
3. Hummell, Charles H.	USWV
4. Waldmiller, Emil	WW1
5. Yentzen, John	WW1
6. Schreiber, Robert	WW2
7. Schwartz Frank C.	WW1
8. Miller, Albert	WW1
9. Ryan, William	USWV
10. Holmes, Alexander	WW1
11. Scarabine, Charles	WW1

USWV—United Spanish War Veteran

SPRINGBROOK
(Oak Hill, Seneca Street)

1. Baker, Luke	Civil
2. Chadderton, James	Civil
3. Chadderton, Gordon	Civil
4. Lee, Robert W.	Civil
5. Melman, H.	Civil
6. Miller, Jacob	Civil
7. Morton, Abraham	Civil
8. VanAntwerp, Henry	Civil
9. VanAntwerp, Chauncey	Civil

WORLD WAR 2 VETERANS

Richard J. Adams
Albert Albano
Clifford Bitterman
Alfred Bitterman
Harold Bitterman
Herbert Boxhorn
Merle Boller
George E. Boller
Donald H. Bodekor
Ralph Brigham
Robert Brigham
James J. Bridgman
Edward G. Brouse
Paul M. Brasted
Richard W. Brouse, Jr.
Kenneth Brooks
Howard R. Burch
Everett C. Buffum
Clyde W. Badger
Cyril Baranck
Paul Barnhart
Lyle R. Benzel
Ernest Barnard
Frank M. Berni
Earl Becker
Clayton Becker
Ralph B. Bridgman
Richard Becker
Alfred Becker
John W. Carlson
Henry Carlson
Sterling Campbell
Frank Chowaniec
Daniel J. Clark
Myron T. Clark
Elon B. Clark, Jr.
Roy R. Clark
Nelson J. Clark
Stanley Chowaniec
Walter Ciszak
Emerson Comstock
Alton M. Comstock
Akkan E. Comstock
Edward R. Conley

Richard E. Lexo
Donald H. Lexo
Robert Q. Lee
Robert Leland
Robert G. Little
John D. Lund
Norman A. Lund
Frederick E. Luders
Robert C. Ludwig
Allen C. Lyford
William Little
Clifford Luders
Charles R. Mack
Raymond Majeski
Lawrence W. Marks
Robert V. Mary
Richard Matuszak
Franklin Maddox
Merrill D. Matthews
Frank A. Matthews
Harold J. Matthews
Herbert E. Matthews
Raymond Matthews
James F. Meehan
Harold W. Meehan, Jr.
Clarence E. Meider
Howard L. Meuder
Clifford H. Merkle
Edward Monnin
Bernard Monnin
Richard Morath
Clarence Morath
David L. Morrow
Edgar J. Morrow
Lee Munn
David Morgan
Raymond L. Nagel
Herbert Newbert
Edgar J. O'Brien
Raymond Offhaus
Roy G. Offhaus
Floyd W. Offhaus
Walter B. Owens
Richard Owen

Robert Conley
 Margaret M. Conley
 Dean J. Cole
 Ivan G. Coots
 Kenneth Degen
 Edward A. Donack
 Lawrence H. Doman
 Gordon L. Doman
 Edward Donahue
 Hellena Donahue
 Donald S. Dobrzynski
 Joseph G. Dwyer
 Francis G. Dwyer
 Darwin L. Eaton
 Benjamin Eldridge
 Harry Emden
 Allen Ernst
 Walter F. Ertel
 Robert Ertel
 Albert R. Erda
 Edward Fisher, Jr.
 Kent H. Fleischman
 John H. Freidhaber
 Edward J. Freidhaber
 James Frazier
 William Frazier
 William L. Gasnor
 Harry Gach
 Alex Galeta
 Russell D. Garby
 John F. Garby
 John M. Gasnor
 Nicholas Gembas
 George E. Gilbert
 Norman L. Gilbert
 Kenneth C. Gilbert
 Richard Gilbert
 Theodore Gorenflo
 Paul E. Green
 Richard Greenman
 Robert A. Gradl
 Albert D. Gries
 Martin Gurgol
 Thomas C. Haberl
 Wesley Hamp
 Elmer Haaf
 Raymond Haaf
 Gordon Herlan
 James R. Henry
 Robert A. Heim
 Walter C. Hetzel
 Lawrence A. Hoffman, Jr.
 Richard C. Hoth
 Walter D. Howerth
 Donald Howerth
 Warren A. Holtz
 Harold Hopper
 Christopher R. Hoch
 Bradley J. Hurd, Jr.
 James T. Hurd
 Leonard R. Jarewicz

John M. Owen, Jr.
 Edward M. Phillips
 Sylvester P. Phillips
 Foulkrod Phillips
 John Phillips
 Francis N. Peters
 Thomas A. Pierce
 John P. Pierce
 Robert A. Pierce
 Emil J. Pierper III
 Norman E. Price
 Joseph Bruski
 Alfred C. Puff
 Clifford Radder
 Emil Redlinski
 Albert A. Reiter
 O. K. Rossland
 William Rumley, Jr.
 James Rumley
 Frank Schultz
 John L. Sanka
 Eugene Schultz
 Lester Schultz
 Arthur Schmithe
 Lee Schyler
 William J. Schiesel
 Margaret Schneckenberger
 Lloyd Schneckenberger
 Raymond Seibert
 John H. Seileman
 Joseph Seidelski
 Harvey Shaver
 Carol C. Shaver, M.D.
 R. Clark Shaver M.D.
 R. Ray Sillaway
 John Sliwa
 Norman Slade
 Wesley P. Sly
 R. L. Sly, Jr.
 John J. Sly
 Ellsworth Smith
 Merle Smith
 William Smerdel
 Bernard Smith
 Frank M. Stonitsch
 William Stonitsch
 Robert Steinwachs
 Thomas Steinwachs
 Lee G. Stadler
 Herbert Storm
 James Steinwachs
 Joseph Steinwachs
 Robert L. Stier
 Alphonse E. Suchocki
 Forest L. Talsma
 Alvin E. Thiel
 Norman H. Thiel
 William R. Tillou
 John B. Tillou
 Benedict Trykowski
 Thomas R. Travers

William F. Jasel
Philip Earl Jerge
Franklin J. Jerge
James P. Jerge
Norman J. Jerge
Edward Kastner
Martin J. Kaufman
Franklin G. Kemp
Vincent Kelley
James R. Kelley
Michael Kelyn
Ralph E. Kindel
Albert J. Klink
Kenneth E. Klotz
Harry B. Klas
Henry J. Koszuta
Kenneth C. Krueger
Helen Kreuger
William I. Kunz
William Kaufman
Marshall F. Lawrence
Donald Lawrence
Paul La Placa
Louis La Placa
John E. Leland
Allen R. Lewis

Lawrence Turner
Myron Turner
Aurelia Tyler
Eugene Unverdorben
William Vogel
Lawrence Vogel
Howard Vogel
Francis Vogel
Farrell Van Housen
Edward Wagner
Robert Wagner
Stanley Walczyk
Harry C. Walsh
Herman C. Walter
Aloysius Walczyk
Warren E. Welk
William C. Wilson
Al Ray Winch
Howard J. Wilson
Rodney Wilkins
Ernest H. Wolter
David Worley
Allen Wischman
Richard J. Wujek
Edward Zeller, Jr.

EARLY POST OFFICES IN THE TOWN OF ELMA

In this statement of the post-offices of the Town of Elma, the date of establishment of the offices, with the names of the persons who have been appointed to the charge of the several offices is herewith given as nearly in the order of their holding the offices, as could be learned from leading residents of the several localities.

The date of the appointments could be accurately learned in but few cases, but the year as given will be found to be correct.

ELMA POST OFFICE

Established with Warren Jackman as postmaster in October, 1852.

Joseph Standart was appointed postmaster in 1860.

Warren Jackman was appointed postmaster in 1861.

W. Wesley Standart was appointed postmaster in 1865.

James Clark was appointed postmaster in 1869.

Mrs. Maria Long was appointed postmaster in 1888.

Louis P. Reuther was appointed postmaster in 1897.

EAST ELMA POST OFFICE

Established with Fowler Munger postmaster in 1861.

Isaac Gail appointed postmaster in 1862.

East Elma Postoffice was discontinued in 1863.

East Elma Postoffice was re-established with Geo. W. Hatch postmaster in 1870.

George W. Hatch was postmaster for twenty-four years, but the office was under the care of the following resident merchants, viz.: George W. and Niles Hatch, Isaac Smith, Harvey C. Palmer, Edwin H. Dingman, George W. and James Hatch, George W. and Leonard Hatch, and George W. Hatch, when on January 13th, 1894, Hatch sold the store and goods to Charles Burman. Burman was appointed postmaster March 2, 1894.

ELMA CENTRE POST OFFICE

Established with Erin Woodward as postmaster in 1878.

Henry A. Wright appointed postmaster in 1885.

Peter Grader appointed postmaster in July, 1889.

Henry A. Wright appointed postmaster in 1893.

Frank Sutton appointed postmaster in April 5, 1895.

Mrs. Asa Ford appointed postmaster in July 29, 1899.

BLOSSOM POST OFFICE

Established with Lewis Kleberg as postmaster in 1870.

Charles Reichert appointed postmaster in 1871.

Conrad P. Hensel appointed postmaster in 1873.

Frederick Gramm appointed postmaster in 1886.

William Kleinfelder appointed postmaster in 1888.

Mrs. Kleinfelder appointed postmaster in 1892.

Conrad P. Hensel appointed postmaster in 1893.

JAMISON ROAD POST OFFICE

Established with Ernst Bleeck as postmaster in 1889.

Edwin H. Dingman appointed postmaster in 1893.

Ernst Bleeck appointed postmaster in 1897.

SPRING BROOK POST OFFICE

Established with David J. Morris as postmaster in 1848.

Zenas M. Cobb appointed postmaster in 1849.

James H. Ward appointed postmaster in 1850.

Asa J. W. Palmer appointed postmaster in 1854.

James W. Simons appointed postmaster in 1854.

Austin Twitchell appointed postmaster in January, 1861.

James H. Ward appointed postmaster in June, 1861.

Stephen Northrup appointed postmaster in 1867.

John G. Fischer appointed postmaster in 1880.

William J. Cole appointed postmaster in 1885.

Harrison Tillou appointed postmaster in 1889.

Richard T. Barnett appointed postmaster in 1893.

Harrison Tillou appointed postmaster in 1897.

OFFICERS ELECTED IN THE TOWN OF ELMA, ERIE COUNTY, N. Y., 1857 TO 1901

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	SUPERVISOR	TOWN CLERK	JUSTICE OF THE PEACE	COM. OF HIGHWAYS	ASSESSORS	COLLECTOR	Vote at Town Meeting
1857	March	3	P. B. Lathrop	W. Jackman	A. Armstrong T. Aldrich N. W. Stowell	W. Spooner A. Marvel B. P. Lougee	Z. M. Cobb H. Blood T. Stowell		.....
1858	March	2	P. B. Lathrop	W. Jackman	J. H. Ward	A. Marvel	W. M. Rice	A. J. W. Palmer	.....
1859	March	1	P. B. Lathrop	W. Jackman	D. Standart	I. B. Ellsworth	J. W. Ostrander	A. J. W. Palmer	.....
1860	March	6	Z. A. Hemstreet	J. H. Ward	D. P. Harris	M. Greiss	H. Ernack L. Ott, (to fill	W. W. Standart	.....
1861	March	5	Z. A. Hemstreet	J. H. Ward	G. Standart, Jr.	N. W. Stowell	vacancy) C. Adams	A. Twitchell	.....
1862	March	4	C. Peek	L. Morris	W. H. Bancroft	J. W. Waters	C. Arnold L. Heineman	J. Tillou	.....
1863	March	3	C. Peek	L. Morris	J. H. Ward	C. Rickert	W. Spooner	D. A. Simons	.....
1864	March	1	L. M. Bullis	L. Morris	S. M. Calkins	W. M. Lockwood	C. Adams	.....	.....
1865	March	7	L. M. Bullis	L. Morris	G. Standart, Jr.	G. Standart, Jr.	.....	.....	.....
1866	March	6	P. B. Lathrop	L. Morris	W. H. Bancroft J. H. Ward	W. W. Standart	A. Telshow	A. Armstrong	.....
1867	March	5	A. Marvel	H. Tillou	S. Green	E. B. Northrup P. Schuster	Z. M. Cobb W. Spooner	A. Armstrong	.....
1868	March	3	A. Marvel	T. L. Barry	L. Morris	D. Allen	B. Conley	A. Telshow	.....
1869	March	2	H. Harris	T. L. Barry	S. P. Tabor	P. Schuster	H. W. Stitz	A. Telshow	.....
1870	March	1	H. Harris	Wm. W. Grace	J. H. Ward	H. Kyser	F. Munger	P. Donahue	.....
1871	March	7	A. Marvel	A. W. Smedes	S. Green	D. Allen	P. Phalan	P. Donahue	.....
1872	March	5	A. Marvel	A. W. Smedes	L. Morris	W. W. Standart	C. Rost Z. A. Hemstreet	W. H. Newcomb	.....
1873	March	4	A. Marvel	A. W. Smedes	F. Munger	D. A. Simons	A. Gotschchalk P. Phalan	H. Klehm	.....
1874	March	3	W. Winspear	A. W. Smedes	H. Harris	W. H. Eldridge	H. Beidler	H. Klehm	.....
1875	March	2	W. Winspear	A. W. Smedes	S. Green	P. Thiel	H. Beidler	S. Chicker	.....
1876	March	7	W. Winspear	G. H. Woodard	H. Tillou J. T. Hurd	J. Meyer	H. Cole	S. Chicker	.....
1877	March	6	E. B. Northrup	J. Garby	H. C. Palmer	J. Meyer	P. B. Lathrop	J. Allen	.....
1878	March	5	E. B. Northrup	J. Garby	W. H. Bancroft	J. Meyer	C. P. Hensel	H. E. Bancroft	.....

1879	March	4	E. B. Northrup	J. Garby	F. Gramm	J. Luders	J. W. Ostrander	H. E. Bancroft	.....
1880	March	2	E. B. Northrup	H. A. Wright	H. Tillou	J. Luders	T. E. Wier	H. Klehm	.....
1881	March	1	A. Marvel	H. A. Wright	E. J. Markham	G. Standart	C. P. Hensel	H. Klehm	.....
						J. Carroll			.....
1882	March	7	A. Marvel	C. Morris	F. Munger	P. Weiser	S. Williams	W. Kleinfelder	.....
						N. Hatch			.....
							H. C. Palmer		.....
1883	March	6	J. Tillou	W. Mitchell	F. H. Gramm	L. Morris	T. E. Wier	W. Kleinfelder	.....
1884	March	4	J. Tillou	H. A. Wright	H. Tillou	.....	C. P. Hensel	G. Helfter	.....
1885	March	3	C. Hurd	H. A. Wright	W. Jackman	E. Tillou	E. H. Dingman	G. Helfter	.....
1886	March	2	M. H. Clark	J. Garby	H. C. Palmer	E. Tillou	T. E. Wier	M. Beck	.....
1887	March	1	M. H. Clark	H. Jerge	H. E. Bancroft	W. Kleinfelder	F. W. Gram	M. Beck	.....
					H. Tillou		J. Luders		.....
1888	March	6	T. Clifford	F. Slade	A. Armstrong	W. Kleinfelder	P. Heineman	H. Klehm	.....
1889	March	5	E. B. Northrup	F. Slade	E. Woodard	J. Heim	T. E. Wier	H. Lexo	.....
1890	March	4	E. B. Northrup	F. Slade	H. C. Palmer	J. Heim	P. Heineman	J. Miller, Jr.	.....
					S. Curtis				.....
1891	March	3	C. H. Sweet	H. A. Wright	A. Armstrong	J. Heim	L. Sisler	J. Miller, Jr.	.....
1891	Nov.	3	C. H. Sweet	H. A. Wright		O. Wannemacher	Spencer Metcalf	A. Sutton	264
1892	March	8	.....	.....	H. Tillou	.....	.....	.....	310
					W. B. Briggs		W. W. Williams		.....
1893	March	14	R. Barnett	H. A. Wright	J. A. Woodard	O. Wannemacher	C. P. Hensel	.....	468
				W. Jackman ap- pointed Sept. 1, to fill vacancy			W. W. Williams		.....
1894	March	13	R. Barnett		C. F. Brown	H. E. Bancroft		.....	.....
							L. Sisler		357
							S. Griffin		.....
1895	March	12	J. Luders	A. H. Tillou	W. B. Briggs	H. E. Bancroft	G. Marquart	A. Klehm	515
1896	March	10	J. Luders	A. H. Tillou	H. Tillou	G. Heim	C. Jasel	A. Klehm	373
1897	March	9	J. A. Woodard,	A. H. Tillou					.....
1898	March	8	for two years	for two years	A. L. Wilson	G. Heim	J. Grace	F. Slade	528
					C. F. Brown	F. C. Luders	G. Marquart	F. Seileman	.....
1899	March	14	J. A. Woodard,	F. Slade,	W. B. Briggs	F. C. Luders,	C. P. Hensel	C. J. Buffum,	559
							F. Hatch		.....
			for two years	for two years	H. Tillou	for two years	J. Garby	for two years	.....
1901	March	12	J. A. Woodard,	F. Slade,	A. S. Wilson		C. P. Hensel	F. Sileman,	524
						A. Mayer,	F. Hatch		.....
			for two years	for two years	C. F. Brown	for two years	J. Garby	for two years	.....

OFFICERS ELECTED IN TOWN OF ELMA, 1902 TO 1956

DATE	SUPERVISOR	TOWN CLERK	JUSTICES	HIGHWAY COMM.	ASSESSORS	COLLECTORS	COUNCILMEN
310 Mar. 1903	J. A. Woodard	A. H. Tillou	H. L. Tillou W. B. Briggs	A. A. Mayer	G. H. Schnur F. Hatch J. Garby	W. Hoffman	
Nov. 1905	J. Luders	A. H. Tillou	H. L. Tillou W. B. Briggs C. F. Brown A. S. Wilson	A. A. Mayer	G. H. Schnur F. Hatch J. Garby	W. Hoffman	
Aug. 1907	A. H. Tillou By Appointment	E. F. Bleek By Appointment					
Nov. 1907	A. H. Tillou	E. F. Bleek	H. L. Tillou C. M. Briggs C. F. Brown A. S. Wilson	A. J. Badger	G. H. Schnur F. Hatch J. Garby	W. Hoffman	
Nov. 1909	A. Klehm	J. J. Jerge	W. B. Briggs W. C. Little C. V. Conley H. L. Tillou W. W. Grace By Appointment	E. Talsma	E. Dingman J. Grace I. Klinck	J. Grace	
Mar. 1911							
Nov. 1911	E. M. Hill	J. J. Jerge Tie Vote With N. Hucker, Jr.	C. V. Conley R. Clark W. C. Little A. S. Wilson	W. Steinka	J. Aldrich F. Hatch F. A. Kester	W. H. Stitz	
Jan. 1912		N. Hucker, Jr. By Appointment			C. Buffum Appointed in Place of J. Aldrich		
Nov. 1913	E. M. Hill	N. Hucker, Jr.	C. M. Briggs A. D. Blaine R. B. Clark A. S. Wilson	W. Steinka	F. Hatch B. J. Eldridge F. Kester	W. H. Stitz	
Nov. 1915	B. J. Eldridge	N. Hucker, Jr.	C. M. Briggs A. D. Blaine R. B. Clark F. Lathrop E. G. Persons By Appointment	F. Hatch	C. S. Briggs S. Griffin F. Kester	J. Grace	
Apr. 1916							
Apr. 1917			F. A. Templeton By Appointment				
June 1917					M. H. Clark By Appointment		
Nov. 1917	B. J. Eldridge	N. Hucker, Jr.	R. B. Clark	F. Hatch	S. Griffin	E. Lexo	

			F. A. Templeton C. M. Briggs A. J. Badger		F. A. Kester M. H. Clark	
Mar. 1918		R. M. Tillou By Appointment				
Nov. 1919	C. W. Hurd	R. M. Tillou	R. B. Clark F. A. Templeton C. M. Briggs A. J. Badger	F. Hatch	S. Griffin M. H. Clark A. L. Wilson	E. Lexo
Nov. 1921	B. J. Eldridge	R. M. Tillou	R. B. Clark F. A. Templeton C. M. Briggs C. G. Persons	F. Hatch	S. Griffin M. H. Clark A. L. Wilson	E. Lexo
Nov. 1923	R. M. Tillou	H. W. Heim	C. M. Briggs F. A. Templeton C. G. Persons E. Bippert	F. Hatch	S. Griffin M. H. Clark A. L. Wilson	E. Lexo
Nov. 1925	R. M. Tillou	H. W. Heim	C. M. Briggs F. A. Templeton C. G. Persons E. Bippert	H. Luders	F. Thomas	E. Lexo
Mar. 1926					B. Buffum By Appointment	
Nov. 1927	R. M. Tillou	H. W. Heim	C. M. Briggs F. A. Templeton C. G. Persons E. Bippert	H. Luders	B. Buffum S. Griffin Wm. Foster	E. Lexo
Nov. 1929	B. J. Eldridge	P. Jerge, Jr.	E. Bippert F. Templeton B. Allen C. Conley	H. Luders	B. Buffum A. Boldt W. Foster	E. Lexo
Aug. 1931					C. Shabtac By Appointment	
Nov. 1931	B. J. Eldridge	P. Jerge, Jr.	E. Bippert B. Allen C. Conley M. R. Parker	F. Hatch	B. Buffum A. Boldt C. Shabtac	E. Lexo
Nov. 1933	B. J. Eldridge	F. Conley	E. Bippert M. Parker F. I. Sigman C. J. Eiss	H. Schrader	B. Buffum A. Boldt C. Shabtac	J. Klehm
Nov. 1935	E. Lexo	M. E. Reutrer	E. Bippert F. I. Sigman	F. Landahl	B. Buffum A. Boldt	J. Klehm

Nov.	1937	E. Lexo	M. E. Reutrer	C. J. Eiss H. Langendorfer E. Bippert F. I. Sigman H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal	F. Landahl	C. Shabtac B. Buffum A. Boldt C. Shabtac	J. Klehm
	1939	E. Lexo	M. E. Reutrer	E. Bippert F. I. Sigman H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal	F. Landahl	B. Buffum A. Boldt C. Shabtac	J. Klehm
	1941	E. Lexo	M. E. Reutrer	E. Bippert F. I. Sigman H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal	F. Landahl	A. Boldt B. Buffum C. Shabtac	J. Klehm
	1943	E. Lexo	M. E. Reutrer	E. Bippert F. I. Sigman H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal	F. Landahl	B. Buffum A. Boldt C. Shabtac	J. Klehm
	1945	E. Lexo	M. E. Reutrer	E. Bippert F. I. Sigman H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal	F. Landahl	B. Buffum A. Boldt C. Shabtac	J. Klehm
	1947	E. Lexo	M. E. Reutrer	F. I. Sigman H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal W. Kester	F. Landahl	B. Buffum A. Boldt C. Shabtac	J. Klehm
	1949	E. Lexo	J. Okler, Jr.	H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal Walter Kester E. Walters	F. Landahl	B. Buffum C. Shabtac H. Stevenson	O. Beckman
Nov.	1951	E. Lexo	J. Okler, Jr.	H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal W. Kester E. Walters	F. Landahl	B. Buffum H. Stevenson M. Brasted	Mrs. M. Stitz
Mar.	1953	M. E. Reuther By Appointment					
Nov.	1953	M. E. Reuther	J. Okler, Jr.	H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal W. Kester	F. Landahl	B. Buffum H. Stevenson M. Brasted	Mrs. M. Stitz R. B. Bridgman
Nov.	1955	M. E. Reuther	J. Okler, Jr.	H. Langendorfer C. Schoenthal	F. Landahl	B. Buffum H. Stevenson M. Brasted	Mrs. M. Stitz R. B. Bridgman W. Kester

BUSINESS DIRECTORY FOR ELMA, 1900

BLACKSMITHS

Clough, Charles, Jamison Road;	Jerge Brothers, Elma Village;
Dusch, Alois, Blossom;	Jerge Brothers, Bowen and Clinton Street;
Edwards, Thomas, East Elma;	McGiveron, James, Spring Brook.
Geyer, Joseph, Elma Centre;	

BUTTER FACTORY

Cole & Fish, Aurora Plank Road.

CIDER MILLS

Greiss, Michael, Blossom;	Hesse, Herman, Chair Factory Road;
Heim, Jacob and Sons, Jamison Road;	Reuther, Louis P., Elma Village.

COAL

Bleeck, Ernst, Jamison Road;	Schifferstein, Andrew, Elma Centre.
Dingman, Edwin H., Jamison Road;	

GRISTMILLS

Greiss, Michael, Blossom;	Northrup, Eli B., Spring Brook.
Hurd, Harvey J., Elma Village;	

GROCERS

Hesse, Adolf F., Bowen and Bullis Roads;	Schifferstein (Slade) Andrew, Elma Centre.
Jasel, Christ, Bowen and Clinton Street;	Spencer, Adelbert, Spring Brook.

LUMBER AND FEED

Schifferstein (Slade) Andrew, Elma Centre.

MEAT MARKETS

Hesse, Adolf F., Bowen and Bullis Roads;	Klas, Joseph, Spring Brook.
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MERCHANTS

Barnett, Richard T., Spring Brook;	Road;
Burman, Charles, East Elma;	Ford, Mrs. Asa, Elma Centre;
Bleeck, Ernst, Jamison Road;	Herlan, F. T., Blossom;
Dingman, Edwin H., Jamison	Reuther, Louis P., Elma Village.

POSTMASTERS

Bleeck, Ernst, Jamison Road;	Reuther, Louis P., Elma Village;
Burman, Charles, East Elma;	
Ford, Mrs. Emilie, Elma Centre;	Tillou, Harrison L., Spring Brook.
Hensel, Conrad P., Blossom;	

SAWMILLS

Hurd, Harvey J., Elma Village;	Northrup, Eli B., Spring Brook.
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SALOONS

Baker, W. G., Spring Brook; Mary, Jacob, Schmaltz and
Bleeck, Ernst, Jamison Road; Clinton Street;
Grader, Pete, Elma Centre; Nosbisch, Matthias, Bowen
Jasel, Christ, Bowen and Clin- and Bullis Roads;
ton Street Roads; Sugg, Nicholas, Blossom;
Leger, Louis and William Wilhelm, Alex, Blossom.
Spring Brook.

Jerge Brothers in connection with their blacksmith shop in Elma Village, have a machine shop with steam power where they manufacture heavy and light wagons of many styles, buggies, carriages, sleighs, farm tools, etc., etc., and joining their factory building they have a large paint shop and store house. They are also agents for all kinds of farm implements and machinery.

Louis P. Reuther is agent for the Page Wire Fence Co., and for farm tools and machinery, with wind mills in addition.

Charles H. Sweet of Spring Brook has a good assortment of farm implements and machinery, fertilizers, etc., etc., to accommodate the farmers of that locality.

ELMA BUSINESS DIRECTORY — 1956

ATTORNEYS

George R. Blair, Chairfactory Harold P. Kelly, Hemstreet
Road, Elma; Road, Elma.

AUTO SALES AND SERVICE

Howbill-Kaiser-Willys Seneca Springbrook Auto Sales and
Street, Elma; Service, Seneca Street,
Springbrook.

BARBER SHOP

Wilder's Barber Shop, Seneca Street, Springbrook.

BEAUTY SHOPS

Thelma Peters, Clinton June Simme, Bullis Road,
Street, Elma; Elma.

BOLTS, NUTS AND TOOLS

Don F. Johnson & Sons, 3070 Bowen Road, Elma.

BUILDING MOVERS

Walter Hartloff, Woodard Road, Elma.

CLEANERS

Elma Dry Cleaners, Clinton Street, Elma.

COAL, FEED AND BUILDERS' SUPPLIES

Adams & Klehm, Jamison Road.

CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS

A. W. Fargo, Chairfactory Merle E. Reuther, 1881 Wood-
Road, Elma; ard Road, Elma;
Harlan J. Luders, Schultz Morgan Builders, Hilltop
Road, Elma; Drive, Elma;
Leonard Will, Jamison Road, Wray Bove, Bullis Road,
Elma; Elma.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Briggs Dairy, Bowen Road, Helen Mary, Seneca Street .
Elma;

DOCTORS

R. C. Shaver, Chairfactory E. L. Valentine, Woodard
Road, Elma; Road, Elma;
Grace J. Shaver, Chairfactory R. E. Rekate, Rice Road,
Road, Elma; Elma.

DOG FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Cherven's Industries, Inc., 2655 Transit Road, Elma.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

Suburban Electric Co., 5291 Clinton Street, Elma.

ENGINEERS

Donald L. Bundy, Dorris Fred I. Sigman, P.E., Rice
Drive, Elma; Road, Elma.

EXCAVATING DUMP TRUCK SERVICE

Ed Hibbard, Pound Road, Gordon Fisher, Davis Road,
Springbrook; Springbrook.

FEED MILL

Blossom GLF Feed Service, Blossom Road, Elma.

FLORIST

Charles F. Goehle, Clinton Street, Elma.

GARAGE DOORS

Crawford Door Sales, 771 Bowen Road.

GAS BURNERS

Scheminger Sales Inc, 6911 Clinton Street, Elma.

GROCERS

Berry's General Store, Bowen Henry G. Therolf, Clinton
Road, Elma; Street, Elma;
John Mary, Clinton Street; Kunz Meats & Groceries, Sen-
E. Nicoloff, Maple Road, eca Street, Springbrook;
Elma; Te-Vee's Market, Bowen
Road, Elma.

HARDWARE

L & R Supply & Hardware, Mike's Bike Shop, Clinton
Seneca Street, Springbrook; Street, Elma.

HEATING CONTRACTOR

Norman Slade, Bowen Road, Elma.

HORSE STABLES

Transit Valley Stables, Rice Road, Elma, N. Y.

INSURANCE — FIRE

Ruth Luders, Schultz Road, Elma.

INSURANCE — GENERAL

Benson Briggs, Bowen Road, George W. Gunner, Girdle
Elma; Road, Elma;
Earl Lexo, Jamison Road, Joseph E. Davis, 5311 Clinton
Elma; Street, Elma.

INSURANCE — LIFE

Gordon Baker, Jamison Road.

KENNELS

Mrs. Arthur Brigham, Hall Charles H. Hyde, Bowen
Road; Road, Elma.

LUMBER

Elma Lumber & Builders' Supply, Bullis and Pound Roads.

MANUFACTURING

Moog Valve Co., Inc., Buffalo Road and Jamison.

MASON CONTRACTORS

Oscar Beckman, Bullis Road, Harry Millard, Sr., Blood
Elma; Road.

NURSERIES

Cotton Nurseries, Rice Road, Gilbert Bros. Twin Oaks
Springbrook; Nursery, Blood Road;
Elma Nurseries, Clinton Jerge Nursery, Inc., Bowen
Street, Elma; Road, Elma.

OPTICIANS

Edmund H. Clabeaux, Chairfactory Road, Elma.

PAINTING AND DECORATING

Franklin Slade, Ostrander Road, Elma.

PICNIC GROVES

O'Brien's Sleepy Hollow, Restaurant and Outing Grove,
Ostrander Road.

PLUMBING AND HEATING

Finch Bros., Town Line Road, W. F. Jasel, Bowen Road,
Elma; Elma.

POSTMASTERS

Elma, Daniel Yacobush, Springbrook, Robert W. Col-
Bullis and Bowen Roads; lins, Seneca Street.

PRINTERS

The Elma Press, Clinton Street, Elma.

RADIO AND TV SERVICE

Frank's Sales & Service, Rice Road, Elma.

REAL ESTATE

M. A. Clark, Bowen Road, Elma.

RESTAURANTS

Best Inn, Bowen Road, Elma; Schmiegel's Restaurant, Blossom Road, Elma;
Bleek's Restaurant, Jamison
Road; Souder's Restaurant, Clinton
Luders Log Cabin, Bowen and Bowen, Elma;
Road, Elma; Springbrook Hotel, Seneca
North Star Tavern, Seneca Street, Springbrook;
Street; Town Edge Restaurant, Seneca and Transit, Elma.

ROOFING

Vince Markowski, Stolle Road, Elma.

SAUSAGE MFG.

Maier Provision, Seneca Street, Elma.

SERVICE STATIONS

Atlantic Service, Clinton and Bowen Roads, Elma;	Heim & Vogt, Bowen Road, Elma;
Bruce's Frontier Service, Seneca Street, Springbrook;	Jamison Garage, Jamison and Bowen Roads.
Dunbar's Service, Buffalo Road;	Jerome's Service, 6440 Seneca Street, Springbrook;
Eaton's Mobilgas, Clinton and Bowen Road, Elma;	Ken's Sinclair Service, Clinton Street and Townline Road, Elma;
Elma Auto Service, Bullis and Girdle Roads;	Macaluso Service, Seneca Street.

SIGN PAINTING

C. F. Damohn, Bowen Road, Elma.

SPORTING GOODS

Elma Sport Shop, Bullis and Bowen Roads, Elma.

STEEL CONSTRUCTION

Cyril E. Taylor, Rice Road, Elma;	Roland Martin, Maple Street, E. Aurora.
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STONE CONTRACTOR

Gilbert Bros., Blood Road, Elma.

TRUCKING

R. Conley, Seneca Street, Elma.

VETERINARIANS

Seneca Animal Hospital, Seneca Street, Elma.

WELDING

Stradart Welding & Farm Supply, Transit Road, Elma.



CHAPTER XXV.

RESUME

A STUDY of the History of the Town of Elma indicates that many conditions and occurrences have been the controlling factors in its progression. Thus, undoubtedly, the topography of the town with its two major creeks, the Buffalo and Cazenovia, and their lesser tributaries traversing a heavily forested land, was the compelling factor in bringing the Mound Builders to occupy sections in the town. Likewise the same attributes brought the Neuters and Eries on seasonal hunting and fishing excursions through the town. Later the warlike Senecas, who conquered the Neuters and Eries, included Elma as a home because of its physical characteristics until they sold their Reservation to the Ogden Land Company.

As the white settlers obtained possession of the land, they first built around the creeks, which provided them with the necessary water power for saw mills and grist mills, and their chief source of income, came from the lumber which they secured from the pine and hemlock in the forests. Later the hard woods became depleted, so they built fences for their cattle with the pine stumps which they cleared from the land and cut the soft wood for fire wood to be used at home, in Buffalo and for fuel on the railroad. As the land was cleared, its rich soil provided good crops of grain, fodder and potatoes. Hence, the natural resources of the town were a vital factor in its progress.

Another controlling factor in the development of the Town was the progress of transportation. The first roads were little more than paths through the forest which became log roads to the sawmills, impassable when the frost went out of the ground in the spring. The main roads eventually were planked and the resulting better transportation between parts of the town and other localities played a vital part in the town's development. Then the coming of the railroad in 1867 made the transportation of the town's products, such as milk, to the city less difficult and brought many commuters to the town. With the completion of improved roads, the advent of the automobile and the bus lines through the town, the trend became more and more to occupation by city workers

and agricultural pursuits decreased.

Another factor in the History of our Town has been the immigration to our country. A study of the names of the first white settlers shows that they were largely English, followed very closely by the Germans. Later, the Polish people began to come to the Town. This change in nationalities follows the order of the immigration to the country. The Irish and Italian immigration has not affected the town to any great extent, since, those nationalities tend to settle in urban localities. We see the effect of the nationality change particularly in the German sections, where church services were originally held only in the German language and where the teaching of German in the schools originally was a regular practice. After World War I, this practice gradually disappeared. Something of the same change is now taking place with respect to the Polish localities.

Elma, unlike most other towns, does not have a single large village as a center for its activities. Instead, there exists the six communities of interest: Blossom, East Elma, Elma Center, Elma Village, Jamison Road and Springbrook. This has had the effect in the past of making it difficult to find a common purpose of action. Each of the six communities has tended to live within itself, and, to further their own particular projects, without regard to the best interest of the town as a whole. As a result, the town has not been as progressive as some other towns but has maintained a more rural character. With the rapid growth of the population in the last decade and better transportation facilities, a more common community purpose has resulted as evidenced by the Centralization of Schools and, at the present time, by the plans for the celebration of the Town's Centenary in 1957.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

As this book goes to press in September, 1956, considerable progress has been made in plans for the Town Centennial celebration in 1957. An organization, representative of all the sections and institutions in the town, has been formed and incorporated as Elma Centennial, Inc. The delegates to this organization, institutions which they represent and committees on which they are serving are as follows:—

ORGANIZATION	DELEGATE	COMMITTEE
Annunciation Church	Robert Bahl	Special Events
Blossom-Elma Post 110	Alois Cyrek	
Blossom Fire Company	Clarence Schultz	
Blossom Home Demonstration	Elmer May	Revenue and Novelties Site
Blossom Ladies' Auxiliary	Mrs. Albert Ernst	
Elma Business Association	Mrs. Clara May	
Elma Conservation Club	Albert Ver Cruysse	
Elma Drum Corps	Roy Luders	
Elma Democratic Club	Mrs. William Morath	Insurance Commemorative Plate History Book Plate Sales
Elma Historian	James Jerge	
	Fred I. Sigman	
Elma Home Demonstration	Mrs. Evelyn Webster	Insurance Historical Exhibit Treasurer Site
Elma Ladies' Auxiliary	Mrs. Dorothy Jasel	
Elma Methodist Church	Myron A. Clark	
Elma Republican Club	Lawrence Hoffman	
Elma Town Board	Walter Kester	
Elma Volunteer Fire Co.	James Jerge	Commemorative Plate History Book
Elma Young Republican Club	Mrs. Marjorie Briggs	
Faith Lutheran Church	John Klehm	
Iroquois Central School	Karl Swenson	
Iroquois P. T. A. Council	Mrs. Della Heineman	
I. O. O. F.	Hugh Stevenson	Commemorative Plate History Book
Jamison Road Fire Company	Warren Bleekman	
St. John's Lutheran Church	Mrs. Rose Luders	
St. Vincent Church	Oscar Beckman	Promotional
Red Cross	Mrs. Rita Donohue	
Springbrook Fire Company	Edward Hibbard	
Springbrook Home Demonstration	Mrs. Arletta Northrup	
Springbrook Rod and Gun Club	Horace Palmer	
Rebekah Lodge	Mrs. Maude Stitz	
St. Gabriel's Church	Stephen Pruski	
St. Paul's Lutheran Church	Herbert Bosch, Jr.	
Springbrook Community Church	Joshua Tsujimoto	

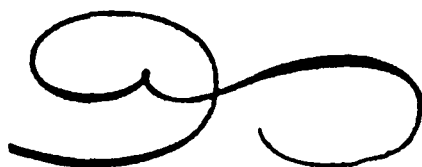
Delegates at Large:

Mrs. Robert Sanborn — Pageant Committee
 Fred Coon — Historical Program
 Robert Heim — Parade Committee
 Charles Simmons — Commemorative Plate and History Book
 Merle Reuther — Hospitality Committee
 George Blair — Promotional Committee
 Donald Wooster — Pageant Tickets
 C. Edward Scofield — Publicity
 Chester R. Weil — Historical Book Sales
 Harry Neidig — Parking
 Joseph McCormick — Concessions
 Donald Johnson — Merchant Promotion

Martin Royce was elected as the first President but resigned when he moved to Florida in July. The present elected officers are as follows: President, Ralph Bridgman; Vice President, Karl Swenson; Secretary, Mrs. LaVerne Bove; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Della Heineman; Treasurer, John Klehm.

Briefly the following plans have been made. The publication of this book and the purchase of commemorative plates has been authorized. A commemorative seal was designed through competition at the Iroquois Central School and officially adopted. The celebration has been set to take place during five days, beginning June 26th, 1957 and the site has been tentatively selected as Iroquois Central School and on adjacent land located on Girdle Road. The celebration is planned to include an exhibit of Elma antiques and curios, a pageant, parades, speeches, refreshments and various forms of entertainment.

All of the institutions have co-operated in making the publication of this book a success and are co-operating sincerely in plans for the Centennial.



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