

RAMAPO

AND

ROCKLAND

IN THE

HOMESPUN

AGE

1800-1860

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

The purpose of writing this basic history of Ramapo and Rockland County is to give ourselves and others a clearer picture of life on our own home grounds during the Homespun Age. This era was mainly an agricultural age lasting from about 1600 to 1860, during which people depended largely on themselves for food and clothing.

Since this is the first time we have worked with historical raw material, writing the history posed several problems. Collecting material published during the Homespun Age was not easy, but we found a number of books - mainly atlases and gazetteers - in the New York Public Library, the library at Fenimore House in Cooperstown, New York, the Suffern Free Library and the Suffern High School Library.

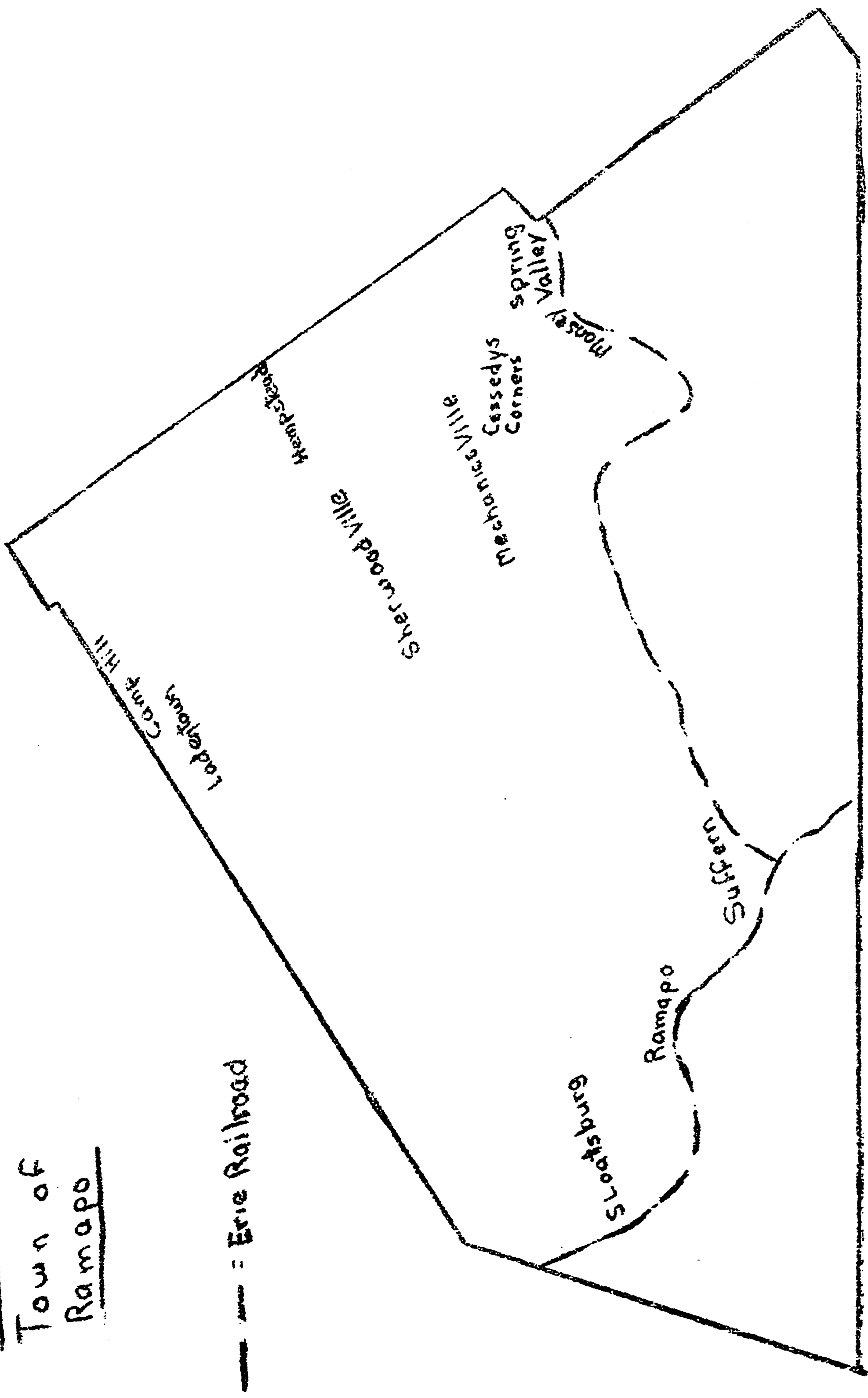
Another problem we encountered was that figures from different sources did not always agree. We had to use our judgment and we have tried to indicate in our text where these problems arose.

We began our work by studying the Homespun Age in New York State. Next we appointed an editorial committee to direct the project. The class was divided into committees to work on different chapters, with a member of the editorial committee in charge of each committee. Every member of our class had a part in writing this book.

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who helped make this history possible. We are especially grateful to the Local History and Genealogy section of the New York Public Library; to Dr. Carl Nordstrom, for letting us use material from his unpublished doctoral dissertation; and to Mr. Harry McIntosh, for reducing a map of Ramapo to workable size.

1853
Town of
Ramapo

— = Erie Railroad



POPULATION

Rockland County and Ramapo were growing steadily during the Homespun Age. The county's greatest gains were made after 1841. Ramapo's growth increased more rapidly from 1845 to 1850.

In 1829 the town of Ramapo had 30% of Rockland County's population.

Chart of Population in 1829

	Male	Female	Total
Rockland County	4,060	3,956	8,016
Ramapo	1,159	1,220	2,379

Thirty two percent of Rockland County's children between the ages of 5 and 15 lived in Ramapo in 1829.

	Girls	Boys	Total
Rockland County	1,029	1,420	2,449
Ramapo	335	405	790

In 1841, 27% of the population of Rockland County lived in Ramapo.

Chart of Population in 1841

	Male	Female	Total
Rockland County	4,833	4,813	9,696
Ramapo	1,239	1,337	2,576

There were 2,590 children between the ages of 5 and 15 in Rockland County in 1841. Ramapo had 665 of these children or $\frac{1}{4}$ of them.

Twenty one percent of Rockland County's population lived in Ramapo in 1845. There were 13,741 people living in the county and 2,911 living in Ramapo at that time.

In 1850, Ramapo had 30% of Rockland County's 17,462 people.

1855 is the only year for which there are figures for both the white and Negro population in Rockland County and Ramapo. During that year, about one sixth of the white people of the county lived in Ramapo.

Whites			
	Male	Female	Total
Rockland County	9,928	9,086	19,014
Ramapo	1,686	1,647	3,333

in 1855, one sixth of the county's Negroes lived in Ramapo.

Negroes			
	Male	Female	Total
Rockland County	227	270	497
Ramapo	37	44	81

There were 38 times more white people than Negroes in Rockland County in 1855, and 42 times more whites than Negroes in Ramapo.

Chart of People Under 35 in 1855

Rockland County							
	Under 1	1 under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15			
Male	350	1,145	1,132	1,077			
Female	290	1,143	1,078	976			
Total	640	2,248	2,210	2,053			
	15 under 20	20 under 25	25 under 30	30 under 35			
Male	976	1,079	940	855			
Female	965	976	877	716			
Total	1,941	2,055	1,817	1,571			
Ramapo							
	Under 1	1 under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15			
Male	52	167	205	325			
Female	47	183	219	180			
Total	99	350	424	405			
	15 under 20	20 under 25	25 under 30	30 under 35			
Male	170	165	102	135			
Female	204	151	109	114			
Total	374	316	211	249			

In 1855, there were 9,132 young people under 18 in Rockland County. Ramapo had nearly one fifth of these people.

The number of children of school age (5 to 16) during 1855 was:

	Boys	Girls	Total
Rockland County	2,209	2,054	4,263
Ramapo	430	339	829

One fifth of all the school age children in Rockland County lived in Ramapo.

In Rockland County, there were 14,575 people under the age of 35 in 1855. Ramapo had 17% of them. There were 4,936 people in the county over the age of 35, and 1,026 or 22% of these people in Ramapo over 35 during that year.

In 1860, 17% of the county's people lived in Ramapo. Between 1820, when 30% of the county's population lived in Ramapo, and 1860, when only 17% lived here, there was a considerate decline in Ramapo's population relative to the rest of the county.

	Males	Females	Total
Rockland County	10,155	9,356	19,511
Ramapo	1,723	1,691	3,414

M I L I T A R Y S E R V I C E

In 1829, 902 men in Rockland County were subject to military duty. Ramapo had 259 of these men or 29% of all those in the county during that year. About three fifths of the men of military age in Rockland County and four fifths of those in Ramapo were subject to this duty.

Rockland County had 951 men subject to military duty in 1841, and Ramapo had 194, or one fifth of all those in the county

S L A V E R Y .

In 1800, 551 slaves lived in Rockland County. During the next two decades, this number decreased steadily: there were 316 in 1810, 218 in 1814, and 124 in 1820; between 1810 and 1800, the number decreased by 43% ; between 1810 and 1814, by 69%; and between 1814 and 1820, by 57%. During this twenty year period the number of slaves decreased 78%.

An act of the New York State legislature passed in March, 1817, provided for the gradual abolition of slavery in New York State. It provided that every child born of slave parents after July 4, 1799, should be free at the age of 28 for males and 25 for females. Every child born after the passage of the act (March, 1817) should be free at the age of 21.

It is believed that most slaves in Rockland County during the early nineteenth century were household servants rather than laborers.

F A R M I N G

Most of the people in Rockland County and Ramapo made their living by farming. Farming in Rockland County was not merely an occupation but rather a way of life. The farmer, his wife and his children ate, slept and worked-though very seldom played-farming.

Almost everyday of the farmer's year was filled with work from the crack of dawn to the last ray of light at night. In the spring he would get up and do his regular chores which consisted of herding and milking the cows, feeding the livestock and doing other jobs. The early spring was a good time to collect sap from the trees and at that part of the year, this job filled the latter part of his days. He used mainly a sap bucket for this job. Later on in the spring, when the ground was right, he would spend the rest of the day plowing in the field and maybe planting some of the crops that could be planted early. To do the job of plowing the farmer naturally used a plow. The plows were made almost entirely of wood. There were a couple of plows that the farmer might have used. One consisted of a handle, for the farmer to hold, a plow-like metal piece, and a harness for the horse. Another was somewhat the same except that it had more blades and it rolled on wheels. In the evening the farmer could again herd, milk and feed the cattle and he would feed the other livestock.

In summer, the farmer's day was somewhat the same as in spring except that in the late morning and afternoon he would spend his time cultivating and caring for his fields of crops.

Fall was harvesting time. This is how the farmer and their family spent the better part of their time. Often all the neighbors would get together and have a sort of harvesting "bee". The oats and barley were harvested first. Of all the crops, potatoes were the hardest to harvest because they grew underground.

In the winter the farmer could take it easier. He did the usual chores in the morning and evening, and in the other parts of the day he would do things like sharpening tools, cutting wood, fixing tools and other equipment and other jobs

that needed to be done.

Farming was by far the most important occupation in Rockland County and Ramapo. There were 1,323 farmers in the county in 1855 when farming was at its peak. The two other occupations in which many people were engaged were laborers, with four hundred twenty three people or 68% less than farmers, and carpenters with two hundred sixty nine people or 79% less than farmers. As you can see by these examples, farming was the most important occupation.

ACREAGE

Throughout the Homespun Age Ramapo had more than its share of improved land, that is, land that is under cultivation.

The town of Ramapo covered 18% of the county in 1829. Seven per cent of the county's unimproved land and 34% of its improved land was in Ramapo.

1829	Rockland County	Ramapo
Unimproved land	65,373	4,784
Improved land	45,127	15,716
Total	110,400	20,500

In 1850, Ramapo comprized 31% of Rockland County. It had 28% of the unimproved land and 35% of the improved land in the county.

1850	Rockland County	Ramapo
Unimproved land	50,853	16,445
Improved land	46,482	13,506
Total	97,335	29,951

In 1860, 1/5 of the land in the county was in Ramapo. Thirty two per cent of the unimproved land and 29% of the improved land was in Ramapo.

1860	Rockland County	Ramapo
Unimproved land	50,852	16,445
Improved land	46,481	13,505
Total	97,333	29,950

The reason for the changes in the figures of the acreage of Rockland County and Ramapo are not known. It is thought that the land may have been sold to another county or that the first surveying methods were poor. Another theory is that the 1829 figures included water while the 1850 and 1860 figures did not.

VALUE OF LAND AND PROPERTY

In 1829, there was about one and three fourths million dollars invested in real and personal property in Rockland County. About 85% of this was in real and 15% in personal. In Ramapo nearly one half million dollars were invested in real and personal property, about \$450,000 in real property and and \$50,000 in personal.

In 1858, over five and a half million dollars was estimated to be the value of the real and personal property in Rockland County, about four and a half million dollars of the real and one million dollars of the personal property. Ramapo had about one fifth of the county's real and personal property. \$869,417 was in real and \$303,300 was in personal property.

MATERIAL AND VALUE OF DWELLINGS

Most of the houses in Rockland and Ramapo in 1855 were framed. The next most important type of house was stone. Seventy of the 251 stone houses in Rockland County were in Ramapo. Over half of the log houses in Rockland were in Ramapo. There were very few brick houses in Ramapo although there were 105 in the county. Altogether there were 3,188 houses in Rockland County and 585 in Ramapo. The houses in the county were valued at about \$2,696,928 and at \$303,700 in Ramapo.

OWNERS OF LAND

There were 1,814 landowners in Rockland County. About two ninths of these were in Ramapo. As you see, this means that a surprisingly small percentage of the people in 1855 were landowners and probably the greater per cent of these were farmers.

CROPS

The crops were grown to feed the farmer, his family, and the animals on the farm as well as to be sent to market.

The amount of winter grain grown in 1861 amounted to 34,546 bushels and 88,895 bushels of summer grain was grown. As you can see, 54,349 or well over twice as much summer as winter grain was produced. That same year in Ramapo 12,521

bushels of winter grain were grown and 31,882 of summer grain. Again more than twice as much summer grain was produced.

Altogether, in 1861, 14,826 tons of hay were grown in Rockland County and 4,205 in Ramapo. The 10,021 tons difference were accounted for in the other townships. Ramapo had about 28½% of all the hay in Rockland County.

In the potato field, altogether in Rockland County there were 47,223 bushels of potatoes, with 23,567 bushels in Ramapo. In the other three townships there were 23,656 bushels.

In 1861, Rockland County produced 3,263 bushels of apples and Ramapo, 1,785. The other towns produced 2,467 bushels. As you can see, nearly one half of all the apples grown in Rockland County were grown in Ramapo. However, in comparison with potatoes, the apple industry was not nearly so big.

Other important crops in Ramapo were oats, rye, buckwheat, corn, turnips, and honey. Honey was used as a sweetener in the days when sugar was too expensive.

LIVESTOCK

SHEEP

Sheep were used for wool, which the farmers wife ^{MADE INTO} cloth, and for food.

During the Homespun Age in Rockland County and Ramapo, the importance of sheep raising declined steadily. In 1829, there were 3,035 sheep in Ramapo. Then from 1829 to 1841 there was about a 62% decrease (of 1,891) making the total number of sheep in Ramapo in 1841, 1,144. In the next nineteen years, from 1841 to 1860, the sheep population decreased about 61% or 701 sheep.

In 1829, Rockland County had 8,053 sheep. In the following twelve years, the number of sheep decreased about 31% or 2,439 sheep. From 1841 to 1860, the number of sheep decreased about 31% or 4,688 sheep.

In 1829, the other three townships had 5,018 sheep. This was about 62% of all the sheep in Rockland County. In 1841,

5,614
the three other townships 8,953 sheep, about 80% of the sheep in the county. Nineteen years later these three other townships had 926 sheep or 55% of all the sheep in Rockland County.

On the whole, from 1829 to 1860, the population of sheep decreased about 76% or 2,292 sheep in the town of Ramapo. In the three other towns between these years, the sheep population decreased about 89% or 7,127 sheep.

NEAT CATTLE

The raising of neat cattle, or the cow-type of cattle, in Rockland County was more important than the raising of any other animal during the Homespun Age except for around 1829, when sheep raising was more important.

In the year 1829, almost one third of all the neat cattle in Rockland County were in Ramapo, making this town an important neat cattle raising district. However, from 1829 to 1841 there was a decrease of almost one fifth or from 2,263 neat cattle to 1,274, to be exact. This drop brought Ramapo's position down to having only about one sixth of all the neat cattle in Rockland County. At the same time, though, the number of neat cattle in Rockland County was increasing.

In the next nineteen years, the population of neat cattle in Ramapo decreased from 1,274 to 747, or about one fifth again. However, the population of neat cattle in Rockland County decreased more and Ramapo now had almost exactly one fifth of all the neat cattle in the county. On the whole, from 1829 to 1860, there was about a $\frac{662}{3}\%$ decrease in the number of neat cattle in Ramapo.

There were three townships in Rockland County, Ramapo being one of them. What happened in the other three townships? In 1829, about two thirds of all the neat cattle in Rockland County were in these townships. From 1829 to 1841, twelve years, there was about a 35% increase of neat cattle in these towns making their per cent of neat cattle about $83\frac{1}{3}\%$. But from 1841 to 1860 there was a decrease of a little over 50%. This brought their percentage down to 80%. Altogether, from 1829 to 1860, there was almost a $37\frac{1}{2}\%$ decrease. As for Rockland County as a whole, from 1829 to 1841 there was about a 10% increase of neat cattle in the county. Then from 1841 to 1860 there was little over a 50% decrease of neat cattle. On the whole, from 1829 to 1860, there was about a 46% decrease in the number of neat cattle in Rockland County.

OXEN

Oxen are formed from cattle. The bull is operated on and a gland in the back of his neck is taken out, making it impossible for this animal to mate with a cow. They are especially known for their hard work.

In the year 1855 in Rockland County, there were 573 oxen (omitting calves). Five years later Rockland County had a total of 2,490 oxen and calves. The town of Ramapo had a total of 791 oxen, and the remainder were in the other three townships. This number was 1,699. The 791 oxen in Ramapo were 31% of all the oxen in Rockland County.

SWINE

Swine are domestic pigs developed in Europe. They have hard, coarse hair, heavy skin and a thick layer of fat. They also have short tusks. In 1841 there were 5,541 swine in all Rockland County, 1,238 of them were in Ramapo and 4,303 in the other three townships. The 1,238 in Ramapo was about 22% of the swine in the county. In 1860, there were 3,185 swine in Rockland County and 43% of these, or 1,311 swine, were in Ramapo. In the other towns there were 1,874. From 1841 to 1860 there was a decrease of 42% of the swine in the county.

HORSES

In 1829, about 32% of all the horses in Rockland County were in Ramapo. Then from 1829 to 1841, there was about a 30% increase in the number of horses in Rockland County. In this year, 1841, about 20%, or 515 to be exact, of all the horses in Rockland County were in Ramapo. From 1841 to 1860, 19 years, there was about a 45% decrease in the number of horses in Ramapo.

In Rockland County, from 1829 to 1841, there was an increase of horses from 2,290 to 2,488 or one of about 8%. Then from 1841 to 1860 there was another increase, this time from 2,488 horses to 3,715 horses or a little over a 50% increase.

All in all, from 1829 to 1860 there was about a 1½% increase in the amount of horses in Ramapo. In Rockland County, from 1829 to 1860, there was a 64½% increase during this time.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Dairy products were fairly important in Rockland County. However, Ramapo produced little or no cheese and the 2,500 pounds produced in the county in 1861 were made in the other three townships. As far as butter is concerned, Ramapo was the most important butter producer of the ~~three~~ townships in Rockland County and it produced 110,575 pounds four/ of the 266,006 pounds produced in Rockland County, or a little less than half.

I N D U S T R I E S

There were 102 small industrial establishments in Rockland County in 1829, the most important being sawmills. Over half the industries were located in Ramapo.

By 1855, the number of industries in Rockland had risen to 141. There were many more kinds of industries than there had been earlier. We do not, however, feel confident of the accuracy of the 1855 figures. We have two sources of information for this period, a map of Ramapo showing the location of industries, and an atlas giving figures on industries for the county as a whole. According to our map, the number of industries in the town was about 55, but according to the atlas, the number of industries in the whole county was 141 leaving only 76 industries in the county, outside of Ramapo. We have found, for instance, that while the number of blacksmith shops in the county in 1855 was 7, according to the atlas, our map shows 20 in the town of Ramapo alone. Probably we can safely assume that Ramapo continued to be one of the more industrialized sections of the county.

Gristmills

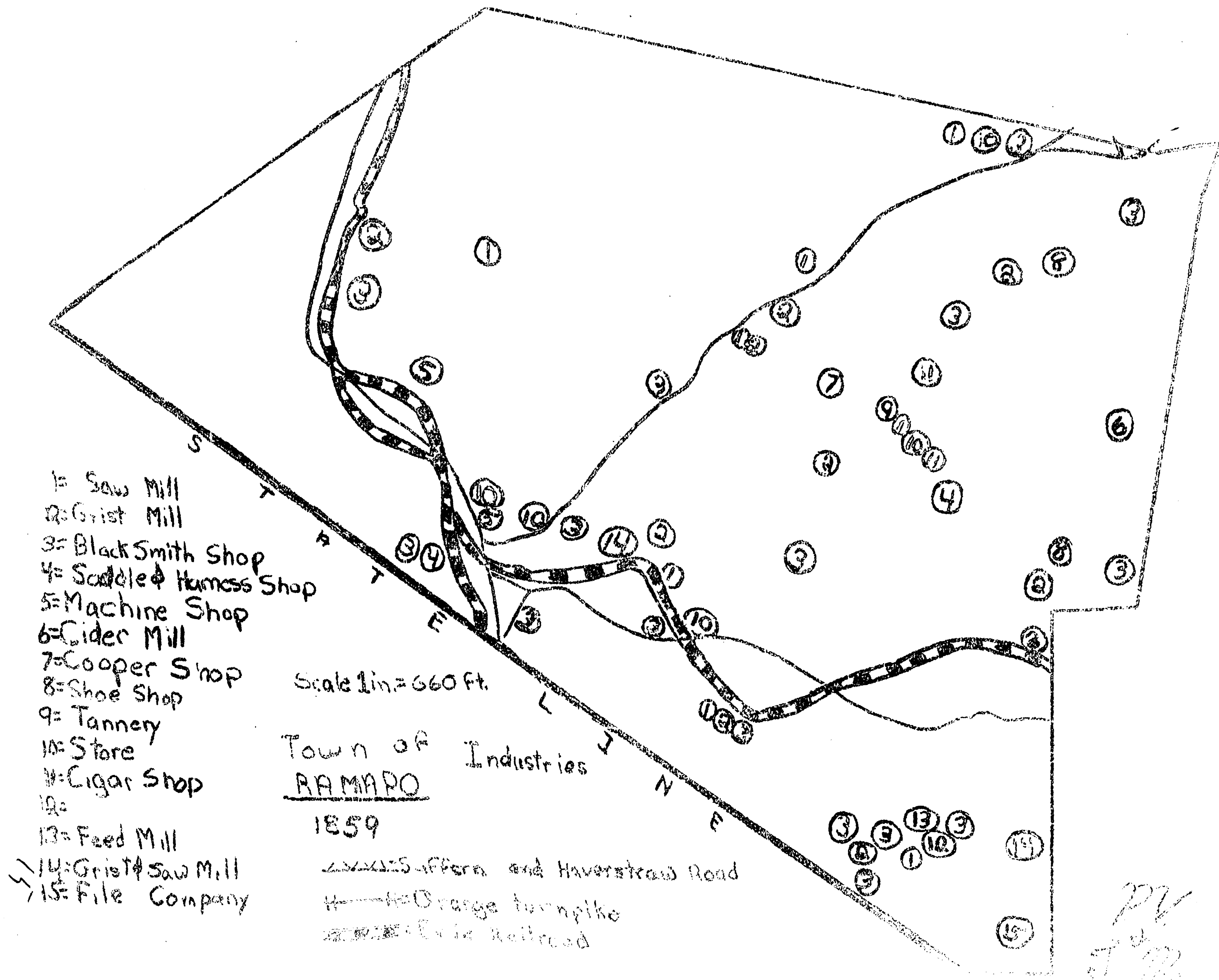
A gristmill, for grinding grain, was one of the public utilities of the pioneer community. It was usually built near a stream for water power. The gristmills of the early pioneers made "entire" wheat flour, which included the bran.

Milling was done under the millstones. The stones themselves were from three to seven feet in diameter. Once one of these mills was established, other small industries often grew up around it.

In 1829 in Rockland County, there were 35 gristmills, 18 of them being in Ramapo. In 1841, there were 31 in Rockland. In 1859 there were 36 in Rockland and 9 in Ramapo.

Sawmills

In 1829 there were 41 saw mills in Rockland County, and 21 of them were located in the Town of Ramapo. But in twelve years, by 1841, the number had decreased to 27 in



27
J. 22

Rockland and 5 in Ramapo. By 1855 the number was down to seven in the county, most of them probably located in Ramapo.

The saw mill was powered by a small water wheel or, as it was called in the Home-spun Age, a flutter wheel. This was a small wooden axle, fitted with wooden arms or spokes holding board paddles which dipped into a chute where a swift stream of water fell upon it, thus giving the wheel rotation. This primitive sawmill was expected to operate only for a very few weeks in the spring while the water supply was good because of the melted snows or spring rains. A wooden crank at the end of the axle raised and lowered a single saw blade. The saw cut only on the downstroke. The blade of the saw was commonly 8 ft. long and 8 in. high. The sawmill operated inefficiently but it served the purpose.

Tanneries

In 1841, there were 6 tanneries in Rockland County and 3 of them were in Ramapo. Fourteen years later (1855) there were 2 tanneries in Rockland, of which 1 was in Ramapo.

The tanneries of the Home-spun Age were located in tiny establishments around the county. The tanner's work was taught to him by his parents or relatives who had been tanners before him. Farmers took their hides and gave them to the community tanner.

The very first thing done to the hides brought in was to take a razor-sharp knife and cut into a small corner the initials of the owner. The first step in processing the hide was to remove the tail, legs and head.

To remove the hair from a sheep or lamb, the skin was moistened and stacked in piles so that they would "sweat". After the hides had sweated awhile, the hair would be easily pulled out. The cow hair was occasionally sweated, but the more usual procedure was to put the hide in a vat of lime so that it would slip off. After the hair was off, the lime had to be cleaned off. The hides were taken to a vat and let soak in brate, a witches brew. This mixture was made up of hen dung, salt, and water. Next the hides were scrubbed and rinsed in pure water, preferably soft. Now the hides were ready to be put in the tanning liquor. Often sheep skins were tanned with the wool still on. For tanning cowhides and calfskins, hemlock or oak bark was commonly used. Hemlock was easy to obtain, but it was believed that for harness leather, oak was superior.

All tanneries needed several vats, each of them being about four feet deep and six feet square. They were sunken into the ground so that only a small part of their tops stood above the ground. The tanner would fill the vat in the following way: a layer of ground bark on the bottom, then a hide, bark, hide, until the vat was filled up. From time to time, the vat was checked and if necessary, more bark was added. The hides commonly lay in the vat for approximately six months. It was generally believed that soaking for a longer period of time improved the product. It was often a year until the hides were returned to their rightful owner.

After the complete tanning process, the hides were washed and hung on poles in the loft. The hides needed only a small amount of air but not so little that they would mold. When dry, the hide was scraped, and rubbed with tallow lampblack. The hair side was then rubbed smooth to give it a polish. Then the tanned leather was returned to its owner.

BLACKSMITHS

In the Homespun Age, there was no older or more honorable occupation than the blacksmith. Before the era of motor vehicles, there was a blacksmith shop at nearly every four corners. Blacksmithing, horse-shoeing and wagon making were all part of the blacksmith's work.

The smithy would take the glowing iron off the fire, then you would hear a clang, clang on the anvil (an iron block on which metal pieces are made by hammering). Then there would be some sparks as he shaped the shoe. After this he would nail it into the horse's hoof.

There were many blacksmiths tools, such as a forge, bellows, anvil, vise, tongs, hammer, nipples, poker, nails, file, knife, bar iron, pre-shaped shoes, cotton, leather pads, rubber shoes, tripod, leather apron and tar.

Blacksmiths made things as horse shoes, chains, open shoes, axles, axle, hammers, hoof picks, wheels and tires. There were also harnesses, locks, and rims for wagon wheels.

In 1859 there were 20 blacksmiths shops in Ramapo. We do not have any figures for Rockland County for other years.

WAGON AND SLEIGHMAKING

A wagon maker before the Civil War was called a wheelwright. A wheelwright usually made sleighs, also. All the iron work was done by a blacksmith. This was called ironing off.

More two wheeled wagons were made than four wheeled wagons. This was so because they were easy to maneuver and were simple to make.

Big wheels were used because they could straddle small obstacles. They were good because they did not wear out as easily and they traveled better on rough or muddy roads.

The wagons were mostly wood. This wood was usually white oak or white ash.

The hubs were usually hickory or white elm. They were made from small trees or big limbs. They were sawed into blocks of the desired length and shaped with a hand axe and a drawing knife. Twelve spokes were usually put on a wheel. The wheels were fastened on the axle with a linchpin.

After the Civil War the occupation of wheelwright came to an end.

By 1855 there were 7 wagon making establishments in Rockland County. None of them were located in Ramapo.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

In 1845 there were 102 breweries and 211 distilleries in New York State. In 1841, Rockland County had one distillery and by 1855 there were 2 distilleries and 1 brewery in the county. There were none in Ramapo.

In the states as a whole, distilleries were more important than the breweries. Out of 60 counties, 45 had at least 1 distillery. Most of them were in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties. "American whiskey" ranged from 22 to 25 cents per gallon. Liquor was sold to men only. It was served at weddings, funerals and festival occasions. Even preachers drank liquor.

The general impression, as far as we know, is that people think that the Homespun Age was an age of farming. But we have found that it was also quite industrial.

Some Industries In The Town Of Ramapo - 1855

Census of the State of New York; Franklin Hough

Name	No. of Establish- ments	\$In Real Estate	\$In Tools + Machinery
Agricultural Tools + Implements	1	\$2000	\$1000
Machine Shops	3	\$3000	\$8000
Twine + Net	1	\$55,000	\$4,500
Manufacturers			
Woolen Cloth + Yarn	1	\$2000	\$2500
Tobacco + Cigar	2	\$675	\$290

SOME INDUSTRIES IN

THE TOWN OF RAMAPO-1855

Name	Cash Value	No. Persons
	of Articles	Employed
	Manufactures	
Agricultural Tools	\$ 2,070	3
and Implements		
Machine Shops	\$ 20,721	19
Twine and Net	\$ 50,000	70
Manufactures		
Woolen Cloth	\$ 11,760	7
and Yarn		
Tobacco and	\$ 2,150	2
Cigars		

CHART SHOWING OCCUPATIONS IN 1829-1841-1855 ROCKLAND COUNTY

	1829	1841	1855
Grist Mills	35	31	36
Saw Mills	41	27	7
TANNERIES	0	6	2
BREWERIES	0	0	1
TRIP HAMMERS	2	2	0
Cotton FACTORIES	3	2	1
BLACK Smith Shop	0	0	7
WOOLEN FACTORIES	1	2	2
IRON WORKS	3	8	0
Fulling Mills	6	4	0
CARDING MACHINES	11	8	0
OIL Mills	0	0	0
PAPER Mills	0	1	0

	1829	1841	1855
ASHERIES	0	0	0
DISTILLERIES	0	1	2
ROPE WORKS	0	0	0
BANKS	0	0	0
BRICK MANUFACTURERS	0	0	33
BOOT AND SHOE SHOPS	0	0	5
BAKERY	0	0	1
CONFENTIONARY MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
OAR MAN	0	0	1
SHIP BUILDERS	0	0	3
COACH + WAGON MANUFACTURER	0	0	7
CARPENTER SHOP	0	0	1
COOPER SHOP	0	0	1
LIME MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
STONE CUTTING ESTABLISHMENT	0	0	1
HARNESS TRUNK + SADDLE MANUFACTURERS	0	0	1
BASKET MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
CHAIR FACTORIES	0	0	2

	1829	1841	1855
Pail MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
Window Shade MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
PERCUSSION CAP MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
Tailor Shop	0	0	1
Butcher Shop	0	0	1
Ice Establishment	0	0	1
Tobacco and Cigar MANUFACTURER	0	0	3
Agricultural Implements MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
Fanning Mill MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
File MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
FURNACE	0	0	3
Machine Shop	0	0	4
SILVERWARE MANUFACTURERS	0	0	1
Tin Sheet Iron MANUFACTURERS	0	0	1
CARPET YARN	0	0	1
Cotton Batting	0	0	1
Twine MANUFACTURER	0	0	1
TOTALS	102	92	141

TRANSPORTATION

In the 1800's foot travel was the most common and the cheapest method of traveling in Ramapo. Settlers making a journey of a considerable distance would make the trip by horse. The paths made by deer, cows and other animals, as well as Indian trails and the crude roads used by these travelers later turned into main roads of the Township of Ramapo.

TURNPIKES AND ROADS

The Orange Turnpike was first called the Albany Road and it is one of the oldest post roads in the State. The section of the road near Suffern was so important to the United States that the New York State Legislature passed an Act in the 1800's allowing the formation of the Orange Turnpike Company. The company had the power to straighten and improve the road for twenty miles through the Ramapo Pass. Since that section was mostly wilderness at that time, the State felt the road wouldn't be kept properly unless it was privately owned.

In 1814 the State Legislature passed an act for the Antrim and Waynesburgh Turnpike Company to improve the Haverstraw Road, but this task was never accomplished.

In 1816 the legislature formed a company to build the Nyack Turnpike from Suffern to Nyack because the inland manufacturers needed a quicker means of getting their goods to the Hudson River.

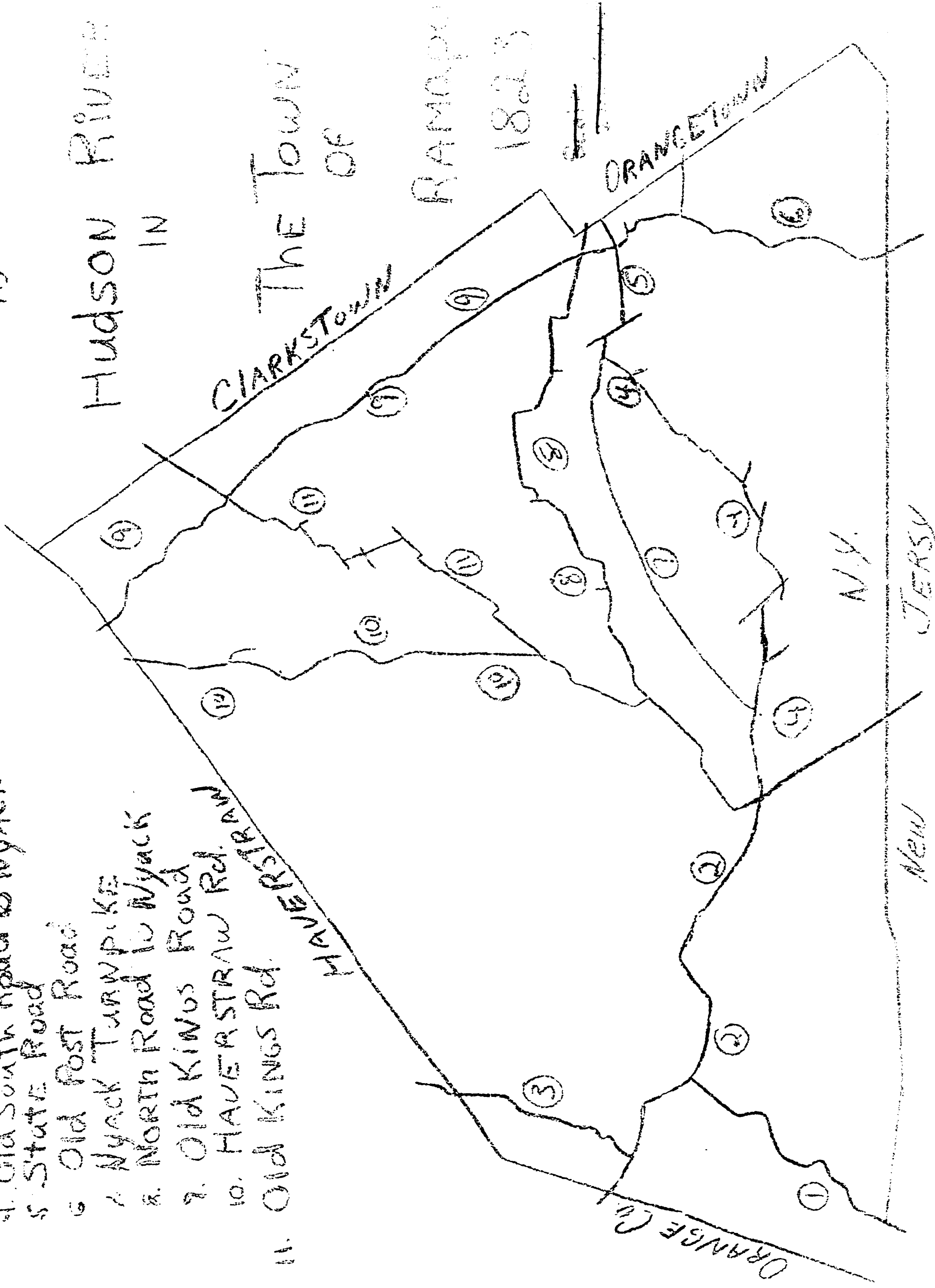
In 1823 the main roads were the Johnsonstown Road, the Orange Turnpike which was the most important, Old Kings Road, Ringwood Road, the Old South Road to Nyack, the State Road, the Old Post Road, the North Road to Nyack, Old Kings Road, the Haverstraw Road and the Nyack Turnpike, which was first used as a cross country carriage road.

1. RINGWOOD ROAD
2. ORANGE TURNPIKE ROAD
3. JOHNSONTOWN ROAD
4. Old South Road to Nyack
5. State Road
6. Old Post Road
7. Nyack Turnpike
8. North Road to Nyack
9. Old Kings Road
10. HAVERSHAM ROAD
11. Old Kings Rd.

MAIN ROADS TO

HUDSON RIVER
IN

THE TOWN
OF
CLARKSTOWN
RAMPO
1823



As settlements grew, the demands of social and business life depended more and more on these roads for transportation.

Most of the traveling on the roads was done in buggies, wagons or on horseback, but there was one road on which the stagecoach traveled. The Orange Turnpike route was from Sloatsburg to the New Jersey line.

The stagecoaches were usually very uncomfortable. Along the way there were stopping places where the horses were changed and where the people could get out and stretch. If it was meal-time the passengers would eat. Stagecoaches were not always safe: often they collided and over-turned. Passengers were sometimes seriously hurt. In the winter the stages often had runners put on their body and would travel by way of the Hudson on the ice.

TAVERNS

On the many highways throughout Rockland County there were numerous taverns at which travelers could stop to rest and eat.

Not much is known about the taverns in Ramapo, but there was one tavern in Suffern. Wanamaker's Tavern on the northern side of the old Post Road. It was owned by Cornelius Wanamaker. There was also the John Yeary tavern south of the Monsey station. In the Coe homestead, John D. Coe kept a tavern and the village store. In 1829 the West Hempstead Post Office was also established in this building. Benson's tavern was another tavern in Ramapo which was a short distance eastward of the turnpike.

Haverstraw, the third oldest village in Rockland County, had several taverns.

De Noyelles Tavern

The Tavern was south of the village, upon the bank of the Hudson River. Mr. De Noyelles erected the building, which was originally intended for a tavern, but it was used for the Methodist headquarters until 1810.

Van Houten Inn

This Inn still stands in Haverstraw on Front Street, facing the Hudson River. The upper floor of the Inn is just as it was when it was used as a tavern.

The "Old Red Tavern"

"Old Red Tavern", Manuet's first Inn, was on the old main road between Suffern and Piermont. It was operated by Peter Demarest, Jr., until his death in 1839. Afterward his son became Innkeeper.

The "Mansion House"

The "House" was Nyack's first hotel. It was built in 1822 on Main Street. It had two stories and an attic.

STEAMBOATS

A need for a better and quicker transportation was created at Ramapo, because of its development of manufacturing interests.

To try and solve this problem, two Nyack men decided to attempt to build a steamboat, called the "Orange". Many people took a gloomy view of the project.

Henry Geaner, John Green, Benjamin Blackledge and others, on July 12th, 1826, issued a statement to which 11 men subscribed. The amount raised was \$10,850 and on September 1, 1826, the contract for its building was made with Henry Geaner.

The boat was finished and ready for her engine on March 1st, 1827. Her fuel was wood. Some of the freight and passenger rates in those days are listed below:

Passengers - 25¢	Hogs - 25¢
Children - 12½¢	Salt per load - 50¢
Horses & cows - 75¢	Flour per barrel - 12½¢
Calves - 25¢	Boxes of soap or candles - .00¢
Shingles per 1000 - \$1.00	Horses, gig, & driver - \$1.50

Although the "Orange" couldn't keep up to her timetable, the venture proved a success and not many passengers complained of the delay.

RAILROADS

The Erie Railroad, like the roads, opened up the county with a quicker means of transportation.

On January 15, 1831, the first pioneer locomotive drew a trainload of passengers on the South Carolina Railroad. One of the passengers was Henry L. Pierson of Ramapo, New York.

Because the trip was so successful, Henry Pierson became interested in building a railroad in the southern part of New York. He also interested his brother-in-law, Eleazor Lord, in the plan. On April 24, 1831, Eleazor Lord became the first president of the New York and Erie Railroad Company. It was incorporated by a special Act of the New York State Legislature.

According to the original Charter obtained in 1832, the track couldn't pass the State line into New Jersey. Because of this problem, the nearest access to New York City was at Piermont. In 1836 work was started. The stations on the line east to west were Spring Valley, Monsey, Tallman, Suffern, Hillburn, Ramapo, Sterlington and Sloatsburg. The people of the Township were interested in the road mainly because it stretched almost the whole length of Ramapo from east to west. Many residents along the line granted a free right of way across their properties and agreed to build and keep the fences, while many people subscribed to its stock, in some cases paying for it in labor and material used in the building of the line. These agreements were regretted by many afterward.

In the winter of 1839 and '40 the track which had begun to be laid at the river reached the Hemion Bridge, which was a road crossing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the Suffern station.

The road which approaches Suffern from the south, now a 4 lane track, is the Paterson and Ramapo Railroad, opened in 1848 from Paterson to the State line. It is connected with the old Erie Railroad by the Union Railroad, $\frac{79}{100}$ of a mile long, and links Suffern to New York City in this manner: Suffern by Union R.R. to State line, State

line to Paterson by Paterson & Ramapo R.R., Paterson to Jersey City by Paterson & Jersey City R.R. These three roads formed a continuous line and all were leased to the Erie Company in 1852, and now form the main line of that road between Suffern and Jersey City.

The development of better transportation in the county during the Homespun Age helped the area to grow and prosper.

E D U C A T I O N

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

Thomas Jefferson said this at the very beginning of the fight for free public education in the United States. He, along with George Washington, James Madison, and many other leaders, foresaw the need for free public education. Many more people saw the need for free education, too, and worked for it in their communities.

In 1812 the New York State Legislature passed a law based on the need for public education in a country where people could vote. Under this law, money from a permanent state fund was to be given each year to school districts on the basis of population. School districts could not receive state aid unless the town put up an equal amount of money. The state and town money was supposed to be used only for teachers' salaries. The local school district was expected to pay for the schoolhouse, fuel, and other running expenses.

The money given by the state, town, and district was usually not enough to run the school. The rest of the money was made up by the parents of the children going to school, depending on the number of children in each family going to school, and the number of days they attended school. Often the district got out of the red by not paying the teacher!

In 1814, the legislature passed another law called the rate-bill system. Parents who could not afford to pay to send their children to school could sign a pauper's oath, in order to get their children in without paying. Many parents were too proud to sign the oath, and therefore many poor children did not go to school. Often families, who had signed the oath, were made to feel inferior.

The Free School Law was passed by the state legislature in 1849. It established free schools throughout the state. Before it became a law, it had to be voted on by the voters of the state. (This is called a referendum.) Although the people passed the law by a large majority, there was a lot of opposition to it, especially in the rural districts. Rockland County voted

for the law, but most of the Town of Ramapo was against it.

Following are some letters written to the Rockland County Journal for and against the "Free School Law".

Here are some letters supporting the "Free School Law".

October 12, 1850

"And now, Mr. Editor, please tell me why most of our town and county officers are opposed to the Free School Law. Is it because they are afraid the young and rising generation will be wiser than themselves? Is it because a good education would prove an injury to them? Or is it because the parents are afraid it would cost a little money?

"The roughest stone sometimes when hewn, produces the best polish; so a good education will produce a fine character, a good law-giver, a pious divine, and an excellent orator. In fine, it gives all that is noble and grand. It draws out all the powers of the mind and enables the possessor to adorn and beautify the path of life in which he may be called upon to walk."

Signed, "C"

November 2, 1850

"The cause of education in the cause of Liberty. With it Tyranny is impossible. Ignorance in every age has proved the strongest ally of despotism, while enlightenment has ever been the handmaid of freedom." Opposition to the school law is due to "The meanest of human passions - the passion of avarice."

Signed, "Free School"

February 1, 1851

"A feeling of self-interest, too, will prompt every rational man to sustain the Free School Law. Ignorance is the fruitful parent of crime, and if we do not build the schoolhouse, we must be prepared to erect the jail;

if we do not pay the schoolmaster, we must pay the jailor and the constable."

Signed, "Free Schools"

February 25, 1871

"In a government like ours, it is highly necessary and urgent that those from whom government emanates should acquire the information and intelligence which will fit them to discharge the high functions of citizenship."

Signed, "WMP"

People also wrote letters against the Free School Law. Some of them follow.

February 1, 1851

"Look at emigration how it is flowing in upon us, how many thousands in one month. The friends of the Free School Law say the property of the State must educate them, for they are to rule us. Mark it, foreigners to rule us."

Signed, "Farmer"

1850

"I have seen the day when I was \$2,500 in debt; would you not suppose I had enough to pay without giving my neighbor a chance to vote his debt on me? Is this our boasted freedom?"

"Before we had a School Fund we could rule our schools as we thought proper. Our districts were peaceable and all was quiet. Everyone would do his share towards building and repairing; wood was brought by those who had it, and the children were all warmed by it. But now comes this Albany ruler, who has been binding us with cobwebs until they have become cords not easily broken . . . I hope

not for this miscalled Free School - this monster in the shape of a lamb. If this is not Socialism in its worst shape, then I know not the meaning of the word.

"Vote yourself a school, vote yourself a farm, are signs of the times. I hold to the divine command by the sweat of the brow shalt thou earn thy bread. How covetous a disposition this is giving way to.

"In alluding to the Eastern States, with all their schools, we have there the greatest samples of immorality and vice, the teacher becomes a murderer. It is there we read of lads scarcely in their teens advocating the doctrines of Madame Sue, a Paul de Knock, a De Brisbane, and last of all, Horace Greeley, with all the isms of the day. Anti-Rentism, Free Schoolism, Agrarianism, Socialism - this is the doctrine of Red Republicanism which is engendered in France, and now rising up among us."

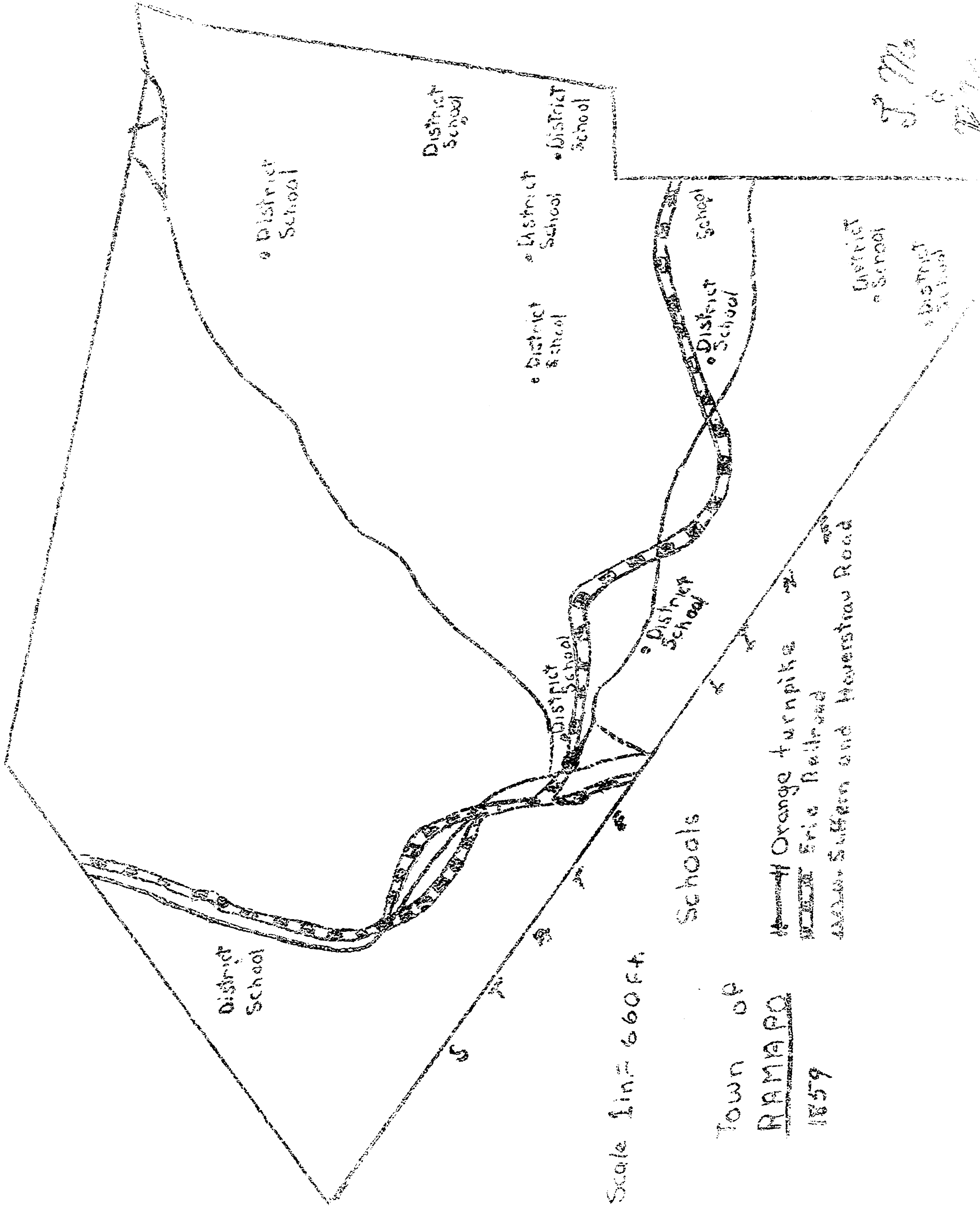
Signed, "Farmer"

29 Percent of the people in Ramapo were for the Free School Law, and 70% plus were against. In Clarkstown 41% wanted it, and 59% didn't. But in Haverstraw 75% wanted it, and 25% didn't. Orangetown had 37% who didn't want the Free School Law, and 63%, who did want it. Altogether in Rockland County there were 53% who wanted the Free School Law, and 47% who didn't.

In 1851, the State Legislature passed another Free School Law. This set up a yearly property tax of \$800,000 to aid public schools throughout the state, but the hated rate-bill system was still kept.

Finally, in 1867, the rate bill was ended by the State Legislature. Now all children in New York State could go to elementary school, whether or not their parents were poor.

While New York State made a great deal of progress during this time in giving children an elementary school education, the quality of education was not very high. In 1860, the public schools still taught the three R's - reading, writing and arithmetic - plus some geography, and a bit of American history. The standard method of teaching was for the students to memorize information and repeat it back to the teacher word for word. Many school buildings were in bad repair, many had no playgrounds, and many had no privies, according to a report of the State School Superinten-



Scale 1 in. = 660 ft.

Town of
RAMAPO
 1859

Orange Turnpike
 Erie Railroad
 Suffern and Haverstraw Road

dent in 1846. The average monthly wage for men teachers was \$14, and for women teachers, \$7.50. Teachers were not well trained.

By 1860, some progress had been made in providing secondary public schools. There were 22 public high schools in the state. Most children who went to high school went to private schools, usually "academies" for boys and "seminaries" for girls. Very few children went to college.

In 1829 there were 34 schools in Rockland County, 11 of them in Ramapo. Ramapo had about one-third of the schools in the county, and almost one-third of the population. This shows that Ramapo offered about the same amount of education as the county as a whole.

Rockland County had 2,449 children between the ages of 5 and 15 in 1829, and Ramapo had 790 of them. However, only 1,496 children went to school in the county, while 502 children attended school in Ramapo. In other words, there were 953 children in the county who had no schooling, and 288 children in Ramapo who did not go to school.

Each school in Rockland and Ramapo had an average of 44 children attending. School was kept for an average of 10 months in Rockland and 9 in Ramapo.

In Ramapo in 1841 there were about 8 school districts. In all of Rockland County there were 34 schools. In other 22% of all the schools in Rockland were located in Ramapo.

During 1829 there had been 11 school districts. Now, in 1841, there were only 8, so they had 3 more in 1829 than in 1841.

The average school year in Ramapo in 1841 was 9 months. Rockland County's average school year was only 8 months.

Six hundred and sixty-five children of school age lived in Ramapo in 1841. This was one-fourth of all the children of school age in Rockland County. Only 329 Ramapo children went to school; over half of the children in Ramapo didn't go to school in 1841.

In 1855 the number of school districts was again the same as in 1829. These schoolhouses were made of different materials. One was made of stone, two of brick, and thirty-one were framed.

The condition of these schools wasn't too bad, but it could have been better. Three of them were very good, 23 were good, 6 were poor, and 2 were very poor.

The total value of the schools in 1855 was \$22,647 but in 1829 the total value was \$778.16. So the value of the schools increased by \$21,861 over a period of 26 years. In 1855 the average value for each school was about \$665.88.

Although the schools today are much better, and more children go, the people during the Homespun Age also showed an interest in their children's education.

V O T I N G

In 1829, 42% of the people in the county who were entitled to vote lived in Ramapo. By 1841, this percentage had dropped to 22% and by 1855, only 19% of the county's voters lived in Ramapo.

Number of People Having the Right to Vote

	<u>1829</u>	<u>1841</u>	<u>1855</u>
Rockland County	1, 173	2,076	3,580
Ramapo	486	457	685

In the county as a whole, the number of qualified voters increased 43% between 1829 and 1841 and rose 42% between 1841 and 1855. But in Ramapo, there was a 4% decrease in qualified voters between 1829 and 1841. Then between 1841 and 1855, they again increased by 34%.

1855 is the only year for which we have accurate information about the male population of voting age in the town and county. In this year, 47% of the men living in the county were entitled to vote. In Ramapo, the percentage was 42%.

Of the 3,580 voters in Rockland County in 1855, 84% of them were native, and 16% were naturalized. In Ramapo 97% of all the voters were native. The county had 6 & 1 3rd times more native born voters than naturalized. Ramapo had 32 times more indicating a heavier concentration of native born voters than in the rest of the County.

Presidential Votes in Rockland
County 1836 - 1860

<u>Year</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Total Votes in County</u>
1836	Martin Van Buren William Henry Harrison	Dem. Whig Repub.	1045 371	1416
1840	Martin Van Buren William Henry Harrison James G. Birney	Dem. Whig. Repub. Abolitionist	1657 637 none	2294
1844	James Knox Polk Henry Clay James G. Birney	Dem. Whig Repub. Abolitionist	1679 794 1	2474
1848	Lewis Cass Zachary Taylor Martin Van Buren	Dem. Whig. Repub. Free Soiler	1064 918 268	2250
1852	Franklin Pierce Wilfield Scott John P. Hale	Dem. Whig Repub. Free Soiler	1788 733 none	2521
1856	James Buchanan John C. Fremont Millard Fillmore	Dem. Repub. Whig Repub.	1526 668 937	3131
1860	Stephen Douglas Abraham Lincoln	North Dem. Repub.	2368 1410	3778

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