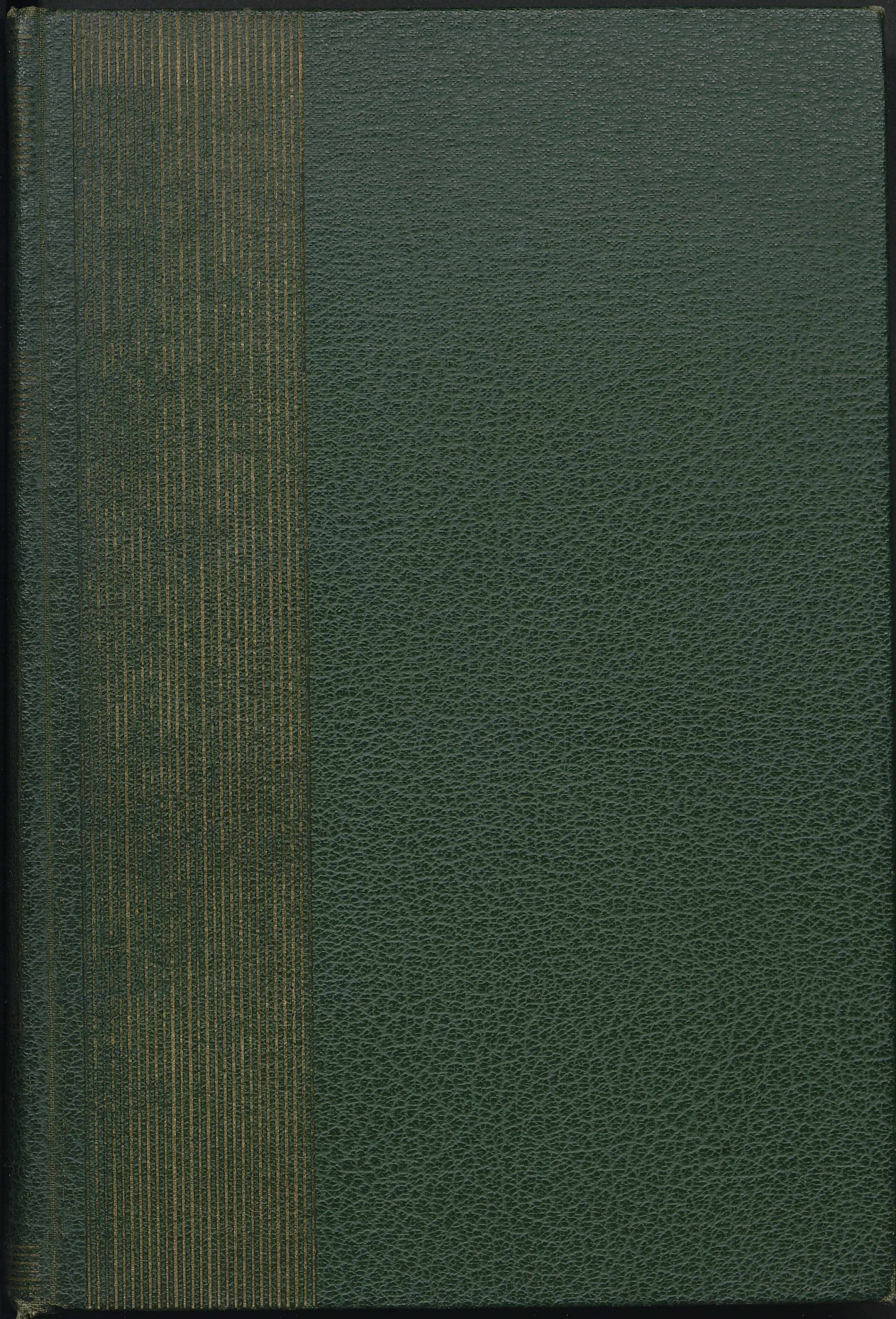
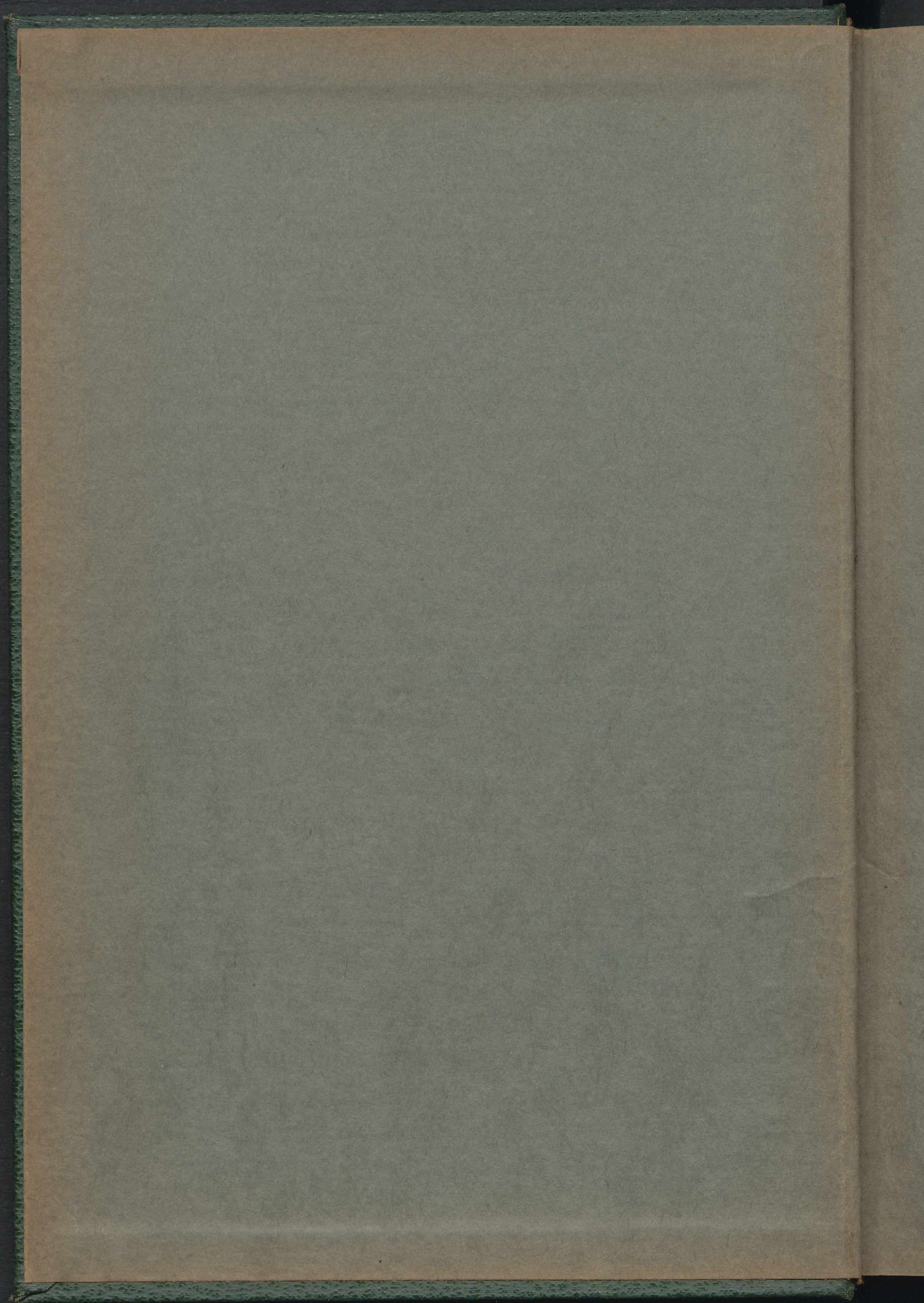


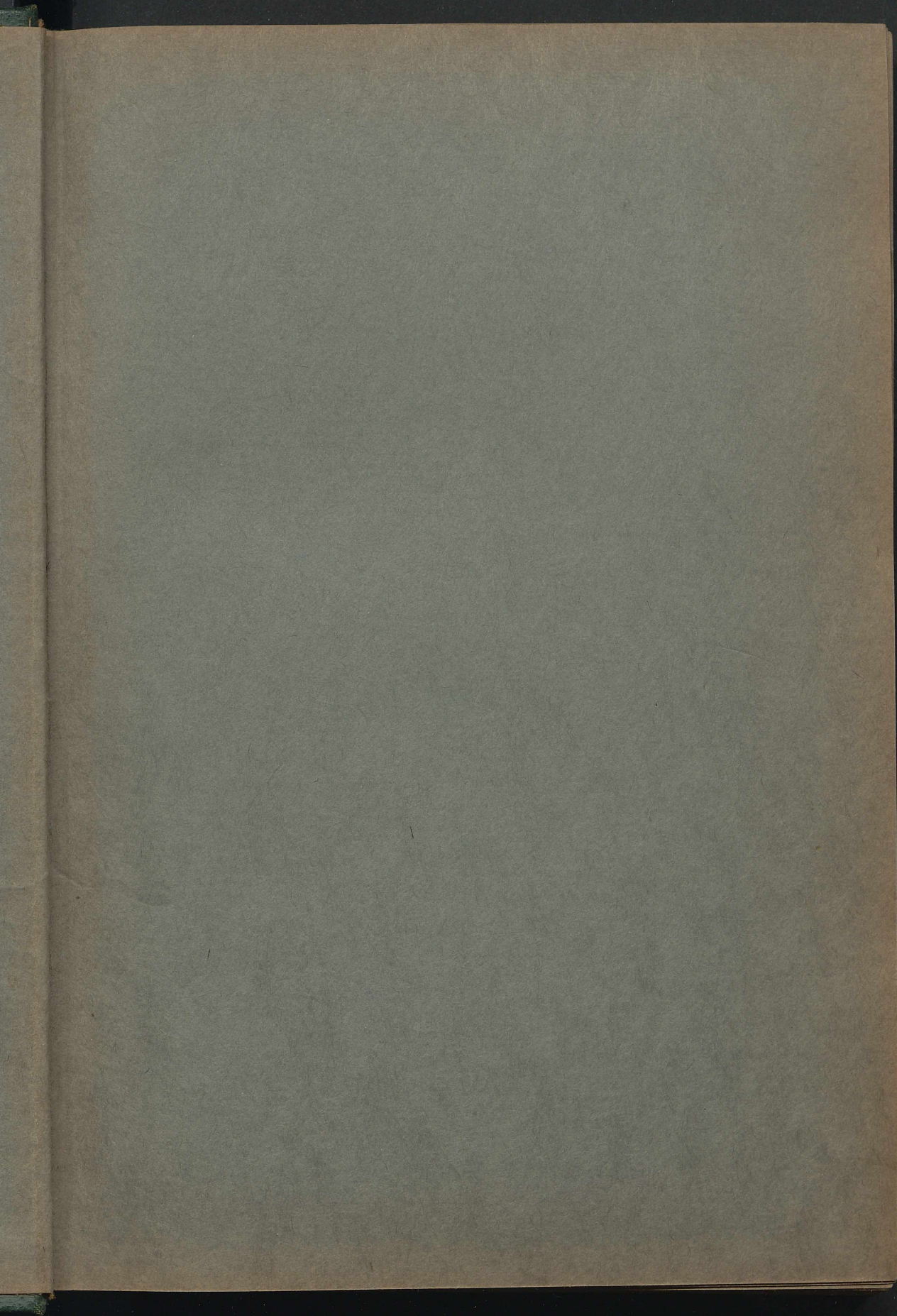
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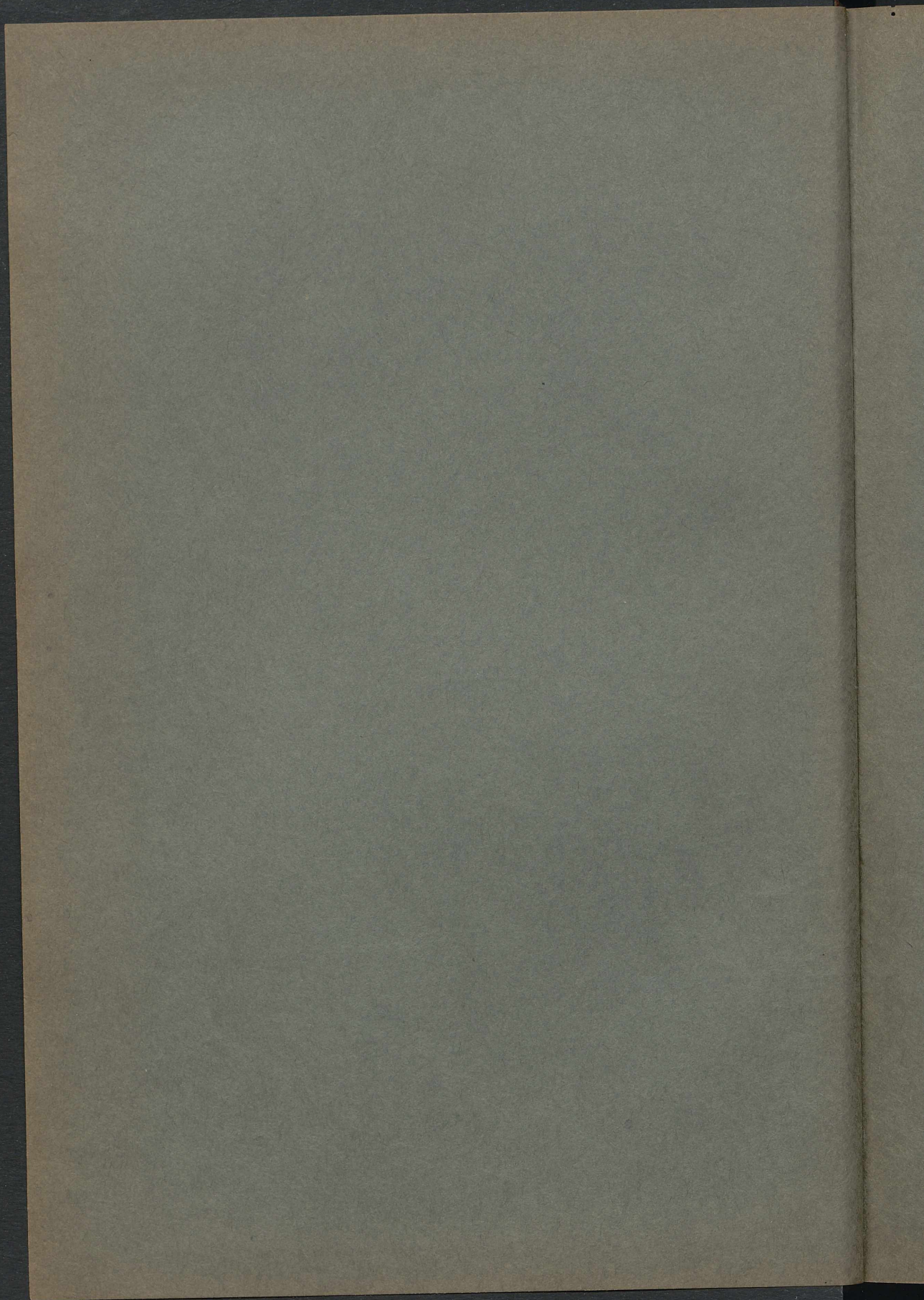
Keith, Frederick F., editor
Rambles in local history. 1936-
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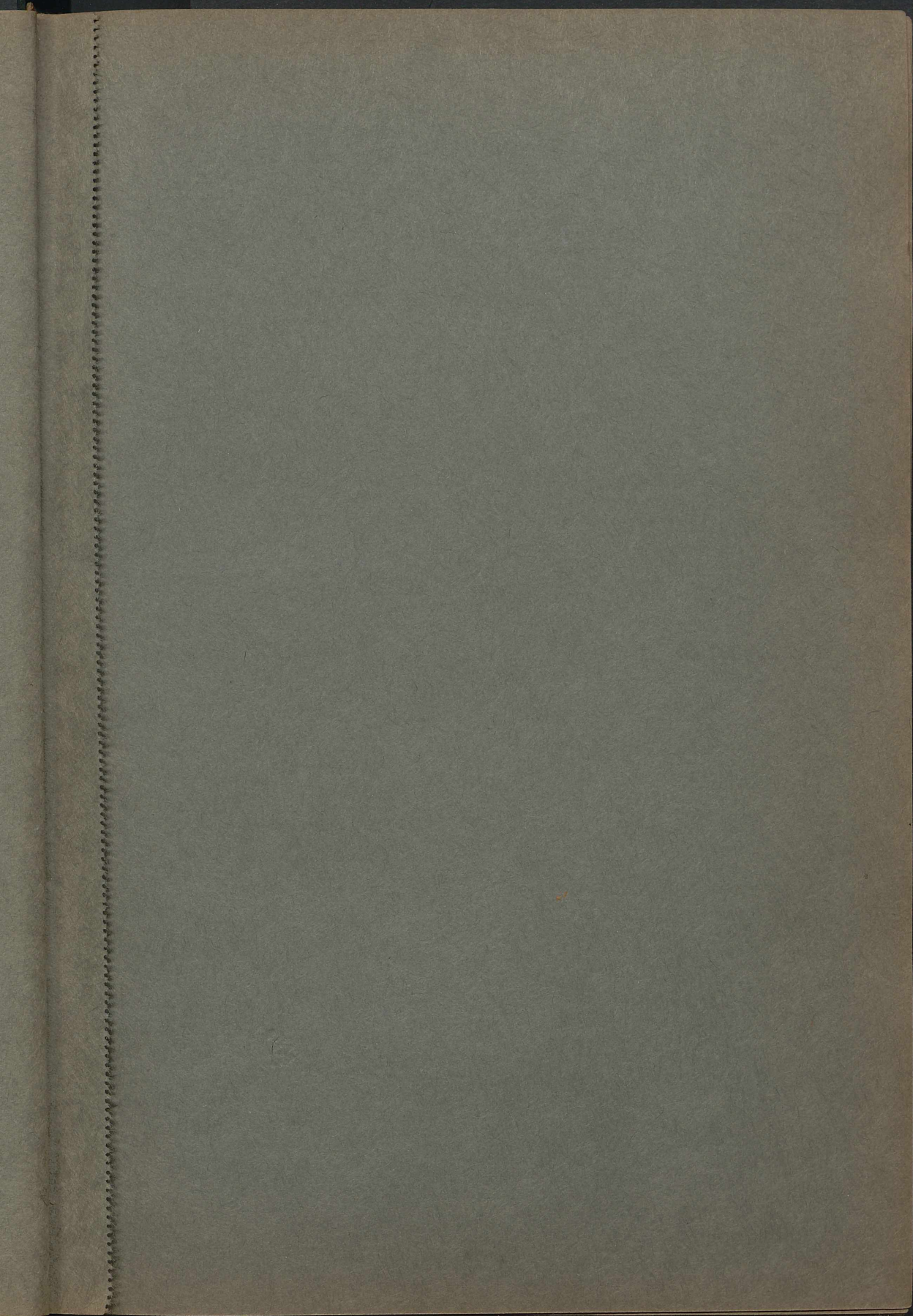
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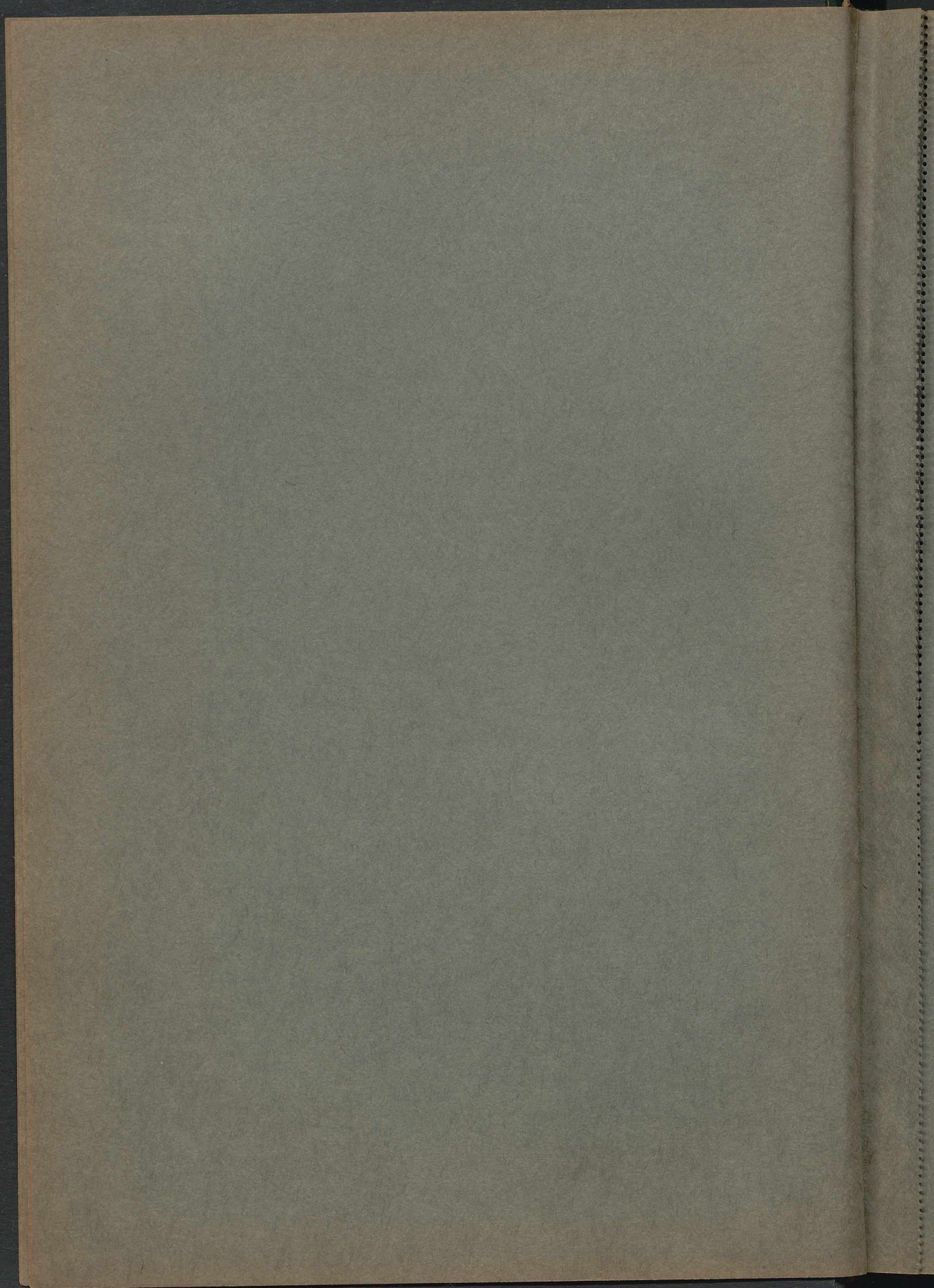
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Rambles in Local History

Caledonia displays signs of becoming history-conscious. A historical society is in process of formation which, as yet without officers, constitution, or even a name, made its first effort as a going concern the past week-end with almost amazing success. A display of nearly 900 articles was gotten together by a committee within a few days and shown at our little stone library building on Friday and Saturday, February 21st and 22d. Let the full date be recorded. Enthusiastic comments by visitors indicated that the number of exhibits might have been tripled.

The articles displayed at this "early American exhibit" included no documents or books or early records such as are believed to exist in many homes and which it will be the business of the new society to locate and eventually to preserve in suitable conditions for the use of posterity. A promising by-product of the event was a list of signatures of visitors interested in becoming members of the historical society. It recorded 44 names and, due to weather conditions, attendance was not large.

This movement places Caledonia in the class with many alert communities that realize the importance of awakening citizens to the values of records and articles that cannot be replaced and to the need of providing safe care for them. The little hamlet of Hemlock in our own county is assembling a worthy museum in its high school basement. Available space in the Caledonia library is quite limited but sufficient for a start.

Livingston County once had a very active historical society whose annual meetings were largely attended. Caledonia provided quite a list of members. It was organized in January, 1876, and its proceedings were published in pamphlet form annually. In 1883 A. H. McLean presented a "Sketch of the Town of Caledonia with an interesting account of its famous springs". In 1884, 1890 and in other years Caledonia families were subjects of papers. Ex-Judge Lockwood R. Doty, the present president and com-

piler of two histories of Livingston County, laments that interest lags. If the society languishes for lack of a project, perhaps a very timely one can be proposed.

Caledonia is a center of historic interest to a greater extent than most people realize. Its flowing springs and once big pond gave it a place on the map for untold centuries before white adventurers followed the Indian trail through the forest and camped beside and caught trout from the clear waters. The Indians called it Gan-e-o-di-ya (clear, small lake) and the outlet Na-gan-oose (clear running water). The white man called it Big Springs, sometimes Enon Big Springs. Then this area was successively called Northampton, Southampton, Springfield, and finally was named Caledonia by the Scots, who called the spring Topermore. Of course boundaries changed.

Much of Caledonia history has been preserved by the Rochester Historical Society, of which Edward R. Foreman, a native of Livingston County who died last Saturday, was historian. But some very interesting material is still unpublished. In the foreword of one of his volumes Mr. Foreman made a challenging statement to seekers for historical facts: "There is a relation between city, state and nation. Our local history is a bit of mosaic fitting into the larger design. With pride of locality should go the understanding that our story is an integral part of the whole."

It is safe to predict that with more widespread interest in local history the splendid resources of the new combined Reynolds and Rochester City libraries and the marvelous Rush Rhees library will be more fully appreciated by our young and older people, and that they will also become better acquainted with the Municipal Museum of which Dr. Parker, one of America's leading archeologists, is director, and our own John Bailey is a member of the staff. John, by the way, was the committee chairman who put on the recent local exhibit and

furnished display cases from the museum. Our own library has much material for research.

May I quote a wholesome thought from the pen of Mr. Walter A. Dyer, author of a number of books on antiques, historian and newspaper philosopher, whom I met in Amherst, Mass., last summer. He writes in the Amherst Record: "I believe that local history should be taught in the schools, along with American history and world history. Knowledge of history makes for patriotism, and there is no better basis for **national** patriotism than an acquaintance with the past of **one's own community.**"

These few paragraphs are intended as a sort of introduction, as informal as what is to follow, to occasional rambles in local history which the editor of the Advertiser has been gracious enough to ask me to stake out. My endeavor shall be partly to suggest subjects for others to follow up.

F. F. KEITH.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Water

A Scotch minister of the old school, who spoke in the manner of "John Brown, his book," took for a text, "The devil as a roaring lion walketh about," etc. He began: "Firstly, let us inquire who, the devil, he is. Secondly, where, the devil, he is going. Thirdly, what, the devil, he is roaring about."

The roaring devil of water has held the front page in current history for the past two weeks. Fast melting snow has spread death and destruction through the valleys of thirteen north-eastern states. The big Genesee and the little O-at-ka, our nearest waterways, linked to Caledonia by our own poets, John MacNaughton and Margaret Tennent, staged their usual overflow, but it was frozen water that all but isolated us for two days by pulling down wires and shade trees.

Two phenomena of water which are unique to Caledonia may be of interest. On the lands of John R. McKay a mile west of the village the waters that gather from snow south of the Erie R. R. embankment have no outlet save by an underpass which is also a lane. At times a roaring current swirls down this lane and spreads itself over a two-acre field to the east where it disappears into rock fissures.

If the soil were removed these fissures might be seen in many places, but in one spot they are constantly exposed. The cellar bottom of the Keith home is of bed rock with several of these narrow fissures into which a rod may be dropped to note the action of water which once emerged in open springs, notably the so-called Fuller spring located in the street opposite, in front of the high school campus. This rock stratum is about seven feet deep, underlaid by a stratum of gravel. Water is always present in the gravel and perhaps two feet above. There is a story that at one time some fifty or more years ago during a wet spring water rose to the surface. The present owners have never noted it nearer than three feet to the surface until this morning (March 25, 1936) when

water fills the crevices and overflows above the surface.

The Fuller spring was a basis of early surveys and has been much sought by surveyors. The writer has field notes made by a surveyor in 1803 which locates it quite definitely.

They Called It Aenon

The above is preliminary to a story connected with the outstanding phenomenon of water which made this locality famous before the white man came. "Big Springs" was the name on the first maps of New York State, sometimes followed by "a Scottish colony." It was these Scots who brought names to suit their fancy of what the big pond should be called that bubbles from unseen sources instead of being fed in orthodox fashion by a stream. They beheld a very clear lake covering some five to ten acres according to different authorities. James Campbell, who has lived for ninety years close to the springs, says that before the New York Central embankment cut through it the water covered some five acres. One record says more.

But it is one of these Scotch names that is the little devil in this sermon. It has been walking around for two years since we discovered there was such a name, evading all attempts at capture until a day or two ago. Now a bit of roaring seems pardonable in honor of the man who has captured a bit of local history worthy of record.

Believing it "takes a Scot to capture a Scot," we became a pest to Rev. Donald C. MacLeod until he fled to his Bible for refuge. "What is the meaning of Enon?" was the question. "Sounds like Gaelic and you must know some old time Scot who can solve the riddle." Next day he called up with the answer:

"Open your Bible to John's Gospel, chapter 3, verse 23." It reads: "And John was also baptizing in Aenon, near Salim, because there was much water there." One translation is "many springs." Thanks, Rev. MacLeod.

What about this name Aenon, or Enon, that we are roaring about? We of today never heard of it, yet there is documentary evidence that it was once an accepted name for Caledonia. Here is a report of a well known man to the U. S. government, covering a period from April 1, 1814, to February 1, 1820:

"Donald McDonald, Esq., late P. M. of Caledonia, or Enon Big Spring, in acct. with the Gen'l postoffice."

And here is a deed, as late as April 14, 1829, which reads: "Donald McColl and Annabella his wife to Donald McDonald, a certain lot . . . situated in the Village of Enon in the Town of Caledonia, bounded on the north by lands of Mr. McKay, on the east by the village lot of William Grant, on the south by the State Road leading from Albany to Buffalo, on the west by the lot and cabinet shop of Gardner Osgood, containing one acre of land." The west end of Main street was really the village in those days.

Last Ramble traced the name Caledonia back 1900 years in profane history. Here is another name for the same locality that dates back in Bible history to the same period. The canny Scots evidently knew their Bibles better than this generation and put them to work persistently else this Enon would not have been used in legal papers so long after the naming of Caledonia in 1806.

"But what was your lead in locating this isolated name in the Bible," was asked the reverend. "Well, you know there used to be hot arguments with the Baptists about immersion. The anti-immersionists quoted the Enon statement and claimed that springs would not furnish enough, water, so John must have sprinkled!"

Topermore or Tobermory?

Another name which the Scots brought along with Inverness from "the land o' the leal" is Topermore. Mr. Campbell remembers hearing it pronounced that way frequently, and a postal card is preserved by Miss Mary Elliott Boyd written by her great-uncle in the 1880s to Robert Place, so spelled. This uncle, James R. Clark, was a leading citizen in the '30s. This name was applied more particularly to the springs.

In a recent copy of a Scottish magazine appears a picture of a small lake and a castle called Tobermory, and the article speaks of a town by that name. Harry Lauder, the celebrated Scotch comedian, had a song "Tobermory" and in Western Ontario on the point of land between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay is a village Tobermory which was visited by the Outterson family last summer who found it was locally nicknamed "the Tub." All these names apparently are related by the common idea of water.

Can any reader present further information about either of the above names?

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Caledonia Era
4/9/36

Those Foreigners

Neighbor Dennis Kelley came by this yarn through inheritance, I believe: A pious pioneer Scot living near the present Mumford cemetery was on his knees at family prayers one morning when he heard the crack of a rifle in the forest to the north of his home across O-at-ka Creek, where he had a neighbor not so long over from the "ould sod." Without the formality of an "amen" he jumped to his feet, rushed to the door of his log house and let fly in the general direction of the unseen and innocent hunter a stream of rich and ardent Scotch invective designed to let the world know that while hunting in itself was not so bad, the noise at just that period in the day was an outrageous disturbance of the peace to old settlers like himself and that "fur-r-reigners" guilty of it ought to be sent back to where they came from!

The incident is presumed to have occurred not so long after the original Scotch settlers had cleared a few acres and obtained naturalization papers themselves. With this slight priority of years, there had grown an oversize sense in this Scot's mind of Who's Who in Caledonia. The Scotch people, as we have seen, brought their own names for the Big Spring and in a very literal sense "owned the town." The half dozen families comprising the first group of settlers in 1799 attracted other groups each year until in 1814 we have authentic record of a considerable population.

The Melting Pot

Not all the increase in population was from Scotland by any means. Charles Williamson, who induced the first group to come from their temporary stopping place in Johnstown in the Mohawk Valley, was industriously advertising the Genesee Country for his London Associates and was bringing into the Genesee Valley settlers from eastern New York, the New England States, Pennsylvania and old England. But they came slowly and few ventured into the wilderness west of the Genesee River until after the Scottish colony had been located at Big Springs on the old Indian trail.

Thus it is that Caledonia's history enters into the earliest picture of the white man's occupancy of the territory once called the Town of Northampton, the "empire town," the "town of two rivers" because bounded east and west by the Genesee and Niagara rivers. On the Caledonia-Scottsville river front located the German Schaffer, the English Tory Allen, the Irish Dugan, the Dane Petersen, a few Dutch and Scotch-Irish—all "foreigners" to our doughty Scot, but destined to become 100 per cent Americans whether voting under the name of McBlank, O'Blank, Van Blank, Blankaglia or plain Blank.

List of Unforgotten Men

The list of Scotch immigrants prior to 1804 is not a long one and is preserved in several histories, but some of them located north of the O-at-ka and some south of Ellicott road in the Town of York. That an absolutely correct list of property owners in the Town of Caledonia in the year 1814 is preserved for our inspection is due to the vision of Donald McKenzie, a Scot who came while quite young in 1806, became a manufacturer, had a versatile pen, and is remembered by our older citizens. He probably built the house on North street now owned by E. S. Roberts. He secured from some source and bound together a number of assessment rolls, among them the roll for 1814. The property for which pioneers paid \$1.50 to \$3.00 an acre had increased in value several fold. Every piece of land in the township is of course listed with the name of its owner. There were no forgotten men among the taxpayers, some of whom paid on personal property only.

But the feature which makes the 1814 roll doubly valuable as a historical document is the information gathered about each individual and interlined between the names. These names and data should be checked immediately while the older generation is able from memory or documents to locate the properties and homes of these early residents who are no doubt related in some way to half the present residents of Caledonia.

Mr. McKenzie attempted to add to

the roll the date of arrival, from where, and names of sons of each name. Daughters' names are omitted. We ask the co-operation of all citizens in supplying these omissions and all information possible. Do it now. More names will follow soon.

Assessment Roll of 1814

Albright, Francis, 577 acres, ar. 1803 from Pa.

Aspenwall, Caleb, 36 a.

Armstrong, Simon, 240 a, ar. 1808, Inway, Scotland.

Armstrong, Calvin and Beeley, 91 a, ar. 1809, "con" Wheatland.

Anderson, Christie, 100 a.

Anderson, Donald, 132 a, ar. 1804, Scotland.

Anderson, John, 105 a, ar. 1803, Scotland. (A John Anderson was among the 1799 immigrants.)

Anderson, Peter, 100 a, ar. 1804, Perthshire; son, Duncan.

Allard, Shadrick, \$28 personal.

Avril, William, 200 a.

Anderson, George, 120 a, ar. 1808, Scotland.

Armstrong, William, 272 a, ar. 1806, Scotland; sons William and Archibald.

Allen, John, 25 a.

Armstrong, ———, 40 a, non-resident.

Benson, Joseph, 82 a.

Benson, Stephen, 50 a, ar. 1810.

Benson, Joseph, Jr., 55 a.

Benson, Rowland, 80 a.

Briant, Deming, 20 a.

Bullock, Joel, 50 a.

Brown, Ralph, 300 a.

Burbank, Benjamin, 50 a, ar. 1804, England; son George.

Barton, Joseph, 50 a.

Bacon, Elmer, 263 a.

Brown, Elisha and Daniel, 123 a.

Banker, Jeremiah, \$78 personal.

Buchanan, John, 240 a.

Blackmer, Joseph, 300 a.

Blanchard, Nehemiah, 62½ a.

Blackmer, Jerah, 117 a.

Boughton, Levi, 50 a.

Baker, Samuel, 200 a.

Basset, Nathan, \$105 personal.

Bristol, Augustus, ½ a.

Budd, Daniel, 100 a.

Baker, Israel, 8 a.

Baker, Charles, 180 a.

Bagley, Elias, 33 a.

Barnum, Samuel, 55 a.

Brown, James, 50 a.

Brown, Sylvester, value \$2,400, ar. 1810 from East; sons Henry, George.

Catanauch, Alexander, 149 a, ar. 1804, Scotland; sons Duncan, Lauchlin.

Cameron, Hugh, 128 a, ar. 1806, Scotland; sons James, John, Duncan,

Hugh.

Campbell, Peter, 355 a, ar. 1799, Perthshire; sons Peter, John.

Cameron, Angus, 300 a, ar. 1803, Badenoch; sons Duncan, Donald, John.

Cameron, John, 161 a, ar. 1803, Argylshire; sons Angus, Alexander, John, Charles.

Carick, Robert, 76 a, ar. 1810, "S-W Conn."

Colt, Samuel D., 447 a.

Campbell, John, 143 a, ar. 1804, Perthshire; sons Donald, Peter.

Cameron, Duncan, 200 a, ar. 1810, Rannock; son Alexander.

Crain, John, 25 a.

Calder, James, 106 a.

Clauson, John, 522 a.

Clunas, John, 250 a, ar. 1803, Inverness; sons John, Alexander.

Clunas, Alexander, 125 a, ar. 1809, Inverness.

Chapman, Silas A., \$75 personal.

Curts, Abraham, 50 a.

Caulkins, Samuel, 50 a.

Cone, Samuel, 50 a.

Cone, Andrew G., 50 a.

Cady, Rufus, 149 a.

Cady, M. Rufus, 150 a.

Cox, Samuel and Joseph, 300 a.

Cox, Isaac, 200 a.

Case, Hull, 140 a.

Colby, Esther, 50 a.

Cox, Jorden, 100 a.

Cameron, Hugh, Sr., —a, ar. 1808, Scotland; sons John, Angus, Duncan, Daniel, Dugald, Charles, Alexander.

Carpenter, Parvel, 299 a.

Cox, Thomas, 113 a.

Case, Lemuel, 50 a.

Calkins, Elezer, 250 a.

Calkins, Isaac, 50 a.

Cox, James, 100 a.

Cady, Daniel, 111 a.

Chaddock, Joseph, 50 a.

Christy, John, 140 a, ar. 1804, Perth; son Hugh.

Clark, Henry, 100 a.

Dilenoe, Jonathan, \$241 personal.

Doty, Timothy, 83 a.

Darrow, Unis, 200 a.

Dickinson, John, ½ a, ar. 1812, New York.

Dewer, Thomas, Sr., 50 a, ar. 1804, Perth.

Dewer, Thomas, Jr., 60 a, ar. 1804, Perth.

Dorris, William, 100 a.

Darling, Thomas, 60 a.

Darling, John, 70 a.

This list of names will be continued in the next "Rambles."

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Town Clerk James Hill, Sr., has been a little slow getting it around—died in the meantime—probably kept tavern in the Keith house, Main street—but here are the proceedings of the town meeting of Caledonia held just one hundred years ago last week:

Tuesday, April 5, 1836

At the annual town meeting held agreeable to adjournment at the house of Samuel R. Bent in the village of Caledonia on Tuesday, the 5th day of April in the year of our Lord, 1836, Collin McVean & Wm. Barron, Esqrs., presiding, it was resolved to choose three Assessors and two Constables for the ensuing year.

The following officers were elected, viz.:

Supervisor—Donald McDonald.

Justice of the Peace, 4 yrs. from Jan'y 1st, 1837—James Hill.

Justice of the Peace, 4 yrs. from Jan'y 1st, 1836—Thomas W. Baker.

Town Clerk—James Hill, Senr.

Assessors—Colin McVean, Wm. Barron, Daniel D. Campbell.

Collector—James VanVleet.

Overseers of the Poor—Alexander Simpson, Hector McLean.

Commissioners of Highways—John H. McColl, George W. Thomson, Joseph Robinson.

Commissoiners of Common Schools—Robert Watson, Donald McKenzie, Daniel Douglass.

Inspectors of Common Schools—James Hill, Snr., Harlow W. Wells, Robert McKay.

Constables—James Van Vleet, Augustus Hotchkin.

Sealer—Collin McVean.

Overseers of Highways—District No. 1, Harvey Smith; No. 2, Orla T. Backus; No. 3, John Thompson; No. 4, Duncan P. McVean; No. 5, Wm. Mosher; No. 6, Joseph Lurvey; No. 7, John McNaughton; No. 8, Job Tyrrell; No. 9, Daniel J. Campbell; No. 10, Duncan A. Cameron; No. 11, James Mann; No. 12, David Sinclair; No. 13, John P. Campbell; No. 14, James R. Clark; No. 15, Daniel D. McColl; No. 16, James McNaughton; No. 17, Peter McVean; No. 18, Erven Cameron; No.

19, James Shaw; No. 20, Michael Gray; No. 21, Wm. Gray; No. 22, Ephraim Lacy; No. 23, Allen Estes; No. 24, Daniel McLean; No. 25, Robert McKay; No. 26, Alex. P. Simpson.

Resolved, that a bounty of fifty cents be paid for the destruction of every full grown fox, twenty-five cents for every young fox, and twelve and half cents for every crow that may be destroyed in this town for one year from the present day; and that the Supervisor raise money for that purpose.

Resolved, that this town meeting be adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in April, 1837—then to be held at the house now occupied by Augustus Hotchkin.

Signed by Wm. Barron and C. McVean, Inspectors, and James Hill, Town Clerk.

Town meetings for half a century after the first meeting of what was then called Southampton on the first day of March, 1803, were held in taverns, of which there were several, and apparently their ownership changed frequently. Who can tell where Sam Bent held forth?

One of the interesting items of the record is the Supervisor's report showing a balance from the previous year of \$34.49½. Looking back into the 1835 report, this odd balance, which looks like a Scotch joke, is accounted for by a payment to Daniel McLean, Esq., of \$2.12½, which is two dollars and one shilling. Shillings were coined then. The budget was balanced at \$184.49½ for the general fund. A total school fund, half paid by the county, was \$174.87, and this was divided among 11 districts!

Foxes and crows were slaughtered to the amount of \$18.94 bounty according to the 1837 report.

Modern Caledonia has nothing to boast of when we read in the minutes for 1833 that it was "Resolved, that the Town Clerk defray the expense of publishing the proceedings, &c, of the Caledonia Fair." Whatever and wherever this grand event was, they evi-

dently took it seriously.

Trout Fishing in 1803

Appropriate to the opening of the fishing season is a record left by John R. McKay about 1849. He was the first McKay to locate at the Big Springs, which were included in his land purchase, together with water rights in Mumford. He bought the grist mill built by Chas. Williamson the previous year. He tells the following yarn:

"When I first came to the Springs (Caledonia) in 1803, trout were abundant in it; and it will surprise trout fishers of today—and would perhaps old Izaak Walton himself, if he were living—to learn that they were comparatively tame. When we wanted them, we used frequently to catch them with our hands, as they lay under the roots of the cedar trees that grew along the banks. There would be occasionally one weighing as high as three pounds.

"It is the habit of the speckled trout to breed in none but running water, consequently they would never

breed in the spring, but resorted to the outlet. There was never any other fish in the spring. They have been gradually diminishing, not only in numbers but in size.

"This last resort, almost, of the speckled trout in all the northern portion of Western New York, has within a few years been threatened with entire desertion, or extinction. There is now a law in operation limited to three years' duration, which makes fishing in the spring or in its outlet, a penal offense. The trout, as if ready to cooperate in this attempt to protect them in their seeming 'reservation,' are now rapidly increasing in numbers and size. It is almost a wonder that some greedy pre-emptionists, say a shoal of horned bull-pouts, are not contesting their rights."

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Assessment Roll of 1814

In publishing this week an installment of names which includes all those beginning with "Mc," there is enough history and geneology involved to make a book. The list of two weeks ago had a warm response from near and far. Descendants of early settlers compose a considerable proportion of Caledonia's population, yet very few families have an authentic record of their forebears. This is a day when geneologies are becoming popular. It is due every child to have a family tree to ask questions about and become familiar with. And there is one method of making a "tree" which is accepted practice because it is easy to understand.

As an example of the wrong way let us begin with "me" and go backward to see where we arrive. Dad and mother are the first generation. Then two grandpas and grandmas. Keep multiplying by two to the tenth generation and how many good grandparents would have been living in 1620 when Plymouth Rock started on its road to fame? Enough to load a dozen Mayflowers. Just 2048. Obviously such a tree would be upside down.

Your correct family tree will begin with the first pair you have record of, perhaps one of the names in this tax list. If you are willing to cooperate in making a book, use a sheet 8½ x 11 (letterhead size), leaving an inch at left for binding margin. Write the names of original couple at top. Use Christian names, not Mr. and Mrs. Write the names of the children of this couple, sons and daughters with plenty of space between them down a column at the left. List the children of these pairs under or opposite the parents. Repeat for each generation. Here is the idea, the Roman numerals meaning generations:

I	II	III	IV	V
1.....	1.....	1.....	1.....	
	2.....	1.....	1.....	1.....
		3.....	1.....	2.....
2.....	(no descendants)			
3.....	1.....	1.....	1.....	1.....

(By the above it is easily seen that the column under I are brothers and sisters. Under II, 1, 2, 3 are children of the first 1. Leave space for the expansion of the latter columns.)

As stated previously, names of daughters as well as sons named in the list are needed to make a record at all acceptable. Names of husbands and wives can be written below each. It will be noted that names are misspelled in the list (like Frasure) and some dates may need checking, but it is a remarkable source of local history nevertheless.

List No. 2

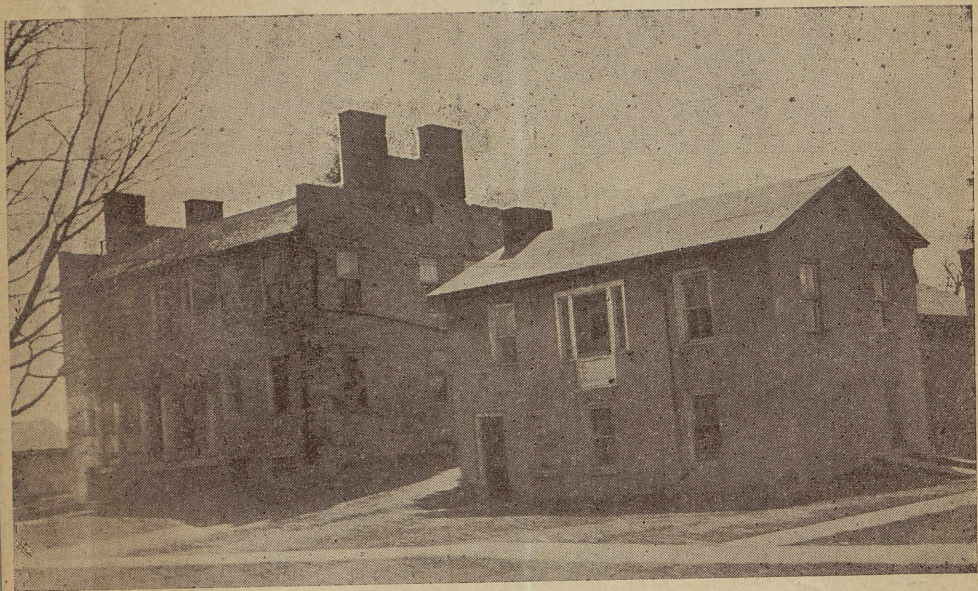
Ferguson, Donald, 160a, arrived 1812 from Perth; son Moses.
 Fowle, Benjamin, 368a, ar. 1808 (?), England. (Pathmaster 1807 in town clerk's record).
 Frasure, Alexander, 208a, ar. 1803, Inverness. Pathmaster 1809.
 Frasure, John, 135a, ar. 1803, Inverness.
 Frasure, John, Sr., 131a, ar. 1803, Inverness; sons Simon, Thomas.
 Frasure, Donald, 236a, ar. 1804, Inverness; sons Simon, Archibald.
 Frasure, Donald, 120a, ar. 1804, Inverness; son John.
 Frasure, Donald, 189a, ar. 1804, Inverness; sons Archibald, Simon.
 Frasure, William, 112a, ar. 1808, Inverness; sons William, John.
 Ferren, James, 50a.
 Fuller, Hugh, S. E., 59a.
 Forbes, Alexander, 120a, ar. 1804, Athol.
 Forbes, William, 50a, ar. 1804, Athol; sons Mungo, Peter, William, Joseph, Alexander.
 Farwell, Susannah, \$36 personal.
 Frasure, William, 100a, (near Scotts), ar. 1804, Inverness; sons James and John.
 Franklin, Luther, 1a.
 Farwell, David, 300a.
 Farquharson, John, 53a, ar. 1810, Perth.
 Farquharson, Finly, \$58 personal, ar. 1810, Perth.
 Farquharson, Mary, 97a, ar. 1808.
 Fletcher, Thomas E., \$18 personal.
 Frasure, William, 110a.
 Frasure, James, 100a, ar. 1810, Scotland.
 Gilman, Henry, 100a.
 Gray, George, 400a.
 Garbutt, John, 242a.
 Garbutt, William, 300a.
 Goodhue, George, 120a.
 Goble, Charity, 60a.
 Guthrie, Nathan, 2a.
 Graves, Eliphalet and Russell, 200a.
 Graves, Benjamin, 100a.
 Grant, Daniel, 80a.

Grant, Abraham, 107a.
 Gillies, Collin, 200a, ar. 1804, Argyle;
 sons Archibald, John.
 Gibson, Moses, 265a.
 Gordon, John, 100a, ar. 1810, Badenoch;
 sons Alexander, Angus, John.
 Gillies, Archibald, 217a, ar. 1804, Argyle;
 sons John, Duncan, Daniel.
 Pathmaster 1807.
 Griffith, Ebenigar, 46a.
 Grant, Duncan, 112a, ar. 1810, Strathspay;
 sons (?).
 Graham, Arter (Arthur?), 50a.
 Graham, William, 144a.
 Grover, Benjamin, \$60 personal.
 Holaway, Peter, 250a.
 Hall, Salmon, 28a.
 Haggart, Neil, 101a, ar. 1804, Argyle;
 sons John, Alexander, Angus, Duncan.
 Holmes, Ezra, 75a.
 Hayden, Moses, 226a.
 Hubbel, Richard, 103a.
 Hubbel, Richard 2d, 50a.
 Holmes, Joseph, 60a.
 Holmes, John, 58a.
 Holmes, Eber, 60a.
 Harvie, Alexander, 160a.
 Hyde, Heaman, 31a.
 Heath, Elisha, 700a.
 Haggart, Angus, 140a, ar. 1804, Argyle;
 sons Daniel, Alexander, Neil.
 Hubbel, Esbon, 150a.
 Hetchler, Frederick, 199a.
 Hetchler, Nicholas, 99a.
 Hess, Peter, 70a.
 Hail, Dan, 125a.
 Heath, Reuben, 150a.
 Harkness, James, 150a.
 Harmon, Rawson, 412a. (Pathmaster 1817).
 Howe, Joseph, 124a.
 Harriman, Thomas, \$229 personal.
 Hosmer, Sylvester, 200a, ar. 1809, New York;
 sons Sylvester, &c.
 Hanuel, David, 62½a.
 Hetchler, John and Bolser, 400a.
 Hetchler, Jacob, 50a.
 Hanford, Abraham, one-half acre.
 Irish, Benjamin, 100a.
 Irish, Justin, 1a.
 Irvin, Thomas, 175a.
 Irvin, Robert, 100a, ar. 1804, Scotland;
 sons.
 Irvin, John, 100a, ar. 1804, Scotland.
 Johnson, Martha and Amasa, 100a.
 Jillet, Elezer, \$18 personal.
 Jones, William, \$200 personal.
 Knapp, Stephen, \$149 personal.
 Killam, Charles, 275a, ar. 1808, Penn.;
 sons.
 Killam, Ambrose, 100a.
 Kelso, Hugh, 181a, ar. 1810, Ireland.
 Kelso, Hebray, 181a, ar. 1810, Ireland.
 Kelso, William, 180a, ar. 1810, Ireland.
 Kibby, Jason, 50a.
 Kenedy, Archibald, 250a, ar. 1811, Ran-
 noch; sons John, Thomas, Archibald.
 Kenety, Alexander, 110a, ar. 1810, Ire-
 land.
 Lewis, Isaac J., 60½a, "Yorker."
 Luce, Robert, 1¼a.
 Livingston, Widow, 50a, ar. 1810, Ar-
 gyle.
 Leland, James, 50a.
 Lurvey, Joseph, 60a, ar. 1812, Penn.
 Landon, Thomas, 50a.
 Lacy, Levi, 150a.
 Lacy, Ephraim, 97a.
 Learnard, Ebenizar, 100a.

Lawson, John W., 80a.
 Lawn, Michael, \$108 personal.
 Lowry, Thomas, 175a, ar. 1812, Eng-
 land; sons Foster, James, Joseph.
 Mann, Archibald, 50a.
 Mathews, William, 48a.
 McVean, John A., 150a, ar. 1807, Broad-
 albin, Perth.
 McVean, John, 650a, ar. 1811, Loch
 Tay, Perth; sons David, Duncan,
 John, Archie.
 McLaren, James, 100a, ar. 1799, Badenoch,
 Perth; sons John, James.
 (Moved to Canada).
 McNaughton, John, 300a, ar. 1799,
 Broadalbin, Perth; sons Duncan,
 Donald.
 McWilliams, Catherine, 159a.
 McPherson, John, Sr., 92a, ar. 1799,
 Broadalbin, Perth; son Peter.
 McPherson, Finley, 150a, ar. 1803,
 Broadalbin, Perth; sons Duncan,
 John, Peter, Alexander.
 McPherson, Donald, 200a, ar. 1799,
 Broadalbin, Perth; sons Duncan,
 Alexander, John, Malcolm.
 McDermid, John, 114a, ar. 1802, Broad-
 albin, Perth; sons Duncan, John,
 James.
 McPherson, W. Peter, 200a, ar. 1811,
 Broadalbin, Perth; son William.
 Martin, William and Henry, 160a.
 Managhen, Patrick, 109a, ar. 1804, Ire-
 land.
 McVean, Donald, \$134 personal.
 McPherson, Dr. Peter, 157a, ar. 1807,
 Broadalbin, Perth.
 McLean, Hector, 100a, ar. 1812, Argyl-
 shire; son Archibald.
 McLead, George, 350a, non-res.
 Morley, Daniel S., 38a, ar. 1807, (place
 omitted).
 McIntyre, John, Sr., 305a, ar. 1810;
 sons Allan, Peter.
 McIntyre, John, 140a, ar. 1807, Caolard,
 Port Appin, Argyle; sons Peter,
 John.
 McNaughton, Malcolm, 100a, ar. 1810,
 Broadalbin, Perth; had ten sons,
 nine living 1850, names not given.
 McNaughton, John, 258a (40,000a
 tract), ar. 1812, Broadalbin, Strath
 Glass (?); sons Malcolm, Peter,
 John, Duncan.
 McKenzie, John (cooper), 90a, ar.
 1805, Inverness; sons John, Kenneth.
 McKenzie, John, 119a, ar. 1803, Inver-
 ness, Tonoreak; sons Donald, Alex-
 ander, Duncan, Kenneth.
 McKnight, Robert, 90a, ar. 1812, Irish
 Revolutionary Soldier; two sons.
 Morley, Ezekiel, 100a, ar. 1807, Ver-
 mont; three sons.
 McGuire, Terence, 80a, ar. 1806, Ire-
 land.
 McBean, Angus, 150a, ar. 1806, Bor-
 lom, Inverness; sons Francis, Thom-
 as.
 McBean, Alexander, 60a, ar. 1812, In-
 verness; son William. (Indiana).
 McVean, James, 107a, ar. 1810, Broad-
 albin; sons Peter, John.
 McVean, Duncan, 100a, ar. 1810, Broad-
 albin.
 McLaren, John, 160a, ar. 1799, Broad-
 albin; sons James, Archibald. (Can-
 ada).
 McIntyre, Archibald, 100a, ar. 1812,
 Argyle; son Donald.
 McIntyre, Duncan, 200a, ar. 1812, Ar-

gyle; sons Hugh, Archibald, John, James.
 McIntyre, Peter, 147a.
 Meservy, George, 120a, ar. 1810, Vermont.
 Meservy, Vincent, 100a, ar. 1812, Vermont.
 McColl, John, 200a, ar. 1813, Argyle; sons Dugald, Duncan.
 McDougall, Neal, 200a, ar. 1811, Athol; sons John, Peter.
 McColl, Donald, Sr., 100a, ar. 1809, Argyle; sons John, Archibald.
 McKenzie, Donald, Elder, 230a, ar. 1804, Inverness; sons Donald, John, Angus, Simon.
 Marty, Jacob, 100a, ar. 1806, Penn. Dutch.
 Marty, David, 192a, ar. 1806, Penn. Dutch; son Samuel.
 Mead, Newcomb, 50a.
 McDonald, John and Cameron Donald, 196a.
 McNich, William, 80a.
 McDonald, John, 100a.
 McKercher, John, 100a.
 McKercher, Daniel, 166a.
 McKercher, Malcolm, 103a, ar. 1811, Broadalbin.
 McNaughton, Peter, 60a, ar. 1811, Loch Tay.
 McLean, Donald, 66a, ar. 1807, Argyle; sons John, Peter.
 McIntosh, Donald, 150a, ar. 1810, Inverness. (Canada).
 McKenzie, John, 100a, ar. 1804, Argyle; sons Alexander, John. (Canada).
 McColl, Donald, Jr., 150a, ar. 1804, Argyle; sons Hugh, Dougald, Donald, Duncan.
 McKenzie, Donald, 93a, ar. 1806, Leys, Inverness; sons William, Donald, John, Simon, Joseph.
 McKay, John, 900a, ar. 1803, Penn.; sons George, Alexander, John, Robert, Andrew.
 McLean, Neal, 100a, ar. 1806, Argyle; sons Hector, Alexander, Lachlin.
 Merry, Whiting, 111a, ar. 1808, Conn.; sons Stephen, Robert.
 Mann, James, 55a, ar. 1808, Badenoch; son John.
 McNaughton, James, 65a, ar. 1811, Loch Tay; son Malcolm.
 McVean, Peter, 240a, ar. 1812, Glenlyon; sons Alexander, Donald, Peter, John, James.
 McPherson, Mordecai, 100a, ar. 1808, Broadalbin; sons Alexander, William. (Canada).
 McColl, Duncan, 117a, ar. 1804, Argyle; sons Donald, Alexander, Dougald, John.
 McLauchlin, John, 169a, ar. 1807, Argyle; sons John, Archibald, James, Donald.
 Maxwell, James, 121a, ar. 1812, New York; sons John, James.
 McVean, Daniel, 150a, ar. 1799, Johnstown; sons Donald, John, Duncan, Peter.
 McLaren, Duncan, 100a, ar. 1804, Broadalbin; son James.
 McMartin, Duncan, 250a, ar. 1812, Broadalbin; son Daniel.
 McDonald, Alexander, Jr., 150a, ar. 1804, Inverness.
 McLauchlin, Donald, 89a, ar. 1804, Argyle.

McLauchlin, Duncan, 106a, ar. 1804, Argyle; sons Archibald, Malcolm, Donald, John, Duncan, James.
 McKay, Mordecai, ½a, ar. 1812, Penn.; sons James, Robert, George.
 The remaining names will be published soon.
 McColl, Hugh, 100a, ar. 1810, Argyle; sons Dougald, Daniel, John, Alexander.



SCOTTISH TYPE HOUSES, BUILT BEFORE 1812, CALEDONIA, N. Y.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

House-Cleaning Time

Most people have become aware in recent years that old things have value. Some there are who think of "value" only in terms of a market price. Others place a sentimental value on family heirlooms above the temptation of money. But it is always a regrettable discovery to people interested in rebuilding the picture of our forefathers' life to hear that an old family has had house cleaning in the garret and has burned a bunch of old papers, perhaps deeds or letters, or has destroyed household articles, which have been collecting dust for years.

These words are addressed to all occupants of old houses. Please examine carefully all documents, diaries, account books and letters before consigning them to the flames or the junk man. They may have no market value whatsoever, but they may contain names, dates or other information that is much needed to complete the mosaic of local history. District school records, justice of the peace records, early school text books or other books dated 1830 or older, church records, family Bible records, may contain data of value in local history, whether in garret or on the parlor table. If in doubt, will you please cooperate with the writer by advising me what you have?

The assessors who compiled the tax roll of 1814, of which the third and last installment of published below, were Levi Lacy, John Darling and Donald McDonald, all of them property owners. For some reason the records of the town clerk of Caledonia, which began in 1803, were continuous to 1810, then skipped to 1817, so it is impossible to know what the tax money was used for particularly in 1814. A proper analysis of the tax roll would demand some time, but a few items may be mentioned:

Attention has been called to the fact that some of the property listed is evidently in the Town of Wheatland. There was a period after the dissolution of the Town of Northampton and before the County of Livingston was

set up, that Caledonia included territory north of the Oatka (or Allen's Creek). But this is another story which will be dealt with later, with some facts I have never found published if known.

As soon as the location of some of the farms is furnished by descendants, it will be interesting to publish the assessed valuations. They apparently run from two dollars to eleven dollars an acre for farm property. High values on small properties will indicate which are improved or vacant, also value of improvements, also the names of some possible business men unknown at present, who owned half-acres.

Illegible and obscure entries by assessors or by Donald McKenzie have been copied as they appear. The word "sons," where no names follow, probably indicates that Mr. McKenzie failed to obtain the names.

The dates of arrival and former abodes are finding vacant spots in several family records. Now is the time to check these records and furnish a copy for preservation by the Historical Society being organized.

McLaren, John, Sr., 91½a, ar. 1799,

End of the 1814 Tax Roll

Broadalbin; sons Daniel, Hector, Alexander, Lachlin, Archibald.

McLean, Lachlin, 300a, ar. 1804, Argyle; sons Daniel, Hector, Alexander, Lachlin, Archibald.

McKay, Robert, 203a, ar. 1808, Penn. sons George, John, Robert, Henry.

McDonald, Alexander, 380a, ar. 1804, Glengary; son Donald.

McGregor, William, 67a, ar. 1800, Perth; son John.

Narimore, Chester, 200a.

Newton, Dudley, 50a.

Newcomb, Dr. Lucena, 64a.

North, Daniel, \$60 personal.

Newcomb, Willard, \$18 personal.

Osburn, Jedediah, \$86 personal.

Peet, Charles, 7½a.

Parmater, Joseph, 150a.

Pearce, Isaac, \$88 personal.

Patterson, Thomas, 70a.

Peaboddy, Stephen, 150a.

Perry, Rival T., 15a.

Peaboddy, William, \$142 personal.
 Pierce, ———, 120a.
 Pelton, Ebenezer, 2a.
 Parker, Joseph, 90a.
 Paine, Ebenezer, 1¼a.
 Penock, Almon, 89a.
 Penock, William, 136a.
 Penock, Alexander, 60a.
 Platt, Stephen, 80a.
 Preston, Moses, 115a.
 Penock, Russell, 120a.
 Ray, Richard, 120a.
 Rogers, Harris, 100a.
 Ray, William, 162a.
 Ripson, William, 16a.
 Rutherford, James, 120a, ar. 1810,
 Scotland; sons Walter, James.
 Rosswell, John, \$96 personal.
 Randell, Nathaniel, 100a.
 Reed, William, 100a.
 Russ, John, 69a.
 Russ, Aaron, 80a.
 Russ, Nathan, 100a.
 Russell, Benedict, 50a.
 Rutledge, Robert, 40a.
 Reynolds, Shubel, 60a.
 Riggs, Ransom, 97a.
 Reach, Kenneth, ½a.
 Ridsen, Thomas, ½a.
 Sinclair, Hugh, 100a, ar. 1812, Broad-
 albin; sons Daniel, Duncan, Hugh.
 Sinclair, John, ar. 1808, Broadalbin;
 sons.
 Stuart, Duncan, 80a, ar. 1810, Broad-
 albin; sons.
 Stuart, James, 150a, ar. 1810, Athol;
 sons Alexander, Duncan, Neil, Peter.
 Sinclair, James, 300a, ar. 1808, Broad-
 albin; sons James, John.
 Smith, John, 50a.
 Smith, Isaac, 200a.
 Stuart, Alexander, 100a, ar. 1810, Athol;
 sons John, Neil, Charles, Alexander.
 Stuart, Alexander, 64a, ar. 1804, Inver-
 ness; sons Angus, Charles.
 Stone, Oliver, 100a.
 Skinner, Amos, 200a.
 Shelden, Samuel, 25a.
 Simmons, Asa, (non-resident), 200a.
 Smith, Ward, 100a.
 Smith, Elisha, 100a.
 Simpson, Thomas, 160a, ar. 1810, Scot-
 land; sons Alexander, Andrew,
 Thomas.
 Snyder, John, 50a.
 Sweet, Isaac, \$70 personal.
 Stedman, William, 100a.

Smith, Daniel, \$100 personal.
 Smith, John, 197a, Scotch.
 Sage, Selah, 100a.
 Sage, John, 79a.
 Smith, Frances, \$383 personal.
 Smith, Robert, \$91 personal.
 Shurts, William, 1½a.
 Springsteel, Staat, 99a.
 Sheffer, Peter, 650a.
 Sharp, Stephen, ½a.
 Shadbolt, Darius, 175a.
 Shadbolt, John, 100a.
 Stokoe, Thomas, 100a.
 Stedman, George E., 50a.
 Snyder, Joseph, 170a.
 Smith, Willard H., 1a.
 Tenny, William, and Thomson, Alex-
 ander, 100a.
 Taylor, Donald, 150a, ar. 1804, Broad-
 albin; sons Duncan, Daniel.
 Thomas, Joseph, 124a.
 Thomson, Archibald, 200a.
 Truman, Elijah, 50a.
 Usher, Aaron C., 125a.
 Utley, Asa, 30a.
 V. Antworpe, Harmon, \$199 personal.
 Winters, William, 347a.
 Warren, Mary, 218a.
 Whedon, Samuel, 225a.
 Wood, James, Jr., 23a.
 Webb, Jonathan, 50a.
 Wells, Seth, 100a.
 Wood, George, 140a.
 Willington, Samuel, 1a.
 Wilford, B. S., \$294 personal.
 Walker, Andrew, 106a, ar. 1810, Delhi;
 sons Andrew, James, John.
 White, James, 199a, ar. 1812, Broad-
 albin; sons.
 Wait, Josiah, 50a.
 Wait, Gorsham, 50a.
 Webster, Thomas, 100a.
 Willcox, Elia, 100a.
 Walker, Ezra, 2a.
 Wainright, William, 50a.
 Wylley, Nathaniel, 25a.
 William, Wilsey, 50a.
 York, Denison, 30a.
 J. R. Murry and James Wadsworth, 6
 parcels, total 1000a.
 Thousand Acre Tract, 1000a.
 Street Farm, 2,400a.
 John L. Johnson, James Wadsworth,
 Agt., 34 parcels, total 4,040a.
 Wilhelm and Jan Willink, Joseph El-
 licott, Agt., 40,000 Acre Tract, 13
 parcels, 2852a.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Acknowledgements

"Rambles" column acknowledges receipt of interesting letters from Miss Margaret H. Taggart, of Hays, Kansas, and Mrs. Carrie McKenzie Pearce of Watsonville, California. Miss Taggart is great-granddaughter of Archibald Gillies of Gillies Corners and promises family trees of the Taggart, Gillies, MacDougall and McIntyre families from material she has collected. Mrs. Pearce is daughter of Wm. W. McKenzie, son of Donald McKenzie, who preserved and added dates to the recently published tax roll of 1814, and who wrote a history of Caledonia. Her mother, Susan, was daughter of Col. Robert McKay. Mrs. A. B. Johnson, town historian, also submits interesting details. All the above will fit into the mosaic in due time.

Beginnings of Caledonia

The most frequent and persistent questions that come to this column are quite naturally: 1. Who were the first settlers? 2. Where and what were the first houses? A tentative reply, stated negatively, is that the Scotch settlers were not the first in Caledonia, and, obviously, the earliest houses were not framed, nor were they located at the Big Spring.

Orsamus Turner, whose history of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase is the "bible" of Genesee Country records, makes a positive statement that "Gilbert R. Berry was the first permanent settler in what is now Avon . . . In 1789 he removed to the Genesee river, erected a log house on the west side of the river, near the present bridge, opened a trade with the Indian village of Canawaugus, established a ferry, and entertained the few travellers that passed through on the old Niagara trail." Mr. Turner unknowingly authenticates one of the earliest, if not the earliest, settler in the town of Caledonia, for the Genesee is the dividing line between it and Avon. Such errors can easily slip into the records of the best of

historians. Proving that Mr. Berry was not a squatter, Turner continues that he died in 1796 or '97 and that "Widow Berry's tavern was widely known in all early years, west of the river." Possibly the Scotch immigrants patronized his ferry—unless the river was low enough to ford! Berry's four daughters became wives of well-known men.

Another well authenticated Caledonia settler may have preceded Berry, as he probably arrived about the time Ebenezer (Indian) Allen located on the banks of the Oatka in Scottsville and gave the name to "Allen's Creek." His name was Christopher Dugan, familiarly known as "Irish" Dugan. His wife was a sister of Allen, an educated and refined lady. Allen moved to Scottsville in 1786 from Mt. Morris. Dugan located on the banks of Big Log Creek, known later as Dugan Creek, and built a log house near what is now the River road in the north-east corner of Caledonia. The New York Central tracks follow the valley of this small stream for several miles. Dugan is credited with owning \$1300 worth of land which he sold to Samuel Street in 1791, but his name appears on the Northampton tax list until about 1800. Both Dugan and Berry were granted liquor licenses.

The First Marriage

Near Dugan's house another settler built a house in the spring of 1790. He was Jacob Schoonover and his name on the tax roll indicates that he was owner of a considerable acreage for a number of years. Romance came with this family. Peter Sheffer, an elderly man with a considerable family, arrived in Scottsville in 1789, bought Allen's acres, and became a prominent man in this region. His son, Peter Sheffer, Jr., discovered quickly that the Schoonover home included a charming daughter of 18 years and he "lost no time making Miss Schoonover's acquaintance," says George E. Slocum's History of

Wheatland. "His want of a house-keeper was great; his desire was made known, and his suit pressed with such earnestness that before the close of the year, with the legal assistance of Judge Chapin of Canandaigua, Miss Elizabeth Schoonover became Mrs. Peter Sheffer, Jr. This was the first marriage between white persons that occurred west of the Genesee." They had a family of seven sons and four daughters, the oldest daughter marrying Philip Garbutt. There are other descendants.

Last week we brought the Scotch settlers by ox-sled over the snowy trail from Johnstown. What did they find at "Big Springs"? The name Caledonia was not used until 1806. It was in the spring of 1799 while snow was still on the ground that they arrived at the Genesee River. Had a road been cleared from the river to the springs? There is no record of road making to the west from Avon until the following year. Only an Indian trail to follow through the Canawaugus Indian village.

Arriving at the Springs they found at least two log houses. Tradition rather than authentic history, as stated by some historians, tells us that two Englishmen, squatters, Kane and Moffatt, built log huts near the springs as early as 1795. Others say later. Lockwood L. Doty, writing in 1865, omits mention of them. James Campbell says the story handed down in the neighborhood of the Springs gave a location north of the springs. Smith's history says they were men of bad character and were run out by people from Avon, who charged them with robbery and murder.

Peterson and Fuller

A more authentic and probable story is that one Peterson, a Danish seaman, was living in a log house as squatter in 1798 and that another squatter, David Fuller, lived in another log house. Peterson's wife was named Beach and she had a brother who related to Donald McKenzie a story of Peterson. He came from Pennsylvania to live with his sister. He said Fuller came a year earlier, and it is probable that the Fuller Spring was named from him. Young Beach says that "Irish" Dugan twitted Peterson of murdering a sailor and

it was not long before Peterson was taken to Canandaigua jail. He was not detained there long and returned to Philadelphia with his wife and family and then back to sea, where he was lost on a voyage, leaving his wife \$500. As this story is written on a foolscap sheet of writing paper with the name of Bradley Paper Mills, Dansville, embossed in the corner, and as the Bradley Mills were not started until 1822, this story must have been copied by Donald McKenzie from an earlier original. But it appears to me to be as authentic a story of the pre-Scottish settlers at the Springs as we have.

This is the first time this story of young Beach has been published, if indeed, it has been discovered previously. The Big Springs had been a stopping place for adventurers and fur traders for some years, particularly since the Sullivan campaign which brought the rich Genesee Valley to the attention of the world. It is said that these campers often followed each other so closely that the fires of one would still be burning when the next arrived. Besides Kane, Moffatt, Peterson and Fuller, mentioned above, L. L. Doty quotes John McVean as authority that the Scots found a Mr. Fowler keeping a public house and Doty also names an Englishman Burks as contemporary with Fuller but omits Kane and Moffatt, as stated. It is not impossible that each of these six men became squatters at intervals covering two or three years, keeping public house in these two log cabins. Smith's History of Livingston County states that Peterson's successor was a man Brooks and that he was followed by Job Pierce, who sold to John Cameron in 1806. The location of this tavern will be discussed later. Smith credits Kane and Moffatt to notes of Donald McKenzie.

These "houses" gave shelter to the Scottish emigrants while they built similar houses, without floors or doors except as might be split out of logs, with oiled paper for windows and chimneys built of sticks and mud. They cleared a small patch of land, planted some summer crops and were aided through the following winter by Charles Williamson, their benefactor.



Peter Sheffer

1761-1851

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Peterson of murdering a sailor and

tor.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

4/14/36

How to Reach Caledonia

(From a letter written about 1801-2 by Charles Williamson, promoter of the Genesee Country, to his friend in England.)

"The most convenient route for Europeans to come to the Genesee Country will be to land at New York; they will with much ease reach Albany by water, and from thence they can either hire waggons or take navigation by the Mohawk river, canals, etc., to Geneva. Unless the water be in good order, I should certainly prefer the land journey.

"A waggon, with two oxen and two horses will go 20 miles per day with a load of 30 cwt, the accommodation by the state road will be found very good, and should any accident happen on the road, assistance can be procured at every stage. The great secret of moving with facility is to carry nothing but bedding, clothes, and cooking materials; all the articles of household furniture can be procured in the country at less expense than would carry it from the coast.

"A Scotch settlement was projected two years ago and a considerable number of persons from that country have already joined it. This settlement is formed on the west side of the Genesee River, about eight miles distant, and is called Caledonia. The village is built around a remarkable spring, which issues from the limestone rock and forms a body of water covering about two acres, from whence a stream takes its rise sufficiently powerful to work, at a short distance from the spring, a set of merchant mills. The plan for settlement occupies about ten thousand acres, distributed in the following manner:

For the ministry.....	acres	100
For the school, about.....		60
Ten gentlemen, 500 acres each.....		5,000
Ten Farmers, 100 acres each.....		1,000
Forty farmers, 78 acres each.....		3,120
For village, 60 lots of 12 acres.....		720

10,000

"Houses can be built at small expense. A small log house, twenty feet square, will cost fifty dollars. A good log house, with two rooms, if made by hired men, will cost 100 dollars.

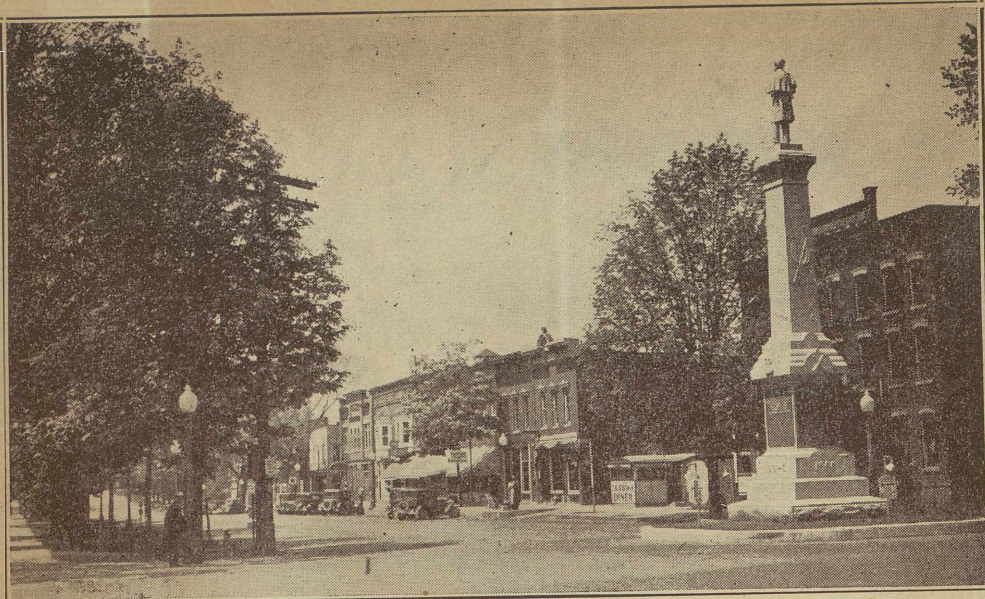
Oxen, per yoke.....	\$170
A cow	15
Farming utensils necessary at first	20
An ox cart	30

The Name "Big Springs"

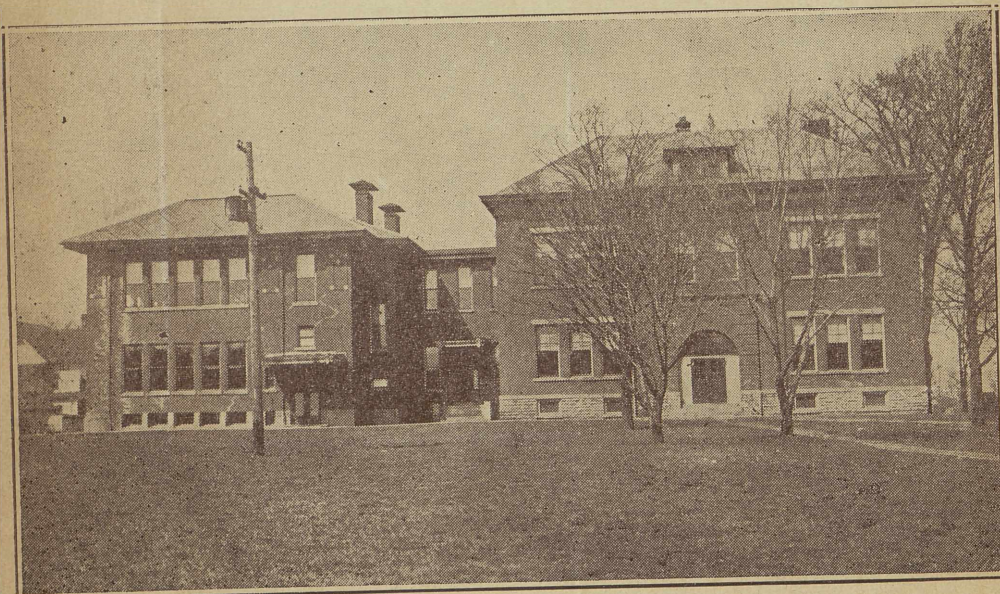
Mr. Williamson must have been consumed with zeal in his undertaking to sell Genesee Country land to "gentlemen" to think such would relinquish comfortable homes in England and Scotland to undertake a journey over even the "convenient route" he outlines above and settle in the raw wilderness in log cabins where lumber for frame buildings was not yet available.

With the Scots, who had really been driven from their homeland by fear of impressment into the English army, or whose homes had been ruthlessly cleared away when farming was changed to sheep raising, the situation was different. It was more a case of "any port in a storm." Williamson understood his Scots and trusted them. He became their benefactor. "A Scot had met a brither Scot." From their temporary home at Johnstown they were canny enough to send five men to investigate, however, before they ventured with their wives into the Indian wilderness. To these men the trail looked good and they came on sleds next spring to "Big Springs."

"This had been the name of the locality, even as far back as the first English occupancy of Niagara," says Orsamus Turner, the historian. Mr. Williamson gave it the new name of Caledonia.



MAIN STREET FROM MONUMENT LOOKING WEST, CALEDONIA



CALEDONIA HIGH SCHOOL, CALEDONIA, NEW YORK

RAMBLES IN LOCAL HISTORY

List of Caledonia Residents in
1868 Found in Rochester Li-
brary by F. F. Keith.

Wedge between ponderous coun-
ty histories of New York State in
an important Rochester library is
found a small volume whose title
page reads: "Gazeteer and Busi-
ness Directory of Livingston Coun-
ty." It was compiled by G. Em-
mett Stetson and printed by E. L.
Adams in Geneva, N. Y., under
date 1868. As the year 1868 is just
midway between 1800, the approx-
imate year settlement began in
Caledonia, and 1936, the names
listed in this directory represent a
border line between the old and
the new. The first and second gen-
erations were giving way to a
third and fourth. It was the pe-
riod of readjustment after the
Civil War, and in a general way
the dividing line between the pop-
ulation remembered by the older
people of today and those who pre-
ceded. Not a person listed is liv-
ing today that we know of.

Obviously this list is not a cen-
sus of the 1868 population. On the
other hand it is made up to quite
an extent of names of farmers and
laborers, hence is not a business
directory. It also omits names like
Noble Bostwick and C. H. Swan,
and misspells some. It is never-
theless worthy of local record, as
nothing of the kind is preserved in
our library, and will interest most
people today. It was copied by the
writer and corrections are invited.

The list is preceded by a brief
sketch of the town which states
(incorrectly) that Big Spring cov-
ered 20 acres, and that near by
was the council house of the Turtle
tribe of Seneca Indians.

Directory of 1868

Allen, Garret, mfr. grain cradles.
Ayers, Horatio, laborer.
Adams, Henry E., tinsmith.
Aul, Robert, shoemaker.
Burgess, Chas. and Elwood, gener-
al merchandise.
Blakeslee, Mrs. Margaret, drug-
gist.
Boylan, Frank, laborer.
Boylan, James, laborer.
Brown, Thos. H., carpenter.

Bradbury, Wm., weaver.
Blackman, Chas. W., mfr. grain
cradles.
Ball, Chas. A., blacksmith.
Brady, Hugh, shoemaker.
Blakeslee, Mrs. Mary B., dress-
maker.
Barber, Pomeroy J., malster and
brewer.
Bowers, Benj. I., R R agent
Bradburn, Miss Isabella
Boorman, Thos., house and sign
painter.
Beattie, Mrs. Ann S., groceries.
Brown, Samuel, farmer.
Burns, Patrick, farmer.
Blair, John, laborer.
Bold, Samuel G., farmer.
Brownell, Sylvester, dealer in
sheep, farmer.
Barron, Wm., farmer.
Campbell, Colin, harness maker.
Cameron, Chas. J., farmer.
Cunningham, Patrick, laborer.
Caruthers, Wilson, laborer.
Cameron, Alex. J., farmer.
Cameron, Mrs. C.
Curphey, Wm., shoemaker and
butcher.
Clark, Chas., carpenter.
Christie, John, carpenter.
Campbell, James, farmer (lives on
state road).
Campbell, John M., farmer.
Callan, Lawrence, farmer.
Campbell, Peter, farmer.
Campbell, Malcolm M., farmer.
Connor, James, laborer.
Campbell, Peter P., Jr., farmer.
Coffe, Patrick (with Philip and
James McGovern).
Campbell, Daniel J., farmer.
Cameron, Chas. A., farmer.
Cameron, Mrs. Mary W., farmer.
Carlin, Mrs. Mary, farmer.
Clark, Mrs. Mary H., dressmaker.
Cameron, Dugald E., farmer.
Christie, Mrs. Margaret, farmer.
Christie, Mrs. Jannet, seamstress.
Caton, Peter K., doctor.
Dean, Orange, postmaster and
farmer.
Davis, Joel, stone mason.
Donohue, Joseph, laborer.
DeNoon, Alex. and James, farmers.
Dean, Martin and John, farmers.
Dorn, George, laborer.
Delbridge, Thos., shoemaker and
farmer.
Espie, James, farmer.
Espie, Robert, farmer.
Estes, Edward, farmer.
Foot, Prosper P., hotel keeper.
Freer, Mrs. Isabel.
Forsyth, Mrs. Catherine, store.
Farnham, Jos. C., billiard room.
Ferrin, Chas. N., station agent and
operator.
Fraser, Wm., Erie R. R. clerk.
Ferrin & Fraser, coal dealers.
Fraser, Alex., farmer.
Ferguson, Alexander, farmer.
Finch, Seeley.
Fraser, James, farmer.
Fraser, James J., farmer.
Feeley, Wm. G., farmer.
Giles, Joseph W., farmer.
Glasby, Patrick, farmer.
Gordon, Angus, farmer.
Gordon, Alexander, farmer.
Gordon, Angus C., farmer.

Gougherty, Thomas, farmer.
 Guthrie, Wm., farmer.
 Hamilton, Wm., produce dealer and farmer.
 Hackett, Margaret.
 Hatch, Henry G., mfr. grain cradles and farmer.
 Hotchkiss, Augustus.
 Haggart, Mrs. Catherine, farmer.
 Hannah, John W., agricultural implements.
 Hannah, Thos. R., retired farmer.
 Hosmer, John E., farmer.
 Johnson, Miss E. J.
 Johnson, James, laborer.
 Johnson, Lewis F., carpenter.
 Johnson, Samuel, farmer.
 Kelley, Dennis.
 Kaleher, Patrick, laborer.
 Kenish, John J., shoemaker.
 Lawson, Daniel G., farmer.
 Laidlaw, Thomas, butcher.
 Lynch, Patrick, farmer.
 Leathersich, David, farmer.
 McLaren, Rev. Malcolm N., minister.
 Malloy, Patrick, harness maker.
 Mallock, Mrs. Margaret.
 McNaughton, Mrs. Margaret.
 Mullan, Alex., laborer.
 Mullan, Patrick.
 Miller, Samuel, laborer.
 McKay, Mrs. Mordecai.
 McNaughton, Peter, carpenter.
 McNaughton, Mrs. R. W.
 Moore, Geo. W., mfr. grain cradles.
 Moore, Mrs. Margaret, milliner.
 McLean, Mrs. John.
 McNaughton, James, wagon maker.
 Menzie, Robt. Jr., physician.
 McNab, James, farmer.
 McGregor, Daniel, wheelwright.
 Moss, Jared W., prop. Caledonia House.
 Mead, John, baggage master.
 Markham, Ranson, mfr. wooden ware, pumps, horse and hand rakes.
 McKay, John, miller and mfr. of wooden ware, lumber, cider.
 McKenzie, Mrs. Hannah.
 McLean, Mary.
 McKay, James B., retired farmer.
 McLachlin, Archibald, spoke factory.
 McLaren, Rev. Wm. S., minister.
 McKay, John R., farmer.
 McColl, John D., farmer.
 McColl, Dugald F., farmer.
 McColl, Alexander D., farmer.
 McKenzie, John A., farmer.
 McNaughton, Malcolm, farmer.
 McKenzie, Wm. S., millwright and farmer.
 McColl, Duncan D., farmer.
 McLauchlin, Daniel, farmer.
 McColl, Daniel, Jr., farmer.
 McKenzie, Donald and Simon, farmers.
 McVean, John C., farmer.
 McColl, Hugh D., farmer.
 McVean, Duncan D., farmer.
 Moore, James, farmer.
 McGovern, James and Philip (with Patrick Coffe).
 McIntyre, John, farmer.
 Matteson, Willard G., farmer.
 McVean, James, farmer.
 McVean, Wallace W., laborer.

McWilliam, James, matting.
 Mallock, John, farmer.
 Meach, Winfield S., farmer.
 McNab, John, farmer.
 Masterton, Wm. E., farmer.
 McNaughton, Donald, farmer.
 McKenzie, Kenneth, farmer.
 Mosier, Potter, farmer.
 McNaughton, John H., composer of music and farmer.
 Maxwell, Wm., farmer.
 Maxwell, Wm., Jr., farmer.
 McNaughton, Duncan, farmer.
 McPeak, Cornelius.
 McPherson, Daniel, farmer.
 McNaughton, John, retired farmer.
 Nelson, Wm. C., carpenter and joiner.
 Ogerman, John, laborer.
 Orr, Colin, farmer.
 Purkey, Jacob, laborer.
 Preston, Thomas, laborer.
 Parks, Luther, carpenter.
 Place, Robert N., merchant.
 Purvis, James, farmer.
 Pherson, Alex. F., stock dealer.
 Ridsen, Chas., merchant.
 Reed, Peter, merchant.
 Rogers, Patrick, farmer.
 Ritchie, Robert, farmer.
 Renwick, Archibald, farmer.
 Smith, Duncan, blacksmith.
 Scott, Robert W., shoemaker.
 Sinclair, Miss Christine, tailoress.
 Sullivan, Wm., laborer.
 Smith, James, blacksmith.
 Stout, Lorenzo, ready-made clothing.
 Stuart, John, blacksmith.
 Stuart, Sarah, milliner.
 Shink, John, farmer.
 Simpson, Alexander P., farmer.
 Simpson, James, farmer.
 Sinclair, James D., farmer.
 Sinclair, John, farmer.
 Sinclair, Mrs. Mary.
 Swanton, Robert, laborer.
 Tygart, Wm., farmer.
 Thompson, Newton, Jr., farmer.
 Thompson, George W., farmer.
 Thompson, Dugald, farmer.
 Wells, Harlow W., physician.
 Wilson, Mrs. Ann R., groceries.
 Wilson, Robert, shoemaker.
 Walker, John H., molder.
 Watson, Miss Ann, dry goods and groceries.
 Williams, Thomas, Edgar and Wm. J., groceries and provisions.
 Walker, David, farmer.
 Wilson, James, farmer.
 Walker, Mrs. Jane R., farmer.
 Walker, David R., agent for Mrs. Jane.
 Weeks, James A., farmer.
 Walker, John W., farmer.
 Weeks, Erastus and Isaac, farmers.
 Watson, Robert, farmer.
 Williams, Wm., farmer.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Not long ago Rambles Column mentioned the visit of John Cox, Jr., at the home of his nephew, William H. Cox, of Cox Hill. Mr. John Cox, Jr., is a distinguished historian in New York City. We mentioned that he is now engaged in collecting the vital statistics of Trinity Parish. (A Rochester historian has since told that Trinity Parish once covered all of New York State.) Mr. Cox has made a special study of documents, records and papers relating to the Meetings of the Society of Friends and is custodian of a large depository as well as compiler of an extensive catalogue. We hope to have a sketch later of the Quaker meeting house between here and Scottsville.

While here Mr. Cox promised to furnish Rambles a story of his research of Oyster Bay records and their relation to Western New York history. The following interesting paper has been received:

Antecedents

Many of the early inhabitants of Western New York, particularly in the towns of Wheatland and Chili, and some in Caledonia, had Long Island antecedents.

Captain John Dickinson married Elizabeth Howland in 1651. Her father, John Howland, was the youth who was washed overboard from the Mayflower in a gale, but grasping a halcyon as he went, he was pulled up from the depths. He married Elizabeth Tilley of the Mayflower. John Dickinson was Captain of the Sloop "Desire," and brought into Oyster Bay Harbor, to what was later called "the Town Spot," and is now the pleasant village of Oyster Bay, the men who made the first purchase there. These men were Peter Wright, Samuel Mayo, and Rev. William Leverich.

They probably went to the old Council Rock of the Indians, about a half mile along the bay, and

there agreed with Chief Mohenes to give "six Indian Coates, six Ketles, six fathom wampum, six Hoes, six Hatchetts, three pair of stockings, thirty Auln-blades (heads for fish spears), twenty Knives, three shirts & as much peage (black wampum) as will amount to four pounds sterling."

The three at once admitted others, Robert Willims, William Washbourne, John Washbourne, Thomas Armitage, Daniel Whitehead, Richard Holbrooke and Anthony Wright, to be joint purchasers. The deed included a large portion of the present town, which covers one hundred square miles, every acre of which was later purchased from the Indian Proprietors, and paid for. The Town Records, printed, fill several large volumes.

The settlers of Oyster Bay all turned out in 1671, and sat them down in a natural amphitheater, to hear George Fox preach, from the Council Rock, that each man has in him something of God, and needs no priest, nor altar built by man, but may commune directly with that divinity in which we live and move and have our being.

From this sturdy, honest background of pioneers came the Coxes, Dickinsons, Wrights, and many other pioneers of Western New York, a good many being, unconsciously, Mayflower Descendants.

The first of the Cox family to reach Wheatland were Joseph and Isaac Cox, aged 19 and 18, who took what had been the Mohawk Trail from Saratoga County in late winter, 1804, camping in the tourist style of the period, by turning the deep box on edge on the sleigh, and sleeping one in each end, with a horse tied at each end, and a fire in front to keep off the wolves. My own parents came from Westchester County forty years later in the comparative ease of a sloop to Albany, and thence by canal boat. Not the packet boat, for their brought all their worldly

goods with them, and the packet boats, with horses a-trot, charged high rates.

JOHN COX, JR.

A McKay-McKenzie Descendant

While checking the tombstones in Conesus Union Cemetery last Sunday we came upon two McKay names well known in Caledonia. One was Hector and the other Mordecai McKay. Perhaps neither lived here but the widow of the latter was well known here and extensive stories of her life were published in Rochester when she died, which Mrs. Johnson has preserved. This cemetery was early known as the "McKay burying ground" and is so called by some old inhabitants to this day. It is just over the line from Sparta, of which Scottsburg is the only hamlet remaining of several small groups on early maps. In this cemetery Daniel Shays is buried and numerous members of the Collier family which settled the town of Sparta and gave it its first name, "Collertown." These McKays were related to John and Robert McKay, who located in Caledonia after living in Allegany County.

One of the best known names in early Caledonia history—after 1806—was that of Donald McKenzie, founder of a cloth industry and a prolific writer. The following letter from Mrs. Carrie C. McKenzie

Pearce is an interesting reminder of the union of the two prominent early families named. Mrs. Pearce writes from Watsonville, California:

"Dear Mr. Keith: A cousin has sent me copies of the Advertiser containing your 'Rambles' and I wish you success.

"My father was William W. McKenzie (son of Donald McKenzie). He came to California when a young man to pioneer. He was a registered 'Forty-niner.' My mother was the daughter of Col. Robert McKay and her name was Susan. She came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama to marry my father. They were married by Dr. Ackerly, an Episcopal clergyman in Oakland, where they settled. I was born there in 1864 and my brother, Robert Donald McKenzie (named for both grandparents) in 1868.

"I am the last of my family, my husband, Webb Nicholson Pearce, having passed away in 1918. As a child I can remember seeing the Caledonia Advertiser arrive, which was always read with interest to get the 'news from home,' they said. I think father must have been one of its earliest subscribers."

Sincerely,
MRS. WEBB N. PEARCE.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

A Centennial Celebration for Caledonia-Wheatland

Now that Big Springs Historical Society appears to be nearing the status of a going concern with full power as an incorporated body to receive, own, or be responsible for loans of historical objects, books, documents, maps and records, it is altogether likely that among its 200-odd members some will come forward with timely and worthy projects.

At a recent meeting of the executive committee one historical event of real importance was mentioned which has become ripened by the passage of a century of time. There has come to the writer a letter of warm commendation for making this an occasion for inter-community celebration with our sister village of Scottsville.

It was in the year 1836, in April, that by Legislative enactment Powell Carpenter and associates, all residents of Wheatland but a part of the Caledonia-Wheatland group of pioneer business men, were empowered to construct a railroad from the village of Scottsville to the village of Canandaigua. A preliminary survey was made, but no construction attempted. This somewhat ambitious venture evidently "died a-bornin'."

In May of the same year the same men obtained a charter for the building of a railroad from Scottsville, Monroe County, to Le Roy, Genesee County, which became in part a fact and for two years cars were operated on the section constructed from Scottsville to Caledonia. According to George E. Slocum's excellent history of Wheatland, the intention of the incorporators was to extend the road to Batavia and perhaps further west, while the eastward venture was to connect at Canandaigua with a road then in process of construction from Auburn to that village. He adds, "Those engaged in the project were men of enterprise and broad views, and

were eminently worthy of, even if they did not achieve, success."

The project was capitalized for \$200,000, of which \$40,000 was paid in and—lost. Its final owner was a Caledonia man who was evidently offered at a bargain a controlling block of the 4,000 shares (valued at \$50 each) and operated the road one year, quitting in disgust. A certificate of stock is still in existence.

The historical feature of this railroad lies in the fact that it was the first railroad constructed west of the Genesee River in all time. It was built on a graded roadbed which for the greater part of its length of six miles can be definitely traced by the older generation of living people who in youth found remains of ties and rails. If, as seems probable, the intent was to eventually equip it with iron or steel rails, this ambition was abandoned, for its rails were a ribbon of hardwood one by three inches spiked to timbers laid on the ties. No iron was used save at highway crossings where a strap of iron protected the wood rails.

This primitive equipment sufficed for the hauling of light cars drawn by horses, and over it large quantities of flour and plaster from the mills along its route bordering Oatka Creek were transported to the dock on the Genesee River at Scottsville for shipment by boats. But the flanges of the wheels finally wore the rails and cut into them, derailing the cars, which spelled grief to the enterprise.

The Caledonia terminus of this railroad was on the present high school campus in the rear of the domestic science building. A boulder at this spot, with markers at Mumford and Garbutt, and another boulder at Scottsville, would preserve the outline of the right of way and tell future generations of this pioneer undertaking in railroading. This should be done be-

fore time effaces these landmarks.

This historical project has features worthy a demonstration with speeches and floats similar to the placing of the boulders at the site of the first schoolhouse and the DeNoon church. Let us hear from Scottsville and other Wheatland people.

Postscript

Consulting the volumes of Rochester history in the local library, I am aware that questions may be raised as to the priority of construction between the Scottsville & Batavia and the Tonawanda Railroad, which, oddly enough, was the first to operate steam trains into Rochester, and came from the west. Its rails and locomotives, such as they were, were transported from the east by canal boats. The first train to arrive in Rochester was on April 4, 1837. We have no record, so far as I am informed, of the date when the first car ran between Caledonia and Scottsville but it must have been about this date if not before. This does not detract from the importance of the road nor from its historic significance and interest to this vicinity.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

That Celebration

The Caledonia-Scottsville centennial of the building of the first railroad west of the Genesee River (presumably) proposed in Rambles last week, has received several commendatory comments. A large number of people in this vicinity are now interested in preserving its history. No other relic of a century ago remains that commands so much general interest and lends itself to the dramatic. Marked with appropriate boulders it would become one of the best known landmarks of Monroe and Livingston Counties.

Not the least point worth marking in its route would be on the grounds of the State Fish Hatchery. This property was once owned by Donald McKenzie, one of the most alert and energetic business men of the early days of this region. He had a sawmill on this property which later burned, but it is related that the horse railroad ran either close beside or through this mill. Certain it is that the old route is closely defined to this day in a line with its obvious site.

The writer took a stroll this week from the point where it crossed the northmost street in Mumford. Wooded land still borders the street and a lane entirely clear for traffic, although rough, follows the graded right-of-way which rises above the level of the surrounding swamp. This lane leads in a straight line for the grove on the east bank of Spring Creek on the hatchery grounds where the sawmill must have

stood. The raised tracks of the B. & O. railroad now intercepts both the lane and the view.

Of course the best known evidence of the old railroad is the broad curve of raised grading on which young trees have grown that crosses a field just south of the Caledonia-Scottsville highway opposite the Philip Garbutt homestead, west of Garbutt station. This may be generally considered as an early grading of the B. R. & P. R. R., but it is not, although the railroad curve is close by. The old railroad followed around the hill and came into the highway opposite the present Ebsary plant at the foot of the schoolhouse hill, a locality once known as Bailey's Corners. Another definitely marked piece of grading is found at an underpass of the B. & O. tracks just west of Scottsville and north of the main highway. A careful survey of the entire route should be made.

Whenever a solicitor for antiques, old pictures and books comes to your door, as one has this week, give thought to the value of what you have to its historical value, please. John Bailey, head of the Acquisitions Committee of Big Springs Historical Society, reports that he has closed deals for a number of glass cases to contain small items such as glassware and dishes, books and manuscripts, etc., which he hopes to have "working" as fast as space can be arranged for. This is only the beginning of a collection. Save your antiques for your local museum.

The First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia was the first religious society organized west of the Genesee River of any denomination. The date of organization was in March, 1805. The founders were Scottish pioneers. The first edifice was a log building erected in 1806, replaced with a frame church in Leicester street in 1814. Later still, a stone church on the present site was built in 1827. The present building was erected in 1855.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

National Debt Extinguished

Caledonia, Nov. 9, 1836—Presidential election was quiet at Big Springs. Only 234 votes were cast but Donald McDonald, James Hill, Wm. Barron, Collin McVean and Daniel D. Campbell had to sit most of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to keep the polls open at Augustus Hotchkins' tavern.

The number of voters who could get away from their farm work was some bigger than last year when only 164 votes were cast for Senator in the three election days. But not so big as in '34 when 246 got out to vote for governor, nor last presidential election, 1832, when 255 voted.

Well, Govenor Marcy was re-elected again but not by Caledonia votes. In '34 he got 88 votes, this year 76. William H. Seward seems to be up and comin' with our voters, who are siding with the Whig party against the Democrats. He got 158 votes against Marcy's 88 in '34. This year Jesse Buell, Whig, got the same number. Stick to it, Whigs.

But of course we are most interested in the vote for president. In Caledonia the democratic electors got only 75 votes while the Whigs got 159. But the democrats won their president, Martin Van-Buren, over the four Whig candidates. The electoral vote stood:

W. H. Harrison, Ohio	73
Hugh L. White, Tennessee	26
Daniel Webster, Mass.	14
Willie P. Mangum, No. Car.	11
Van Buren (Dem.), N. Y.	170

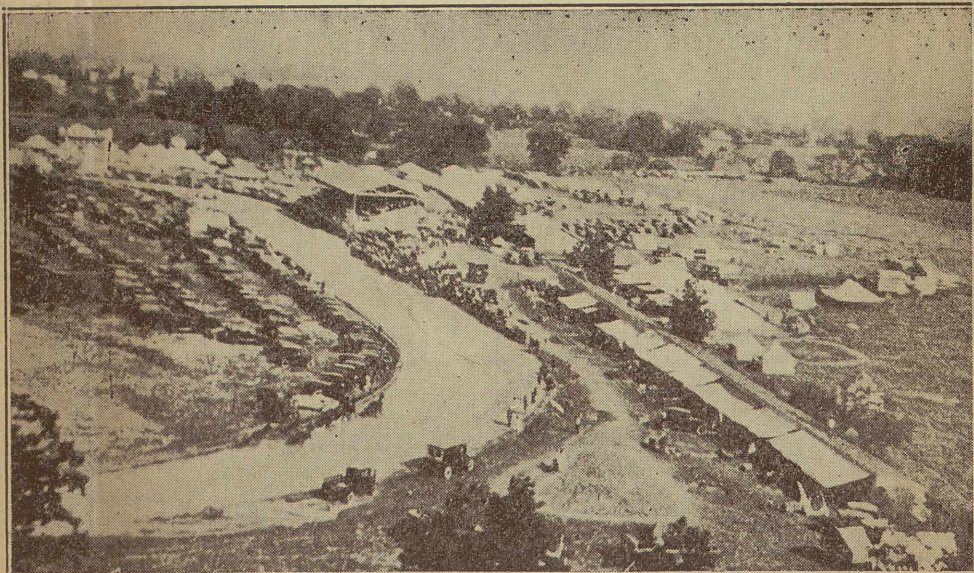
If Caledonia keeps going for a hundred years we bet our chil-

dren's children will never see what's happened this year—THE NATIONAL DEBT HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED. The protective tariff did it.

The preceding "front page news" of political activity, just 100 years ago this week is based partly upon the Caledonia town records, kindly loaned by Town Clerk Chas. Sutherland. It seems odd to the voters of today to read of polls being open for three days. This arrangement probably began when towns covered large areas and it was almost impossible for farmers to reach a polling place on a given day. This practice was in force in Caledonia until 1841. In 1842 the election was confined to one day. The division of electoral votes among several members of the same party is familiar to all readers of history. The 51 men who met in 1787 to draft the constitution held quite different views of popular government from ours. It was their idea that electors should be chosen by popular vote whose discretion could be trusted to select the best men for president and vice-president. Hence they were not committed to vote for a certain individual. As parties developed this practice fell into disuse until electors became "rubber stamps" for their respective parties, whose only duty is to deliver the results to Washington. The year 1837 brought a panic which renewed the public debt. W. H. Seward became governor of New York two years later and secretary of state under Lincoln.)



WEST SIDE OF STATE STREET FROM MONUMENT, CALEDONIA, N. Y.



CALEDONIA FAIR GROUNDS DURING RACING, CALEDONIA, N. Y.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Early Fairs in Livingston

If the promotion of agricultural exhibits or "fairs" is an index of the progressive spirit of a community or area, Livingston County is entitled to high rank, perhaps leading all Western New York in point of priority in the holding of live stock exhibitions and horse races.

Both the first and second attempts at this kind of enterprise were held in this county, the latter in the town of Caledonia—a fact never before published. Hence a brief summary of these fairs may be of interest.

On September 23, 1793, there was held what was advertised in the Albany Gazette of July 15 as "Williamsburg Fair and Genesee Races." This event was an enterprise of Col. Charles Williamson, in charge of settlement of the Phelps and Gorham properties. His aim was to introduce the abounding fertility and attractiveness of Genesee Valley lands to men of means living on the coast side of the Alleghanies, at that time quite remote, for the purpose of stimulating an influx of "gentlemen" as buyers of large estates. These men of means had fine herds and stables and he sought by offering prizes to induce them to send exhibits. They sent exhibits but few if any came to settle.

Williamsburg was planned to become the metropolis of the Genesee Country, located at the confluence of Canaseraga Creek with the Genesee River. Deeds to its lots are preserved in some quantity, but its identity has long since been lost under the plow. This fair was held for two years and its races were a gala event for whites and Indians. This was the first fair in a region where settlement was in its infancy.

The second fair is a shorter story, as all we know about it is recorded in the Town Clerk's records of the Town of Caledonia.

Just where it was held is not known and there is no mention of the payment of its expenses, but it had evidently been well promoted among the canny Scots, who had to be stirred deeply to consent to the expenditure of tax money. Here is the authorization copied from the minutes of the meeting of "inhabitants" held at the "house of Pomeroy Stone" (an inn) on April 2, 1833:

"Resolved, that the Town defray the expence of advertising, in three public newspapers and cards, the Caledonia fair twice a year." Donald McDonald was supervisor, James Hill, town clerk, James McNaughton, Colin McVean and James Hill, justices of the peace.

It would be interesting to know the outcome of this first experiment in "advertising" of record in Caledonia. The fair was undoubtedly an exhibit of cattle, oxen, horses, sheep, swine, such as the farmers prided themselves about. No bills for "expence" were reported in 1934.

It was not until 1858 that another fair was attempted in Caledonia. Mrs. Johnson, town historian, submits a letter from our late honored townsman, Foster Walker, written in 1924, which tells the story:

"There was an agricultural fair organized in Caledonia in 1858 and three fairs were held. The 1858 fair was held in the Kessler lot (then McDonald) west of the Methodist Church on Center street. In 1859 on the Shaw lot where my house now stands. The third and last one, 1860, on the lot now occupied by St. Columba's cemetery, then owned by the Dean family.

"Then the civil war coming on, the fair was discontinued. Wm. Hamilton, James McNab (who owned the James Espie farm at that time), and D. E. Cameron were some of the persons interested. The exhibitions were quite successful. Stock was issued. Mr. Wellman received a letter last year

from a man in New York City inquiring if the stock was of any value. He held three shares, par value \$50 each."

The Caledonia Fair Association, organized in 1914 succeeded in placing the Caledonia Fair in the front rank of New York State agricultural fairs. It was succeeded two years ago by Caledonia Fair, Incorporated, but the management continues to make the event larger and better each year, adding buildings and equipment and maintaining outstanding races.

Fairs have been held with more or less success at Geneseo, Avon, Dansville, and perhaps other Livingston County towns. The "Livonia Town Fair" was organized about 1850 and held several successful exhibitions until stopped by the civil war. These were held at Livonia Center. In 1867 the enterprise was continued by Hemlock people at Glenville, where the buildings were moved. Later a race track was laid out at Hemlock village, where continuous events have been held since under the name Hemlock Fair. Of late it has been given the friendly cognomen, "world's fair."

Some Early Scotch Yarns

To turn from the sublime to the ridiculous, here are two stories taken from the original writing of some early settler (name unrecorded) which are entirely appropriate to the opening of the hunting season. The incidents happened in Scotland but the participants were immigrants who became well known townsmen not far from the year 1800. To attempt to change spelling or form would rob them of much of their ruggedness. So here they are verbatim:

"Some few anecdotes transacted by John McDiarmid deceased, viz.:

"At one time in the old country the said John McDiarmid being a great hunter after rabbits being a weaver by trade had two journeymen, one the well known Dugall McEwen the other John McNab. the said McDiarmid having much weaving on hand had no chance to go a hunting his favorite gun being long loaded said one calm day to McNab 'take this gun and shoot on the Loch'—he at that time lived on Loch Tay—and I will watch to see how far my gun will carry on the Loch."

"says McNab 'can't you shoot yourself' says McDiarmid 'it is but verry little sport to fire off one shot.' McDiarmid being aware that the gun being so long loaded would kick. so McNab takes the gun McDiarmid standing at a distance knowing the consequence. McNab when he discharged the piece staggered backward and fell down. after McDiarmid he went with stones all that forenoon.

Catmore

"At another time while he was a prentice at his trade at the well known Ewen Prence this said Ewen had a verry large favorite cat called Catmore (or big cat). Said cat frequently lying among the potatoes that were cooked for their meals McDiarmid not relishing the potatoes on account of the cat lying among them he frequently told said Ewen to kill the big cat but to no purpose. So things stood for some time. so said Ewen being like most of the Highlanders went to Killin on some business and got perty well corned on their favorite drink the highland usge beatha or highland whiskey.

"When McDiarmid found that the said Ewen was sound a sleep the room where he slept being verry dark he went and got the big cat. going into the room verry slyly he feels verry cautiously where Ewens face was. So he takes the cat by the tail lifts her up and lets her down till her claws got a good hold of Ewens face then he gives a sudden pull and went out as sly as he came in. the night passed on. in the morning Ewen got up verry early with his face most Shockingly scratched and mangled. he goes to McDiarmid and asked him if he saw the big cat this morning. McDiarmid ansired and said 'was it the big cat that left your face in that shocking manner.'

"Ewen said it was. Ewen told McDiarmid to kill the big cat for says he 'she was verry near taking my throat out last night.' McDiarmid said 'I have been this long time at you about that cat and now if you want to kill her you must do it yourself.' Ewen said 'I will give you two shillings sterling and kill her.' So McDiarmid went and kills the big cat receives his two shillings and happy to get rid of so dirty an animal."

Rambles in Local History

11/19/36.

By F. F. KEITH

Caledonia Voted "Dry" in 1846

To an "outsider" it is altogether evident that the liquor trade gives little attention to history. If it did, it would recognize the inescapable fact that public sentiment, on which it must rely wholly for its existence, has a way of revolving from wet to dry, or the opposite, without asking anybody's leave and without assuming liability for damages.

As far back as 1846, on May 19th, a "special town meeting was held at the house of Alexander L. McLean . . . for the purpose of determining by ballot whether the Board of Excise shall or shall not grant licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors in Caledonia. Present, Archibald Renwick, James Shaw, Alexander Ferguson, Esqs., and G. Blakeslee, Town Clerk. Upon counting the Ballots it appeared that there were 243 votes given, 146 of said votes for No-License and 97 for License." So says the town clerk's record book.

How long this period of no-license continued does not appear. The point is that all anti-liquor laws have resulted from excesses of the liquor trade since the first state (Maine) voted dry in the

same year (1846) due to the importation of rum from the West Indies. The breaking point came again in Caledonia and 14 other Livingston County towns which normally were ultra-wet, in the early 1900's.

These remarks may be prophetic or not, but it would not require many trips of a noisy ale caravan truck along Caledonia streets during school recess to raise the question among both drys and wets whether such advertising can be tolerated before their children. Distillers have been taking advice from history about how to soften their advertising but the malt industry appears to be dumb, so we read in the daily press. Local retail dealers are vitally concerned in this matter.

Grange Endorses Centennial

At its last meeting, Genesee Grange of Scottsville voted its approval of the plan for a Centennial celebration of the early horse railroad between Caledonia and Scottsville and will later appoint a committee. The railroad passed through Wheatland the greater part of its length and its route is known by many farmers who in their youth dug up its remains.

Another Caledonia Fair

We have good information that another fair was held in Caledonia which was not included in the list published in this column last week. It was held on Black Street about 1878 and 1879 which attracted a good number of farm animals.



ST. COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, CALEDONIA, NEW YORK

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

QUAKERISM IN WHEATLAND

(By John Cox, Jr.)

Wheatland Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was first allowed as a meeting for worship, July 26, 1822, in the school house near Joseph Cox's. (I suppose this to be the "old" school house between Darius Shadbolt's and the school house on the Middle road, where I first went to school). It was made a Preparative Meeting February 12, 1824, which means that should be a business meeting for the congregation worshipping there.

A frame meeting house was built in 1825, 30x40 feet in size, with 12-foot posts, costing \$450. As in almost every instance in this state, the Separation in 1828 resulted here in the withdrawal of the branch which called itself Orthodox, leaving the house in possession of the branch, the Orthodox called Hicksites. The former soon built a substantial stone meeting house, which still stands, on the Middle road. In the 1840's they sold this stone house to the liberal branch and built a smaller frame house on the South road. This in time became a hay barn, and finally disappeared. The congregation that worshipped there has gone the way of all flesh.

The liberal branch has also disappeared. A large meeting gathered in the stone house when, as a child too old to lay my head on my father's lap to sleep, I kept awake by counting the panes of glass in a window. There were 64 of them in each window. The last meetings were held in the early 70's and attended by my father and myself, my uncle, Henry Cox, and his dog. The dog died, the meeting was "laid down"; the house was sold, in 1873, and used as a dwelling. It now stands forlorn and neglected.

Rochester Monthly Meeting, of which Wheatland Preparative Meeting was a part, was estab-

lished in 1825. It, too, is gone, laid down in 1916.

But Quakerism has revived in this state, and a new Rochester Monthly Meeting has developed, not Orthodox nor Hicksite, but in unity with both branches.

The above story of Quakerism in this area is a valuable contribution to local history as Mr. John Cox, Jr., is the leading compiler and historian of Quakerism in America. In addition to this, Mr. William Cox, of Wheatland, his nephew, recently submitted information from the second edition of Cox Family Genealogy under the caption, "Our Quaker Ancestors." This record includes earlier Quaker meetings in Western New York which are naturally related to the Wheatland group.

From Cox Family Genealogy

"A few Quaker pioneers having reached Western New York, Farmington Preparative Meeting was established in 1800, with the powers of a Monthly Meeting as to marriages; and a Monthly Meeting was established there in 1803. Hamburg Monthly Meeting in Erie County was established in 1814; one at Junius in 1815, in Wayne County; one at Hartland, Niagara County in 1821, and one at Rochester in 1825.

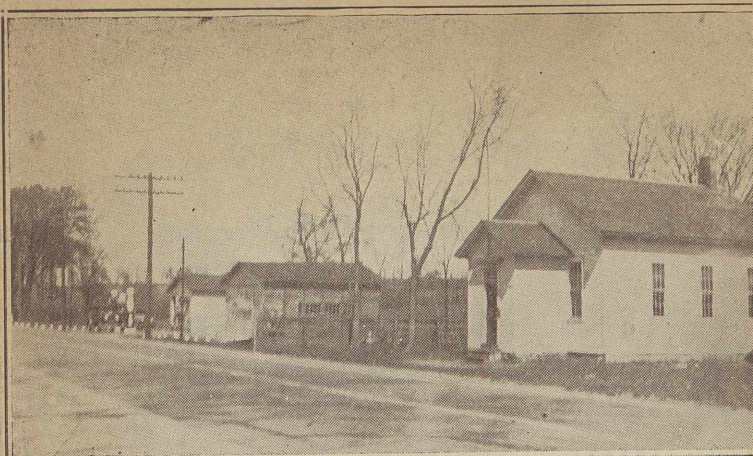
"Wheatland Preparative Meeting was established in 1824, being allowed as a meeting for worship in the school house near Joseph Cox's in 1822. A meeting house 30x40 feet with 12-foot posts, to cost \$450.00, was built in 1825. This was retained by the Hicksites and used till 1852 when the stone house which the Orthodox had built in 1828 was purchased, the Orthodox then building a frame house on the South road.

"From the Western New York Meetings many Friends moved to the Territory of Michigan where meetings were established after 1830 in the southern counties at

Adrian, Battle Creek and other points."

In his letter accompanying the story, Mr. John Cox, Jr., says:

"I think it a good idea to mark the line of the old horse railroad. The past is so soon lost sight of, that thoughtful people do well to (as Bacon put it) "save something from the wrack and deluge of time."



Near tracks of
G. & W. R. R., on
Leicester Road.

Built in 1813.

Burned in 1816.

Present structure
erected in 1878.

Reunions are held
in July each year.

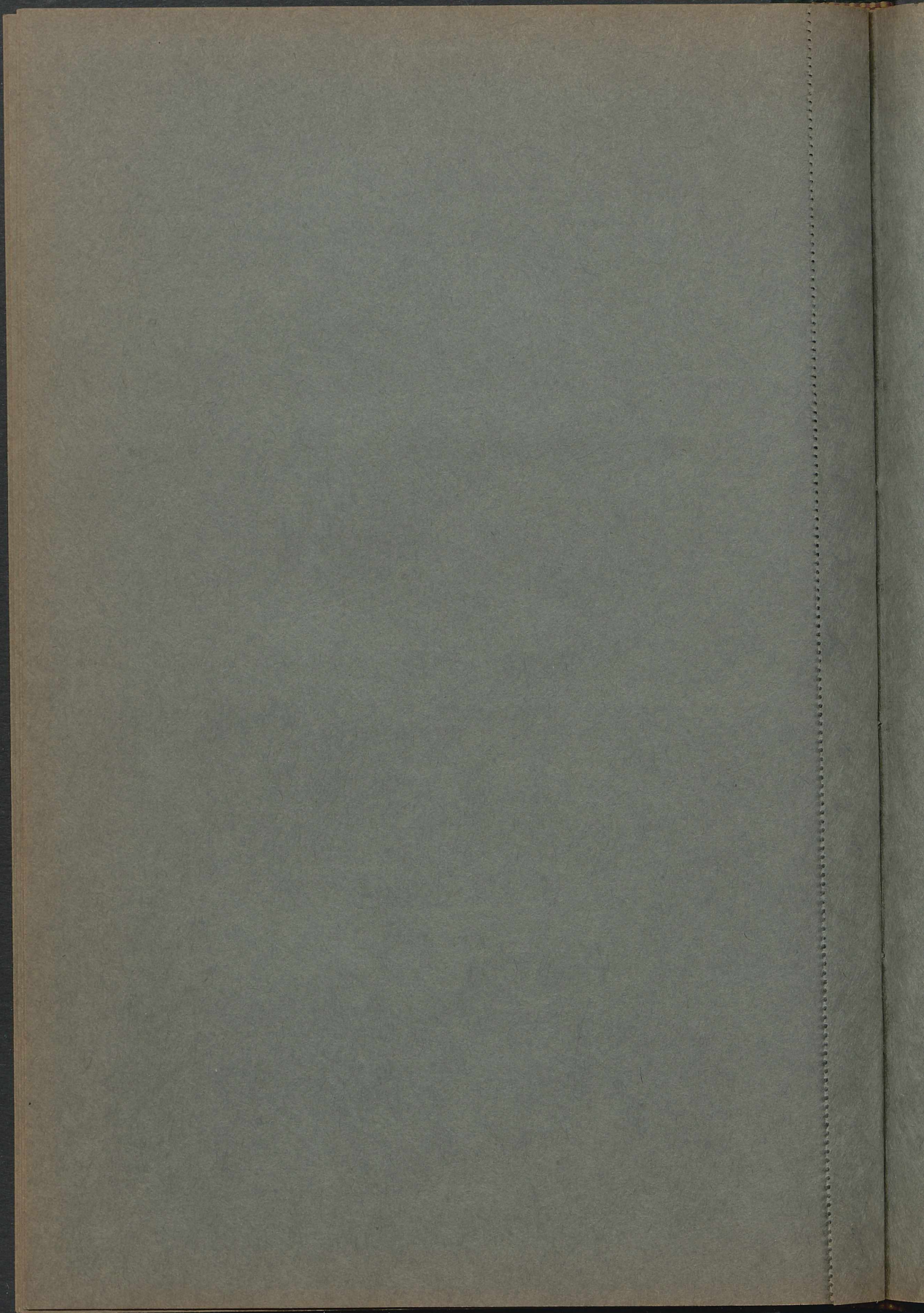
TAYLOR SCHOOL HOUSE, LEICESTER ROAD

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, STATE STREET, CALEDONIA, NEW YORK



The McKay family have been in the mill business since 1812. The property was purchased in 1802. The first mill burned and was rebuilt in 1839. Water power was abandoned about 30 years ago and electric power used. The roller process mill was installed. Sold to J. L. Reist in 1907, later sold to the present owner, Frank J. O'Brien, who has made many improvements.

THE MCKAY MILL



Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

FIRST CHURCH BUILDING WEST OF GENESEE HERE

That the first church building constructed in all the territory west of the Genesee River was located in Caledonia village is an item of history that I have not found emphasized in proportion to its importance. On July 4-5, 1926, Caledonia and Wheatland celebrated the building of the first school house, north of Oatka Creek, where the first religious services were held west of the Genesee and the first religious society organized which has had a continued existence, now the First Presbyterian, or "White" Church.

But at that event only casual mention was made of the first church edifice erected by this congregation. This was in the historical address by Judge Harvey Remington. Due to the vigilance and never failing interest of Misses Evelyn and Christabel Campbell in preserving church data, we are able to present a document which helps to round out the story of the first church.

"This was the first church built west of the Genesee River," wrote Rev. William S. McLaren, an early pastor of the Stone (United Presbyterian) Church, in his history of Caledonia, after locating its site on the "Niagara road," now Main street, at a point near the southeast corner of Leicester street. At that time this was practically the center of the little community which had been called Big Springs, Springfield and sometimes Enon, in the Town of Southampton. Possibly Leicester road had not been entirely laid out at that time.

Two acres of land "near the Springs" had been granted by the Pulteney owners in addition to the grant of 200 acres south of Oatka Creek (which includes the "old burying ground") as glebe land for the support of a church. Upon this two acres in 1805 the people built a log meeting house, 30 feet by 40,

the logs being of oak hewn on the inside. In this building enterprise the Scots from Inverness and those from Perthshire, although they had become alienated by a quarrel, "labored harmoniously together." It was finished sometime in 1806, the carpenter work being done by Colin Gillies. The McLaren record states:

"It stood not very far from the site of the house occupied by Mr. Hatch (later known as the McNaughton property), the gable ends looking east and west. The door was on the south side, not far from the west corner. There were four, possibly five, windows containing each twelve lights 7 x 9 glass. It was so poorly lighted that when it was full the people were often unable to read the Psalm. It had a gallery three seats deep at each gable end, both together capable of holding about 100 persons." The pulpit, which was of very plain workmanship, was on the south side just east of the door, with a desk for the precentor just below it.

After ten or twelve years of dissension between the factions, involving lawsuits, the difficulty was settled and the two agreed to divide equally between them all the property donated by the Pulteney Company. A church had been built on Leicester road at Ellicott road and soon after plans were made for a new stone church near where the White Church now stands. This left the property of the log church ready for disposal.

Lease: One Barleycorn a Year

As the land had been granted and dedicated for church purposes it was impossible to sell it, and it was not until 1827 that a legal method seems to have been decided upon or buyers found. Judge Remington found record in the Livingston County Clerk's office of an instrument dated April 16, 1827,

John McPherson for a consideration of \$806.50 and a yearly payment of one barleycorn for 999 years if demanded on the premises on each first day of January. This was evidently the east one-half of the two acres and contained the church building.

The west one-half was similarly leased on January 1, 1828, by the original instrument preserved by the Misses Campbell. Because the description is worth preserving, it is quoted in part as follows:

"This Indenture, made the first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight, between John Clunas, John McLachlan, Donald McKenzie, Donald McKenzie, Jr., Finlay McPherson and Donald McColl, trustees of the Caledonia Presbyterian Religious Society, of the first part, and Colin McVean of Wheatland, County of Monroe, of the second part,

"Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars, and also of the yearly rents and covenants herein contained . . . do demise, lease and to farm let . . . all that certain piece or parcel of land . . . described as follows:

"Beginning on the south side of the State Road at the NW corner of the east half of the glebe lot . . . thence along the south bounds of said road westerly (we omit compass readings) 2 chains 27 links to the center of the Leicesther road, thence along said road southerly 4 chains 45 links to a post, thence easterly 3 chains 31 links to the SW corner of the east part of said lot, thence northerly along the west line of said east part 3 chains 31 links to the place of beginning, containing one acre of land as surveyed by James Hill.

"To have and to hold said land . . . unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, yielding and paying therefor unto the said party of the first part and their successors in office the annual rent of one barley corn, to be paid yearly and every year from the date hereof forever. Provided, the same shall be demanded upon the premises on the first day of January in each and every year . . .

"Signed, sealed and delivered in

by which John Clunas, John McKenzie, John McLachlan, John R. McIntire, Phinley McPherson and Donald McKenzie, as trustees for Caledonia Presbyterian Religious Society, leased its share of land to the presence of James R. Clark and Donald Fraser, Jr."

The church timbers were evidently valued at about \$700. What became of them is a speculation, for they must have been removed early, as David Leathersich leaves record of other buildings occupying these lots in the 30's.

The question of "what is a barleycorn?" is easily disposed of. In this case it means simply one grain of barley. In early measurements it also stood for one-third of an inch. It is also easy to guess that the Caledonia Presbyterian Religious Society, which came into existence at a meeting held in 1802 at the home of Peter Campbell, one of the original Scotch settlers, has never been called upon to pay the stipulated barleycorn.

The instrument of transfer used as a substitute for a deed in the situation above is called a "lease in perpetuity." One deed, it will be noted, fixes a term of 999 years, the other goes one better and calls it "forever."

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

World's Best Seller Exhibit

Reading from the parson's Bible over his shoulder seems to have been one of the early Scotch jokes. In the first kirk at Main street and Leicester street, which was described two weeks ago as the first church building west of the Genesee, the galleries extended so far over the main floor that persons in the front row of seats could look down on the pulpit and some could even read the print on the pages being read by the minister.

It was hoped that this venerable volume might turn up from some family's book selves at the recent exhibit of Bibles at the White Church. It was an English Bible, used for the morning service. The first minister, Rev. Alexander DeNoon, grandfather of Lincoln and the Misses Clara and Anna DeNoon, preached in English in the morning and in Gaelic at the afternoon service, which was held in the church at Ellicott road marked by a boulder during the pastorate of Rev. R. G. Higinbotham.

The Gaelic Bible used at the Ellicott meeting house was on exhibit, now owned by Miss Gillies, whose family lived for years in that locality, giving the name of Gillies Corners to the intersection of Leicester and the Telephone road. It is a thick volume of rather small pages much bent by wear. Other Gaelic Bibles were loaned by the DeNoon family, by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Cameron, by Miss Catherine MacKenzie and by Mrs. Flora Cullings. The Gaelic language uses English characters entirely without accented letters. From the title pages one reads the spelling of Old Testament and New Testament as follows:

T-SEANN TIOMNAIDH
TIOMNADH NUADH

English Bibles shown were dated from 1797 to 1850. A considerable number seem to have been pub-

lished between 1810 and 1840, which raises the question why. A fair presumption seems to be that the early local settlers had accumulated some means and were demanding family Bibles to replace their earlier books. The outstanding example of fine Bible construction was a 19-lb. volume of 1217 pp., size 10 by 18 inches, with the names Robert and Isabel Aull in gold letters on the cover. It is in large type and has numerous engravings. It was loaned by Mrs. William McCabe. The smallest book shown was a Bible history size one and three-fourths by two and one-fourth inches, loaned by Mrs. Burt.

The oldest English Bible was brought from Scotland by a relative of Mrs. Margaret Cameron Wilson, published in 1795. Another, loaned by Chester Rutherford is dated 1802. Other religious books included a volume published 1758 loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Cameron, entitled, "Faithful Contendings, a record of the hottest time of the late persecution—1681-1691," and a book of sizzling hot sermons published 1808 at Catskill, loaned by Wm. Henderson, who also loaned a Huguenot Psalm book of 1774 and a Huguenot hymn book of early date. A French New Testament of 1810 was once owned by Wm. McKenzie.

Of local interest is a translation of the Bible by the late Mrs. Helen Montgomery of Rochester (probably the only translation by a woman), a "Sacred Melodies" published in Dansville 1845, a rare "Emphatic Diaglott" whose translator lived in Dansville, and a very modern "chain-reference" Bible with Mt. Morris, N. Y., on the reverse of the title page.

Two Bibles which attracted much attention were presentation volumes, one to the Rev. John Campbell by the session of a Baltimore church, the other to Angus McKenzie, an active elder of the

White Church' in the early 70's by the Ladies Aid with their auto-graphs. A list of all the exhibitors is too long for this column. Fully one-half of the entire exhibit came from outside sources of no local interest. The conclusion seems to be that no other book has been so generally and so carefully preserved as "the world's best seller."

A Correction

In the story of the first church two weeks ago the statement that the church had never been called upon to pay the stipulated rental of "one barley corn" should obviously have read, "to receive."

Rambles in Local History

5/4/36.

By F. F. KEITH

What Is History?

Henry Ford once said that "history is bunk." Later he had a change of heart and became a notorious collector of historical objects. Another definition of history is "an approximation of the truth." None of us were present to listen to our great-great-grandfathers' tales. They failed to write down the events common to their daily life just as we fail today. I can only approximate the truth of why one of my great-greats left the Green Mountain home of his boyhood, tramped or drove an ox team across New York State to Buffalo in the early 1800's (because my grandfather whom I knew until my maturity was born in Lancaster in 1809), then in 1812 retraced his steps to Livingston County, passing through Caledonia both ways.

Although my sire or yours is not mentioned personally, it is a close enough approximation of the facts to credit them with the good sense to have left the Niagara frontier one jump ahead of the drink-crazed Indians and British soldiers who ravaged the area with torch and massacre in 1812. It is recorded that one Indian was so terrorized by the approach of Sullivan's army at Conesus in 1789 that he ran all the way to Buffalo Creek before he looked back! The mob that swept eastward through Caledonia in 1812 did not breathe security until they crossed the Genesee. Even the Holland Purchase records were hastily conveyed from Batavia to Lima.

The sequel to the above comments is that Rambles column makes no claim for infallibility. In most cases a half dozen histories are consulted about important or controversial tales of a given event. The writers of these histories are more or less thorough and conscientious, "even as you and I." Copying and proof-reading leave holes in the cheese. "I have a newspa-

per clipping which says so, and it must be so, because it quotes so-and-so," is a common explanation when opinions collide head on. Besides this, Rambles makes no pretense of being a mouthpiece for the Big Springs Historical Society. Such a society is bigger than any and all individual scribes—a storehouse for all their tales. These Rambles are attempted only at the suggestion of Editor King.

The First Framed House

Two weeks ago Rambles discussed the first "houses" built by white squatters and settlers inside the present limits of the Town of Caledonia. For quite some years the word "house" meant a log house. Most log houses have disappeared, the remaining cozy log "house beside the road" being the Skivington house north of Mumford which was built by one of the first party of Scots, John McNaughton. Caledonia and a part of Wheatland were then included in a town named Springfield. Log houses were built up to the 30's.

In order to preserve as well as may be at this date the names of early residents of Main Street West, where early buildings—both log and framed—first progressed, last year I asked James Campbell, 92 years old, to list the names of house owners west of Spring Street in order as he remembers the names, or as he thinks they were in the 30's or 40's. Discussing each name with James Kelly, who was reared in that section, the list stands as follows:

North Side of Main Street

Stone tannery, Alex McFarlin, sold to R. Dinwiddie.
James Carruthers.
Harry Hatch, grain cradle factory, now West End Garage.
Mordecai McKay, fine tailor.
Jennie Fisher and Peggy Scott, spinsters.
Bradbury family.

Harvey Brown.
Robert Scott.
Kavanaugh sisters.
Joseph Donohue, Sr.
James Johnston, father of Wm.

and George.
Wilson Carruthers.
Cornelius Ryan (log).
Patrick Kelly (log).
Jerry Casey (log).
Peter Purcell.
Bernard Toner, fiddler.
John Gorman.

South Side of Main Street

Henry Hatch and Charles Hatch.
Robert Place, carpenter.
Patrick Malloy, Lawrence Callan,
owned by Ruth McVean.
(Leicester Street).
Waite's market (Dennis Kelley
house).
Perky family.
Patrick Malloy, Mrs. Feeley owner.
Patrick Mullen, R R. restaurant.
Wm. Solomon, then Thos. Preston.
Sebastian Englert, maker of cut-
ters and sleighs.
Wm. Curphy.
Lawrence McCormack.

The date of building the first
frame house west of the Genesee
River is fixed by G. E. Slocum's
History of Wheatland as 1799. It
was built by Peter Sheffer, Jr.,
whose marriage with Elizabeth
Schoonover was the first west of
the Genesee. He got out the tim-
bers in 1798, then hauled the lum-
ber in 1799 from Ebenezer Allen's
primitive mill at Walker's Falls
(Rochester). This house was in
Scottsville.

The Cameron House

Smith's History records that John
Cameron came to Caledonia in 1806.
He purchased the old log cabin and
a large farm adjoining, on which
he built a commodious framed house
and a store. The store is the pres-
ent Saints' Church. The house is
occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

Peterson, Brooks and Job Pierce
has preceded Cameron in occupy-
ing the site. The writer has an orig-
inal deed given by Sir William
Pulteney to Alexander McDonald
which has a map drawn on the
margin showing the location of the
one-half acre transferred. This ap-
parently coincides with the loca-
tion of this Cameron house. If so,
McDonald was the first owner of

the lot, although a hotel he con-
ducted personally was evidently on
the south side of Main Street, "just
beyond the church." David Leath-
ersich, speaking as of 1838, says:
"Next east of this store (Camer-
on's) was the hotel of Donald Mc-
Donald (son of Alexander McDon-
ald). The building, as now mod-
eled over, is owned and occupied
by H. J. Cameron. The hotel barns
stood on the south side of the street
on the site of the First Church par-
sonage and the space west of it."

Apparently this property was
purchased by Alexander McDonald
with the log house of Peterson on
it (Peterson being a squatter), was
occupied by Brooks, then Job
Pierce until 1806, when John Cam-
eron bought it. After 1806 Camer-
on tore down the log house and
replaced it with a frame building.
Later it was bought by Donald Mc-
Donald, then by H. J. Cameron,
who remodeled it. It is one of the
oldest buildings in town. John
Cameron and H. J. Cameron were
not related.

Other buildings will be discussed
later.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCHES ON!

The orderly preservation of local history took a step forward with the meeting last week of Big Springs Historical Society—the first meeting of all members since receipt of its charter, which occupied a conspicuous place in a temporary frame. The list of charter members is being engrossed by a Rochester penman on parchment of like size and color, the two documents to occupy twin frames.

The secretary reports that many application blanks were signed by initials only in the case of men, or by husband's initials in the case of women, who might prefer the entire name, like "Mary McBride Blank," indicating the maiden name, for historical preservation. Such persons may have the correction made by writing at once to Miss Alida Ball, secretary, Caledonia, or calling at the First National Bank.

History in Pictures

The guest speaker of the evening, Prof. Mau of Geneseo Normal, who came on short notice to "pinch-hit" for Dr. Holcomb, performed a signal service in suggesting by his use of slides, the valuable records that can be collected with a camera. A photo department for gathering pictures of street scenes, old buildings and portraits, with accurate descriptions, would lend interest to many members, especially juniors. Made into stereopticon slides, they would be available for many occasions.

Mr. Mau's collection, made by himself, exhibited paragraphs from early Livingston County newspapers covering market produce prices, time tables and promotion talk for canals and railroads, also fashion plates from Godey's Ladies' Book which stirred the thought that "such things can't happen here."

In 1848 a high pressure photographer warned "you and your loved ones to have daguerreotypes made before they may go to that bourne from which no traveller returns" in view of a smallpox epidemic.

Excess railroad fares were charged women who wore over twenty petticoats. (Who was to count them?) Newly invented gutta percha hoop skirts were intended to collapse and require less room.

A barrel of kerosene had been received and placed on sale by one merchant who considered it "less dangerous" in canteen lamps.

A stage was running from Geneseo to Buffalo as late as 1855. Later the railroads "annihilated" the stagecoach.

An important item of history was brought out by the speaker. It is a well known fact that the population of Livingston County reached its peak in 1850, but the reason for its rather abrupt decline soon thereafter is not so commonly known. The passenger pigeon, now mourned as entirely extinct, was then a greater pest than starlings and crows are now to grain farmers. Genesee valley was the granary of western New York and these apparently harmless birds drove the farmers frantic until many sold their farms and migrated to Michigan and Ohio. Weevil also appeared and was a contributing factor.

Another slide showed the old bridge across the Genesee at Mt. Morris. This bridge was a unit of the canal system which extended from Rochester to Sonyea and from there divided, one branch following the Canaseraga Creek valley to Dansville, the other the Keshequa Creek valley to Nunda, thence by locks over the hill into the upper Genesee valley and on to Olean. The motive for this extension was to connect with the

Allegany river, thus forming a waterway to the Gulph of Mexico, but the connection was not made. The canal towpath was built along the downstream side of this bridge so that the pull on the towline would be continuous. This bridge was built by Seth Foster, Jr., as contractor, about 1838. Foster's mother was Hannah Shays, oldest daughter of the Revolutionary captain who led the insurrection of farmers in Massachusetts in 1786-7 and later came to Sparta to live.

The Exhibit of Acquisitions

In order to prove that the executive board and its committee on acquisitions have been active, an exhibit of much interest had been arranged across one end of Redmen's Hall. Many articles were secured at the Garbutt auction, some from Wm. Maxwell and others. They ranged all the way from the big bass drum once used by the Mosier drum corps to a spool of wire from the original Gordon binder and the special hand shears used to cut the wire. There were carpenter tools of primitive design donated by John Cox, Jr., of New York; a one-handle plow, a long cradle blade and two sickles such as were used in cutting grain by hand; wooden hay forks and other farm implements; a number of stencils for making barrels with prints from them used in the Garbutt flour mill; saddle bags, hair covered trunks, a doctor's medicine chest, a woman's and a child's dress, apothecary's balances, boot-jacks, a flintlock rifle, a bullet mold, and household implements of early design. Two deeds, of 1797 and 1805, were loaned. The society also owns an ancient threshing machine and other items too large for this exhibit.

Frequent offers are made to members of the Historical Society of articles that will be available for exhibit as gifts or loans as soon as housing is ready. Almost as frequently they are told of old documents or wooden implements being burned by people who do not appreciate their value. Please do not destroy old things without finding out their value.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

ROUTE OF THE SCOTTSVILLE-CALEDONIA RAILROAD

Members of the Big Springs Historical Society committee recently appointed to prepare a fitting centennial commemoration of the early Scottsville-Caledonia horse railroad are now devoting themselves to gathering information as to the route, photographs, how the cars were built, and to searching for evidences of the track which was laid one hundred years ago. As the track and stringers were of oak, pieces still reward searchers. Some have not long ago been found on the Caledonia school grounds, at Mumford, and along the highway.

Probably the most authentic description of the route now in existence is the story published in the Caledonia Era in 1906 from the pen of the venerable David Leathersich. His memory went back to 1838 and from the older men of that time he reconstructed the following most interesting account. He had been describing buildings on the west end of Main street and continues:

"In our march east we have now reached the entrance to the present school grounds (the roadway west of the former Donohue store). This was the entrance at that time (1838) to the Scottsville and Caledonia railroad. The intention was to have the tracks of this railroad cross Main street to the site of the small buildings fronting on the south side of Main street, now owned by Mrs. Wilson. (Three small buildings were absorbed in the present Wm. McCabe building occupied by the Hebner Garage.)

The Caledonia Terminus

"The residence of Mrs. Wilson (now the Keith home) was then a hotel kept by James Clark and was to be called the Railroad House, but as the railroad was not a success these projects were not carried out. . . . By request I will

give the line of this railroad to enter Caledonia. The track was all of wood. The ties were grooved to hold the oak stringer or rail from spreading. On this stringer was spiked a narrow strip to guide the flange of the wheel and prevent it leaving the track. The stringer and narrow strip were of oak. The propelling power was horses. The road started from the freight house located on the school grounds and south of the school building, thence north, crossing Mill street and continuing north between the residence of Mrs. Pullyblank and the Catholic Church sheds.

"The road skirted a fringe of timber bordering the east side of Spring Creek, passing through the saw mill yard of Donald McKenzie, now occupied by the State Fish Hatchery ponds and east of the main building."

Mr. Leathersich records elsewhere: "North street in 1838 had one house to each 55 rods, but no business of any description except the saw mill of Donald McKenzie at the extreme north end . . . This saw mill doubtless prepared much of the timber used in the construction of the Scottsville and Caledonia railroad."

Crossing the Oatka

Continuing the route: "Thence north to the second street in Mumford west of North street, thence down that street to the plaster mill of Philip Garbutt (run then by that veteran Scot, Dougald McQueen). Crossing the street opposite the entrance to the present paper mill, it bore east of north to Allen's Creek, now the Oatka, a few rods west of the residence of the late David Nichols. After crossing the creek it crossed the highway a few rods north of the north end of the highway bridge, thence east through a cut that the highway now follows.

"Previous to this the highway ascended the slope to the creek road running east and west. It will be observed that on this slope there is considerable more space than is required for the highway. This was caused by the railroad cutting off a corner of the field not worth enclosing. The railroad

continued east on the south side of the creek road to and past the flouring mill of Mr. Hall to the road crossing the creek (at the present Ebsary plant).

"Here it entered the fields on the right of a building still standing there, crossing the fields in a north-east course, reaching the highway opposite the long line of sheds on the farm of William Garbutt, now owned by his son Philip. The Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh railroad, after crossing the creek below Wheatland, strikes and follows for some distance the roadbed of the former Scottsville and Caledonia railroad."

Omits Mention of Embankment

(Opposite the Garbutt "long line of sheds" there exists today (1937) the most outstanding relic of the entire route, the curving embankment wide enough for a farm driveway, now fringed with small trees, which merges into the main highway opposite the sheds. Photos of this embankment will be preserved along with those of numerous other spots. If there is any question whether this grading was originally for the horse railroad or for the B. R. & P. R. R., now is the time to settle the matter. Mr. Leather-sich fails to mention the embankment, although it was an essential need at this point across the low field.)

Continuing the story: "Here it crossed the highway, running on the north side of the highway, passing close in front of the store of Philip Garbutt through a tunnel (?), continuing in the highway un-

til passing the farm of Hugh Mc-Vean, and when at or about where the B. R. & P. R. R. crosses the highway it entered the fields, making for Scottsville, but after reaching the old grounds of the Catholic cemetery it bore east, striking the highway at or about the gates entering the present cemetery grounds, thence east to the plaster, saw and flouring mills at Scottsville. It was here that the river boats from Rochester loaded.

Erie Canal Spells Its Doom

"This railroad was in operation but a short time. With the completion of the Genesee Valley canal, the river boats were abandoned, as they were a slow and laborious conveyance, and the canal at once secured the business. That affected the railroad, as flour shipped over it had to be re-loaded and drawn to the canal warehouse at the east end of the village. This was doubtless the cause of the suspension of the road. Teams were employed to draw the flour from Mumford, Smith's Mills and Garbutt to the canal. This cartage was an important industry for years."

There will appear in the near future another story about the final stages of this rather daring experiment in early railroading. It is a human interest tale, entirely authentic, which introduces another angle to the fate which overtook the venture. The story has never been published.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

More About Gillies' Corners

The approach of another warm interlude in the "process of the suns" brings new pages of local history to the fore. Another summer will mean the completion of the "telephone road" project and will naturally raise inquiries about the early owners of properties along its route. Months ago this column quoted from the minutes of the school meeting in what was known as the Gillies' district and mentioned Colin Gillies and Gillies' Corners. This Colin was a carpenter. He built the first log church west of the Genesee at Main and Leicester streets and other buildings.

Mrs. A. B. Johnson submitted the statement at the time that he was the first owner of the "Spring Hill Farm," now owned by Arthur Johnson and that Gillies lived in a log house on the hillside where Leicester street rises from the Taylor valley. The discussion also resulted in a contribution to the history of Gillies Corner from Miss Margaret H. Haggart, of Hays, Kansas, great-grandniece of Colin, which we herewith reproduce. It will be noted that old spellings are used and that names of present related families are introduced in parenthesis.

Miss Haggart's Letter
FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
Hays, Kansas

Dear Mr. Keith:

Thank you for the letter regarding my family. I am so interested in your history and will do all I can to add to it.

My mother (the eldest in the Daniel Gillies family) talked to me a great deal about our history and I made notes on it. My aunt (a daughter-in-law of the John R. McKay's) remembers very little.

I don't know what year but the

Genesee county was divided—which may account for the omission of his name on tax rolls. Anyway, Gillies Corner was in York and would therefore not appear on Caledonia rolls in 1846, for I have a list of taxes he paid from 1843 on.

The map of 1858 is correct. My grandfather's (also the great-grandfather's Archibald Gillies') home is the big house at Gillies Corners. You will note that it is a two-story house rather than one and a half. Taxes had to be paid extra on two full story dwellings in those days. Grandfather's brother John (Minnie Cameron) lived in a house east about a hundred feet. His brother Duncan's place is now the Frank Grant place on Leicester Road. One sister, Mary, the wife of Donald Fraser (Harmans) and the other sister, Isabella, the wife of Peter MacIntyre (Denoons). My great grandfather had a brother Colin, who is credited with building the first church in Caledonia. He moved to Elgin County, Ontario, about 1816. The Laidlaws (George of Genesee and Mary Laidlaw Proudfoot, recently deceased) were descended from Colin.

I am sending you a copy of a letter of my great grandfather, Niel Haggart (he wrote it Neal Haggart in those days), written soon after arriving in Ontario. It is written to his brother-in-law (also my great grandfather), Niel Macdougall, of York township. It tells about the people who left in that emigration. The father and mother of Niel Haggart went with him to Canada. They were Alexander and Sarah McPhail Haggart. Niel's brother Angus stayed in Caledonia and married Mrs. Mary Orr, widow of the famous murdered man of the early days of which several accounts have been written. The Stones are from this line.

I have most of the material for

the family tree of the Haggarts, Gillieses, Macdougals, and McIntyres but have been so busy I haven't gotten it into form. This will doubtless spur me on.

You are certainly doing a valuable piece of work in republishing the tax rolls. I note several names which are incorrect, but the Campbells can correct the John R. MacIntyre and Mackenzie data for you.

In the record of Niel (Neal) Macdougall—his father came over. He was John Macdougall and he is buried at Mumford Cemetery, having died from injuries soon after coming here. His two sons, James (Albert Macdougall) and Niel (George Macdougall and myself), came with him, also his daughter Isabella who later married Niel Haggart. Two other daughters were married when they came—Jane, wife of James Stewart (James Campbell) of Caledonia and Margaret, the wife of Alexander Stewart of York (some descendants in York yet.)

I shall finish the family tree of the Gillies, Macdougals, and Haggarts for your use but shall leave the Macintyres to the Campbells. The Harmons and I will likely work together on the Gillies side.

I appreciate so much your work and real work it is.

Very truly yours,

MARGARET H. HAGGART.

Intimate Glance into 1817

This is a copy of a letter written by Niel Haggart (great grandfather of Margaret H. Haggart) to Niel Macdougall, his brother-in-law (also great grandfather of M. H. H.) after his removal to Elgin county, Ontario. He likely went in the early summer and this was written in October. He went in a wagon taking his mother, father, wife, and three sons with him. The sons were Alexander, John and Angus.

This letter written October 20, 1817, was received by Niel Macdougall in January 26, 1818 (from a note on the letter). The letter is folded and bears the following address:

Mr. Neal McDougall
Caledonia, Genesee County,
New York State

Lack of educational facilities in the early nineteenth century accounts for poor spelling, punctuation, etc., but such letters indicate the conditions of that day. He says:

"I enclose these few lines to inform you of our being in good health at present and hath been since we left you the little boys are still health and growing well father and mother is well Donald McEwen settels ten Rods from me and the Dewers and Stewart amile and ahalf I sold my waggon at ninty Dollars I got my logeing done and sowing which his eight bushels and ahalf our potatos is very good but the corn are poor being late planted but corn is good where it was planted in Seson the price of wheat is one Dollar but Seed wheat is 10 S we had afine passage of two days last July from fort erie (Erie) home Conserving what money I left behinde is Wilcox 12 Dollers & 50 cents Neal McDougale 5 Dollars James Stewart 11 Andrew Halley 53 Donald McColl 28 the total is one hundred and eliven Dollers Halleys note I left with Angus which you shall get from him and use the whole for yourselfe but four Dollers you will give angus you will return answer the first oppertunity. My Respect to you all and especially to your mother.

NEAL HAGGART."

Albrouch october 20th 1817
(Auldborough)

It is now pertinent for the present Caledonia families named to furnish some geneological data and records of incidents relating to early settlers.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

SOUTHAMPTON CHANGED TO CALEDONIA IN 1807

The first town meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Southampton, County of Genesee, was held on Tuesday, the 1st day of March, 1803, at the dwelling house of Jotham Curtis.

The second town meeting of Southampton was held March 7, 1804, at the house of Austin Brooks.

The third town meeting of Southampton was held on the 2d day of April, 1805, at the same place.

The fourth town meeting of Southampton was held on Tuesday, the first day of April, 1806, at the house of Shepard Pierce.

Then we read in the town clerk's record:

"Agreeable to adjournment the inhabitants of the Town of Southampton convened in Annual Town Meeting at the late house of Sheperd Pierce (now John Cameron) on Tuesday, the 7th day of April, 1807.

Legislature Passes Act

"The Town Clerk being requested to the Statement of the finances of the Town, which being done, the Clerk reported the Act of the Legislature of the State of New York, entitled an Act to alter the name of the Town of Southampton to that of Caledonia, which being done the meeting was declared to be holden for the Town of Caledonia instead of Southampton."

This quaint wording by Asher Bates, town clerk, is the only local official record of the naming of Caledonia, which has been credited to Charles Williamson, the Scot who had most to do with the founding of the community at "Big Springs." This record of the town meeting of "inhabitants" held just one hundred and thirty years ago the present week contains many names of the men who did things at that date and their resolutions reveal the matters of business most essential in their minds. The elec-

tion of officers results as follows:

Supervisor — Christopher Laybourn.

Town Clerk—Asher Bates.

Assessors—Peter Sheffer, Peter Anderson, James Ganson.

Collector—Asa Buel.

Poor Masters—John Ganson, Peter Sheffer.

Commissioners of Highways—Daniel Davis, John McKay, Powell Carpenter.

Constables—Noble Douglass, Asa Buel.

"The report of the Commissioners of Highways being read the

Following persons were Elected Overseers of Highways". (The numbers refer to road districts which were not defined in this book).

1. Richard M. Stoddard.
2. Asher Bates.
3. Peter Campbell.
4. Henry Buel.
5. Caleb Aspinwall.
6. Samuel Cox.
7. Edmund Gleeson.
9. Francis Albright.
10. Peter McArthur.
11. James McLaren.
12. Isaac Marsh.
13. Archibald Gillies.
14. Daniel McKenzie.
15. Benjamin Fowle.
16. William Lacy.
17. Andrew Wortman.
18. James Owles.

The Minutes

"Voted that a surveyor's compass and chain be purchased for the use of the Town to be left with the town clerk.

"Voted that one hundred dollars be raised to purchase a compass and to pay the bounty on wolf scalps.

"Voted that no male horse be permitted to run at large that is above one year old under a penalty of ten Dollars for each offense.

"Voted that no ram shall run at large from & after the first day of September until the fifteenth day of November under a penalty of five dollars for each offense.

"Voted, That this meeting be adjourned to meet at this place next annual town meeting."

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

When we read in the 23d chapter of Genesis that one Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth a cave for a burial place for his family, the statement presents to the mental eye a picture of two patriarchal looking men surrounded by sheep, goats, camels, children and more or less wives dickering over an exchange of values in a transaction quite familiar to us. On the screen it would make a romantic picture.

But it was a new experience for mankind. Here was being enacted the first sale and purchase of real property of record in all time. It happens that romance has followed this simple story down through the centuries. The location of that cave of Machpelah has been lost to all knowledge save tradition yet the dickering is related in much detail.

History is chiefly the story of man's movements on the face of the earth. Only a small portion of the story is known. Archeology is unlocking new bits of the past every day. Piecing them together we construct stories of entire civilizations that have flourished and passed away. When John Bailey digs from a mound in Livingston County a skull or a piece of pottery he can usually fix its place in the panorama of time. Not many days ago remains were found in Genesee which made the Rochester Museum folks sit up and take notice. Their discovery turned back the hands of time so many centuries that it is possible the bones and utensils unearthed may have existed at the time Abraham made his memorable real estate deal. This in Livingston county, not in Mesopotamia.

When the Lehigh Valley railroad was being graded through Caledonia, it was necessary to build coffer dams on each side of Spring Creek in order to lay the founda-

tions for the bridge on bed rock. Powerful pumps sucked out the water and the debris of centuries was cleaned from the excavation. From deep in the mud came numerous antlers, so Harry K. Annin states, and all of them were lacking one or more prongs, indicating use by human hands. As this spot is some distance from the Big Spring, it is a reasonable conjecture that the boundary of the small lake once reached this spot and that deer carcasses were thrown into the water by the Indians of that period, to be gradually covered by soil deposits. This may have been centuries before the white man first camped on the shore of Gan-e-o-di-ya and fished. Who owned this area then?

Whence the Title to Your Farm?

The title to Caledonia property does not run back to Abraham or even to Columbus. The Indians were happy to roam through the forests without a thought of owning a piece of land individually. Possession came with the pale face. Kings of Europe made wide claims to strips of America by discovery or conquest and liberal grants "from ocean to ocean" to favored groups who promised to found colonies. Sometimes these grants overlapped, but why worry? Indian titles had to be "extinguished" by purchase or treaty.

It was a tangled tale covering three centuries from the date of Columbus' discovery before lands known as the Genesee Country were offered for sale in Europe. Western New York was "wild land" in the main until soldiers in Gen. Sullivan's army of 1779 returned to their New England homes bearing amazing stories of the fertility of the Genesee Valley. Eventually the "title" to most of the Caledonia area reposed in Sir William Pulteney, of Kent, England, whose name was not Pulteney, but Johnstone,

until he married the beautiful Henrietta Laura Pulteney, countess of Bath, and assumed her name.

Early deeds of Caledonia, therefore, derived their validity from the "Pulteney Estate." Some were signed by Charles Williamson, the famous Scot who induced his fellow countrymen to settle at Big Springs, as attorney for Pulteney, until he was succeeded by Robert Troup, a New York lawyer. I have a deed to lots in Williamsburg, the one time boom village south of Geneseo, date 1795, signed by Chas. Williamson. But most local deeds bear the name of Troup as agent after 1803. This title has never been questioned.

Every year brought new settlers to Caledonia, who not only cleared the land of forest, excepting the "oak clearings" which were naturally quite free from forest, but founded industries, built churches and schools, and made this a famous stopping place for west-bound immigrants. It was during the 1820's and '30's, after the flurry and fear stirred by the War of 1812 had subsided, that Caledonia caught a new stride and three stone hotels were built.

It was late in this period that the horse railroad was projected. A hundred years have passed and the fourth generation of many of these pioneers are still residents of the Big Springs area. Life has assumed a tempo that would have dazzled the staid Scotsmen, but their sturdy courage and faith persists among their descendants.

While the high lights of local history have been well preserved in publications, there remains a vast lot of local tradition as well as the implements that made up that early pattern of life to be acquired by the history minded of this generation. If not collected and safely housed in the near future many valuable items of industry will disappear, while traditions perish with the individual who knows them.

Rambles in Local History

11/4/37.

By F. F. KEITH

WHO WAS WHO A CENTURY AGO IN CALEDONIA

Yes, Caledonia had an election in 1837 and they took plenty of time about it. If any of the candidates worked up a fever, it had to run three days. A candidate who was away ahead in the first day's voting might be away behind on the last day. There were no voting machines, no clamoring reporters with clicking kodaks. If a farmer was too busy to leave his work the first day, if bad weather or worse roads happened along, why, of course, the second or third day would do just as well. The official report, as recorded in the town record by Town Clerk James Hill, reads as follows:

"We, the board of Inspectors of Elections for the town of Caledonia in the county of Livingston, Do certify that the following is a correct statement of the result of a general election, held in said town on the 6th, 7th and 8th days of November in the year 1837, viz.: One hundred and sixty-four votes were given for the office of Senator"; 328 for Members of Assembly (2); 161 for Sheriff, 165 for Clerk, 646 for Coroners (evidently 4).

The inspectors of elections were Donald McDonald, James Hill, Wm. Barron, Collin McVean, D. D. Campbell. Candidates were:

For Senator: Laurens Hull, Calvin H. Bryan.

For Members of Assembly: Geo. W. Patterson, William Scott, John H. Jones, George Smith.

For Sheriff: Samuel Stephens, Wm. Weed, Halloway Long. (1 vote).

For Clerk: Wm. H. Stanley, Curtiss Hawley.

For Coroners: Hiram Hunt, Martin Hopkins, Hugh McNair, Jr., Andrew Sill, Alvah Southworth, Orlando Brown, Henry Willard,

Justice of the Peace—Collin McVean.

Clerk—James Hill.

Assessors—William Barron, Collin McVean, Donal (Daniel?) D. Campbell.

Collector—Augustus Hochkin.

Overseers of the Poor—Alexr. Simpson, Hector McLean.

Commissioners of Highways—John H. McColl, George W. Thompson, Walter Rutherford.

Commissioners of Common Schools—Donald McKenzie, Thomas W. Baker, Robert Watson.

Inspectors of Common Schools—James Hill, Harlow W. Wells, Alexr. S. Douglass.

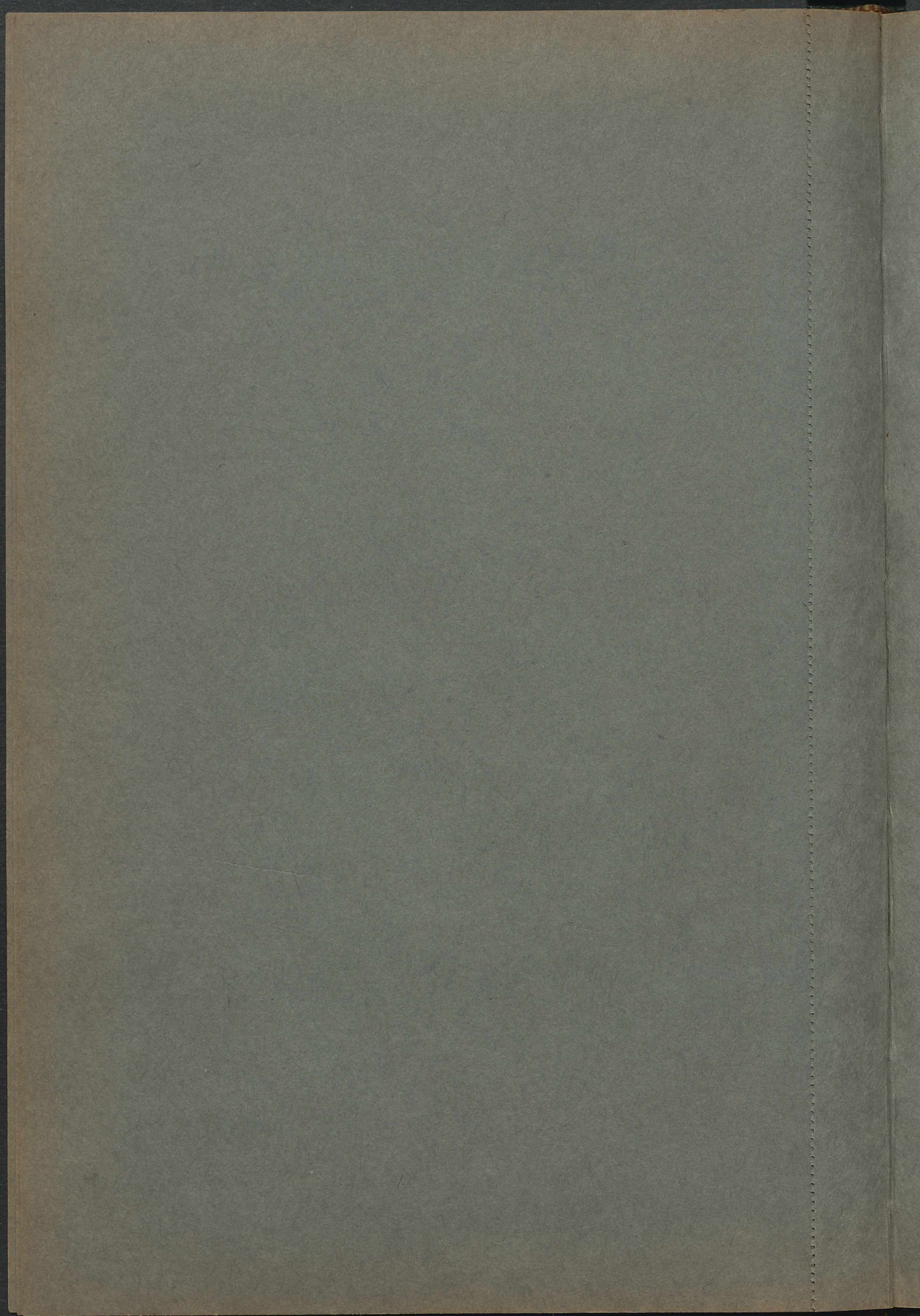
Constables—Augustus Hochkin, James VanVleet.

Sealer—Gad Blakeslee.

In this list are names of ancestors of many present families who may not know that their kin held office. For the same reason we present the names of Overseers of Highways with the district each represented. The boundaries of these districts will be discussed next week. First the overseers:

1. Darius Cox.
2. Warren Smith.
3. John Thomsen.
4. Alexander H. McColl.
5. Hugh Christie.
6. Joseph Curry.
7. John W. McNaughton (Farmer).
8. Job Tyrrel.
9. Alexr. Gordon.
10. Thomas W. Baker.
11. James Mann.
12. Robert Hall.
13. John Hally, Jr.
14. James R. Clark.
15. Daniel D. McColl.
16. Collin Orr.
17. James Stewart.
18. Elijah Humphrey.
19. James Shaw.
20. Robert Watson.
21. James Cameron.
22. Ephraim Lacy.
23. Benjamin Estes.
24. Neal McLean.
25. John McKay.
26. Donald McDonald.

is a test in the recent Detroit ele
tions and lost.



Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

CALEDONIA'S VALUABLE RECORDS

The town of Caledonia is to be congratulated upon its public records. To have preserved perfectly for our reading today the story of the first meeting of inhabitants held for the purpose of forming a political unit in this pioneer territory one hundred and thirty-four years ago is a heritage belonging not only to Caledonia but to all Western New York. Few towns are so fortunate.

Another feature of this record is the quality of the penmanship. To the modern eye a neatly typewritten page is the last word in desirability of appearance. It is legible. It is uniform. Considering the signatures that we try to read below a large per cent of modern letters, we agree that civilization without the typing machine would slip back into "innocuous desuetude," as the inventive Grover Cleveland liked to say. But a typed page lacks character, we must admit. Whatever we may discover of the shortcomings of our early citizens, the pages of this town clerk's book will forever testify that there were men chosen for the clerk's job who could "swing a wicked pen"—and a quill pen at that. There are quirks and flourishes and classically formed letters that must have pre-dated the Spencerian system.

However, the gravy is not the meat. It is the sidelight thrown on the life of that day that helps to paint the picture. Bear, wolves and Indians, swamps, bridgeless brooks and very little money entered into the record. The entire available assets one year after the first meeting, when the supervisor, clerk and justices of the peace met to check up, is recorded as follows: "There appears to be in the hands of supervisor \$64.65; also in the hands of the town clerk \$3.00, being money for the use of roads \$67.65." No school money that year.

In 1837, thirty-three years later, the total amount raised by tax on the scattered inhabitants was \$84.87 for schools (which with a like amount from the county was divided among ten school districts) and \$76.44 for highways. Hence it is seen that the overseers of highways listed in this column last week had very little of the "where-withall" to use in road improvement in their respective districts. Men and oxen were impressed into service by these overseers in lieu of taxes, of course, a system which prevailed until very recent years.

As stated last week, the list of districts with their approximate boundaries was crowded out and appears herewith. The descriptions in the book are, in fact, quite indefinite today but were, of course, clear enough to the writers. Boundaries fixed in 1831 evidently continued to 1837. But the interest lies not so much in the boundaries as in the names of persons living then in certain neighborhoods. Who can tell us where Pomeroy Stone's sign post stood? And who were the Wetherwax family? Most of the family names have a very familiar look, but so many transfers of property have occurred in a century that it would take a wise oldster to unravel the changes. The list is printed to stimulate discussion. We would like to hear from descendants of the families named who can trace their ancestry and the ownership of lands.

Road Districts, 1831

1. Begins at the town line on the river road, thence south to the north line of the Street farm and the road leading west to Daniel Cameron's east line.
2. Begins at the north line of the Street farm, thence south on the river road to White Creek, and the road from said creek, on the road leading northerly to Garbutt's

Mills, to the north line of the Gore, and the road leading from the river road west on the north line of the Gore, etc.

3. Begins at the west end of the Avon bridge, thence west on the State road so as to include the road leading north from the farm now occupied by John and David Walker, thence south, etc.

4. (Brief descriptions hereafter). State road from Walker's to big hill.

5. Ellicott and river roads west to new bridge, north to Sylvester Hosmer's, and the road leading from near Joseph Larvey's barn east to Hugh Christy's mill.

6. Town line near Inverness school north to Andrew Armstrong's, west to John Gordon's.

7. John Gordon's east line north past John Cameron's, west on line of Gore to n-e cor. Alexander Cameron's.

8. South-east section near Wm. Forbes farm.

9. State road from big hill west to Pomeroy Stone's sign post, etc.

10. Archibald Ferguson's n-w cor. on Leicester, east past John McIntyre's and John Campbell's to John Gordon's east line, south to Gordon's house.

11. Town line and Leicester roads north to Thos. W. Baker's hill, north to Daniel D McVean's, and from Leicester east to Widow Christie's, etc.

12. Leicester on town line west

to Daniel McColl's.

13-14. Combined lies west of Leicester. Mentioned: Thos. Baker, Widow McMartin, John Carmichael.

15. Seems a big one. Stone's sign post west on state road to town line. Includes D. D. McVean's, John D. Cameron, Robert McKay's.

16. Nathaniel Robertson's s-e cor. north to Alex. Stewart's house.

17. State road near Wm. Commin's shop, s-w by Duncan McColl's, w to n-e cor. Peter McVean's. Mentions John McKenzie, Donald McIntosh, Widow McKenzie.

18. State road near Dan. P. McVean's south to Peter McVean's. Mentions Daniel and James Stewart.

19. Begins state road near John Johnson's n-w to town line, east to Alex. McPherson's, south to Wetherwax north line.

20. Begins Willard H. Smith's on New State Road, north to Church street and past meeting house to s-w cor. Isaac I. Lewis's lot in swamp, and from sign post to Mr. Stone n-w to town line and also "past the old tan yard to Wm. McKayes."

21. Town line near James Cox's, s-w to south line of Gore, etc.

22. Town line near Patrick Monigan's south to Wm. Barron's, east to James Cameron's.

23. Town line near Allen Smith's south to Daniel Cameron's, etc.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Paying respects to the memory of the late Albert Feeley as a local historian, this column wishes to emphasize again the real value—the “hunch,” or “kick,” or “thrill,”—that comes to the amateur in history in digging out of his reading or his first-hand knowledge of facts, and presenting them for record, items of community life that should be preserved. It is out of the bits contributed by this or that ordinary person that the whole story is reconstructed—the complete picture painted in words.

Albert Feeley explained, when I first met him, that his correct name was Veeley, his ancestors being Holland Dutch. Of course “thereby hangs a tale.” The family of his grandfather lived near Canawaugus when that ancestor trudged off to school. An old Scot, rather rough and positive, was wielder of the birch who immediately demanded of the youngster:

“And what is your-r-r name?”

“Veeley, sir.”

“Ha! Feeley, eh? Well, Feeley, take your seat right ther-r-re, and mind ye get yer-r-re lessons.”

And so the name was entered as Feeley and has clung, because the schoolmaster was unable to train his tongue to the letter “V.”

Weighted with Rocks

Reference is often made to the first murder recorded in the Town of Caledonia, which occurred in 1807, but Albert Feeley is the only man who has come forward with an account of where the remains of James McLean were interred. He was convicted and hung in Batavia, the jury being composed of six naturalized and six unnaturalized citizens—an unlawful procedure. His grave is marked by a pile of stones just over the fence along the north side of the Lehigh Valley right of way where the third intersecting farm fence west of the swamp road meets it. This is said

to have been the McLean family burial lot, but all trace of other graves has disappeared.

A Fruitful Educator

Albert Feeley had limited educational opportunity for himself yet he loved to read and his memory was retentive. Next best he loved to tell of those he knew who had progressed into the higher walks of life. He had unbounded admiration for Prof. Ara Wilkinson, who was principal of the Caledonia public school long before it assumed the name of high school.

The list of Prof. Wilkinson's pupils given below assuredly sounds his praises as a practical educator of uncommon capacity. Mr. Feeley furnished this list as incomplete and subject to corrections. It presumes roughly to include those pupils who finished or nearly finished their preliminary studies under the tutelage of Mr. Wilkinson and went to schools of higher learning. He included only a few of the many young women who studied at Genesee Normal. Who will undertake to compile a complete roster of Prof. Wilkinson's pupils for preservation, with this list of Albert Feeley's as a beginning?

Pupils of Prof. Ara Wilkinson

John Coffey, lawyer.
Hon. Harvey F. Remington, lawyer.
Wm. McColl, college professor.
Elting Fowler, Washington correspondent N. Y. Sun, friend of Pres. Taft, Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, Justice White.
John Morrissey, M. D.
Dr. Graney, Le Roy.
Avery Brady, M. D.
Simon McKenzie, M. D.
Rev. Sebastian Englert, D. D.
Rev. Donald McColl.
John Cameron, D. D. S.
Peter McPherson, D. D. S.
Chas. LaBorne, D. D. S.
Alexander Hamilton.
Thomas Morrissey, law.

Judge Delbert Hibbard.
Wilbur Place, oculist.
DeLancy Cameron, civil engineer.
Charles Espie, D. D. S.
James Espie, D. D. S.
Walter Gordon, M. D.
Arthur Gordon, professor Romance
Languages.
Alexander Menzie, lawyer.
Robert D. Menzie.
Duncan Campbell, M. D.
Frank Hamilton, lawyer.
McMillan Hamilton, lawyer.

Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

Water

A Scotch minister of the old school, who spoke in the manner of "John Brown, his book," took for a text, "The devil as a roaring lion walketh about," etc. He began: "Firstly, let us inquire who, the devil, he is. Secondly, where, the devil, he is going. Thirdly, what, the devil, he is roaring about."

The roaring devil of water has held the front page in current history for the past two weeks. Fast melting snow has spread death and destruction through the valleys of thirteen north-eastern states. The big Genesee and the little O-at-ka, our nearest waterways, linked to Caledonia by our own poets, John MacNaughton and Margaret Tennent, staged their usual overflow, but it was frozen water that all but isolated us for two days by pulling down wires and shade trees.

Two phenomena of water which are unique to Caledonia may be of interest. On the lands of John R. McKay a mile west of the village the waters that gather from snow south of the Erie R. R. embankment have no outlet save by an underpass which is also a lane. At times a roaring current swirls down this lane and spreads itself over a two-acre field to the east where it disappears into rock fissures.

If the soil were removed these fissures might be seen in many places, but in one spot they are constantly exposed. The cellar bottom of the Keith home is of bed rock with several of these narrow fissures into which a rod may be dropped to note the action of water which once emerged in open springs, notably the so-called Fuller spring located in the street opposite, in front of the high school campus. This rock stratum is about seven feet deep, underlaid by a stratum of gravel. Water is always present in the gravel and perhaps two feet above. There is a story that at one time some fifty or more years ago during a wet spring water rose to the surface. The pres-

14, 1829, which reads: "Donald McColl and Annabella his wife to Donald McDonald, a certain lot . . . situated in the Village of Enon in the Town of Caledonia, bounded on the north by lands of Mr. McKay, on the east by the village lot of William Grant, on the south by the State Road leading from Albany to Buffalo, on the west by the lot and cabinet shop of Gardner Osgood, containing one acre of land." The west end of Main street was really the village in those days.

Last Ramble traced the name Caledonia back 1900 years in profane history. Here is another name for the same locality that dates back in Bible history to the same period. The canny Scots evidently knew their Bibles better than this generation and put them to work persistently else this Enon would not have been used in legal papers so long after the naming of Caledonia in 1806.

"But what was your lead in locating this isolated name in the Bible," was asked the reverend. "Well, you know there used to be hot arguments with the Baptists about immersion. The anti-immersionists quoted the Enon statement and claimed that springs would not furnish enough, water, so John must have sprinkled!"

Topermere or Tobermory?

Another name which the Scots brought along with Inverness from "the land o' the leal" is Topermere. Mr. Campbell remembers hearing it pronounced that way frequently, and a postal card is preserved by Miss Mary Elliott Boyd written by her great-uncle in the 1880s to Robert Place, so spelled. This uncle, James R. Clark, was a leading citizen in the '30s. This name was applied more particularly to the springs.

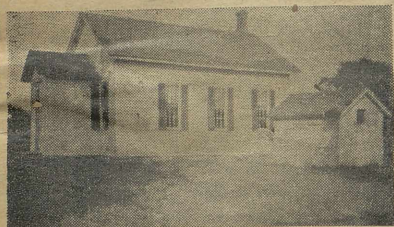
In a recent copy of a Scottish magazine appears a picture of a small lake and a castle called Tobermory, and the article speaks of a town by that

Thursday, October 6, 1949

NO. 9

The Taylor School An Old Landmark

The above school house in Dist. No. 2, or Taylor, once known as "Teasle Hollow", has recently been sold to Robert Balmer. This building was erected in 1882, but prior to that there is the record that for the sum of \$1.00 land was donated by Thomas Baker and Neil McLean and a school was built.



A partial list of teaches will include: Archibald Grant, Augusta Daley, Katherine Campbell, Agnes Morrissey, Gus Jenkins, Dorothy Simpson, Robert Stirling, Helen Nichols Stirling, Kenneth McKay, Olive Roberts McKay, Frances Tennent, Evelyn Robinson Campbell, Katherine Stirling McIntyre, Katherine DeNoon Ford, Betty DeNoon.

Of times prior to 1840 we reprint from "Rambles in Local History" written by F. F. Keith and printed in this paper some years ago:

Marian King Simpson brings to light a record book of School Dist. 12, which contains minutes of annual meetings from 1813 to 1839. It begins with a notification to "Thomas Dewar Junr," Esq., signed by Robert McKay and John Garbutt, commissioners of schools, that "an act for the establishment of common schools" was passed June

(Please Turn to Page 14)

Page Fourteen

TAYLOR, DIST. NO. 2 (Continued from Page 1)

19th, 1812, and "you are hereby ordered and commanded to warn all the taxable inhabitants" to meet at the home of Collin Gillies on the 27th of December, 1813, at 1 p. m.

This District No. 12 contained six sections of land, comprised parts of original districts Nos. 3 and 4, and later was changed to District No. 2. Its northeast corner was the gravel pit corner on the east branch of Center Street. It extended south to the section line near the Grant and Stoddard farms, west to a point on Ellicott road west of Leicester road a half mile, north to the DeNoon road (which appears to be the north boundary of the "40,000 acre tract"), thence east to point of beginning.

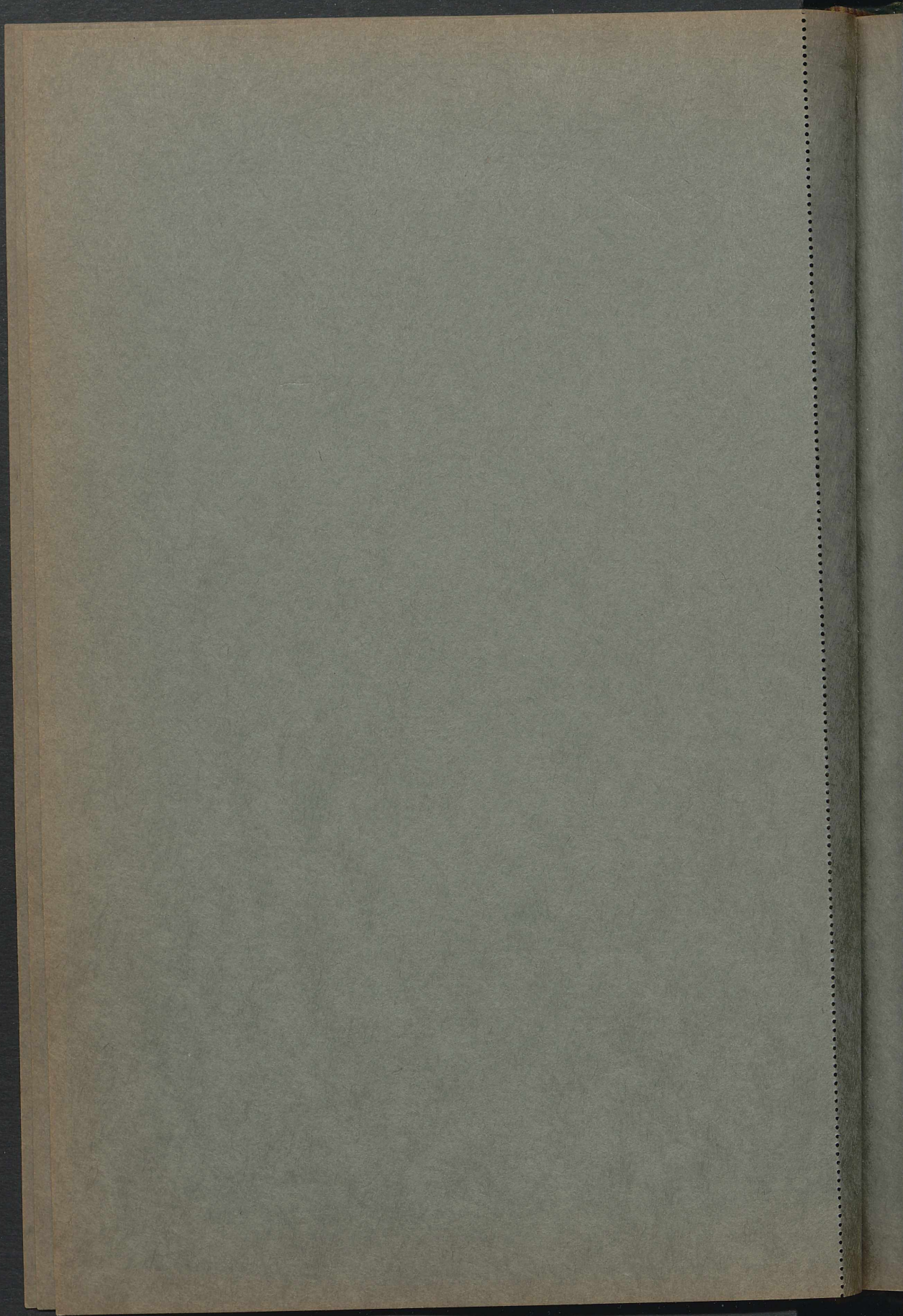
At this meeting, Thomas DeWar, Jr., was elected moderator, Daniel McLean, clerk; John McIntyre, Collin Gillies and William Forbes, trustees, and John Gordon, collector. It was "Resolved unanimously that a schoolhouse shall be built 22 by 20 feet." Next it was resolved that fifty dollars be raised for building said schoolhouse and a memorandum of agreement was recorded. It specified that the logs are to be "all of beech timber, the roof finished off with rafters, scantling, and clabboards nailed on, likewise two windows consisting of twelve lights in each finished off with glass and putty." There were to be "two floors, the lower made of boards five qrs. thick and the upper of one-inch boards; likewise writing tables and sitting benches so as to please the trustees. Also a chimney, hearth and backwall, and a door with iron hinges and a good lock and key to it."

It was specified that the school should be built on the northeast corner of C. Gillies' lot. Nothing being mentioned of the cost of lot or logs, it is presumed that such accessories were to be had for the taking. The contract must have been executed and the cost met by taxes without a bond issue, for at the next meeting in November of 1815 it was voted that "school shall begin a week from next Monday" and continue five and a half months. Daniel McLean was chosen to be school instructor at a salary of fourteen and one-half dollars a month. It was resolved that a "daybook be kept and everyone pay according to the time they send." Also a half-cord of wood was to be delivered for "every scholar they send to school."

Such is the picture of the beginning of common school education in what is now called Taylor school district one hundred and twenty years ago. Buried in the forest which they were slowly clearing, the few farmers living within the district were waging a tough battle for existence. It was a period of depression and money was the commodity they saw least of during the whole year. This fifty dollar building was probably as good as most of their homes and the small tax they paid was equal in sacrifice to the taxes of today.

Mr. Keith asked in his article:

Will someone furnish proof of the location of Collin Gillies' farm and the above school? The junction of Leicester and the Telephone roads was once called Gillies Corner, and two Gillies houses stood close by on a map of 1850.



RAMBLES IN LOCAL HISTORY

By F. F. Keith

3/28/40.—

Town Meeting in 1840

The population of Caledonia one hundred years ago was only one-third that of 1940, as indicated by the election returns entered in the town clerk's records of "Audits and Elections" which has been carefully preserved since the first meeting held in Southampton in 1803. Only 333 votes were cast for president compared with more than 1,000 today. There were no paved streets, and sidewalks were gravelled paths, with perhaps a few planks here and there. Nor was there a relief fund, although a severe panic had occurred in 1837.

The Town Board and the "Commissioners of Common Schools" met just a century ago this week for the annual audit, and the following week for town meeting. The Supervisor reported \$100 received from the Collector, which with the balance on hand at the meeting in 1839 of \$116.31 made a total of \$216.31. Of this he had spent during the year the sum of \$159.54, leaving a balance of \$56.57. Because nearly all of the payee list is made up of familiar names, most of them classing as ancestors of today's citizens, rather than because of the amounts they received (which, by the way, were figured to the half-cent), may we introduce these industrious, close-fisted men of 1840?

Alex. Gordon, service in '39.....	\$ 1.00
Alex Simpson, Supervisor.....	8.58
Jas. Hill, Inspec. of schools.....	7.00
H. Wells, same	7.00
Robert McKay, same	2.25
Angus Cameron, Commissioner of Schools	12.74
Hugh Christie, same	6.00
Donald McKenzie, same	6.38
Robert McKay, Clerk of Election	4.38
Angus Cameron, same	5.00
Dougal D. McColl, Commissioner of Highways	5.00
John A. McKenzie, same	8.00
Seeley Finch, same	6.00
Sylvester Hosmer, Assessor.....	14.38
Collin McVean, same	12.25
John A. McKenzie, same ...	14.37½
Wm. Barron, Justice	2.25
James McNaughton, same.....	1.87½
John A. McKenzie, for 1839.....	2.00
Dunc. McNaughton Jr., same	2.00
Paid members of the Board	4.00
Commission 1 per cent	1.58

\$159.54

Signed by James Hill, Town Clerk.

SCHOOL REPORT

The Commissioners of Common Schols, Angus Cameron, D. McKenzie and Hugh Christie, presented the following report for audit. They had received \$212.18 from the town collector and an equal sum from the county treasurer, total \$424.36, with which to operate schools in ten districts! Hard to believe, but here it is:

Dist. No. Libr.

No.	Pupils	Money	Teachers	Total
1	58	\$ 9.52	\$ 38.08	\$ 47.60
2	36	5.91	23.65	29.56
3	46	7.55	30.21	37.76
4	59	9.68	38.74	48.42
5	130	21.34	85.34	106.68
6	35	5.75	22.98	28.73
7	33	5.42	21.67	27.09

8	37	6.08	24.29	30.37
5 pt. 5		.33	3.28	4.11
8 pt. 5		.83	3.28	4.12
9	57	9.37	37.41	46.77
10	16	2.23	10.92	13.15

517 \$84.50 \$339.86 \$424.36

This seems to indicate that for education the Town of Caledonia spent at that time a total of 82 cents each for its children, compared with last year budget of \$61,860 in District No 5, or approximately \$145.00 per pupil.

HIGHWAY REPORT

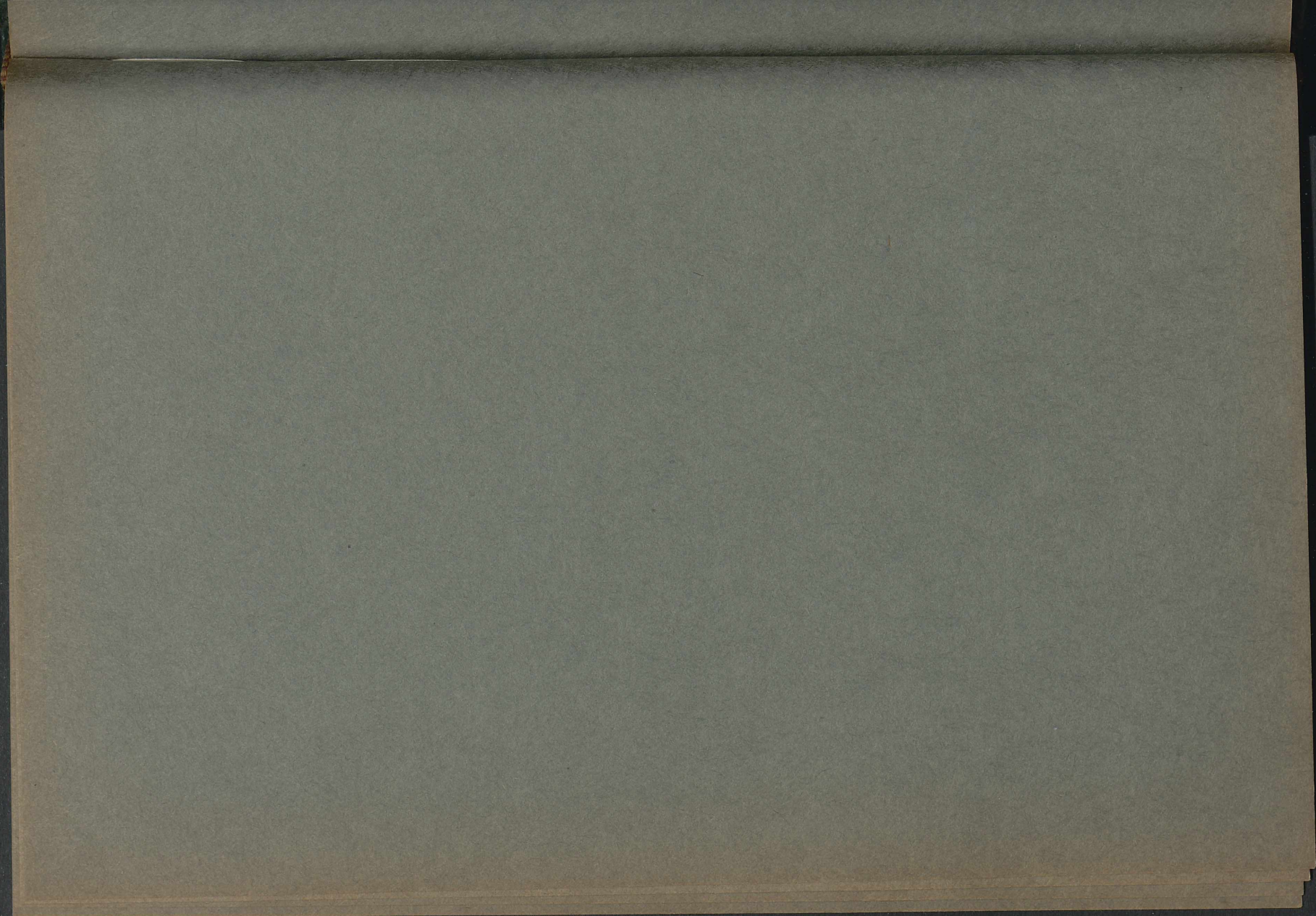
John A. McKenzie, Dugald McColl and Seeley Finch were Commissioners of Highways. Even then highway costs came high, overtopping both town and school funds. It will be noted that no item for snow removal is listed! The total budget of \$368.40 was spent as follows:

On the hill near Ephraim	
Lacy's	\$ 15.00
On the hill near Elijah	
Humphrey's	90.00
On the hill near Hugh	
Christie's	20.00
For plank for said hill	2.00
On the hill near Colin Orr's.....	4.00
On the swamp near Widow	
McKenzie's	80.00
On the road by Donald	
McKenzie's	23.00
On the bridge north of	
Seeley Finch's	10.00
Paid D. McKenzie for plank.....	11.04
Paid Collin McVean for plank and timber to put in a sluiceway	2.50
Paid for Collector's fees	18.36
Paid John A. McKenzie to pay expenses of new road in Dist. No. 16 near the house of John A. McKenzie	92.50
	\$368.40

The Commissioners asked for an appropriation of \$250 for the next year.

Next week will be published the report of town meeting with list of officers elected.

Who can locate all the hills mentioned in the highway report?



Editor F.F. Keith Ends Long Printing Career

Frederick Foster Keith entered into rest Saturday morning, May 7, at his home, 26 Main St., Caledonia, after two months of illness following a serious operation. He was born in Dansville, N. Y., October 21, 1868, the son of Benjamin and Fanny Foster Keith. His education was begun in the Dansville public schools and continued at the Dansville Seminary and Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima, from which he was graduated in 1890.

In boyhood he began the printing trade with the Dansville Breeze soon after the establishment of that paper. Following graduation he went to Chicago where he worked for several firms before purchasing the Harvey (Ill.) Tribune. He was editor and publisher until 1907.

On January 1, 1900 he was married to Elisabeth Freeman of Lima by the Rev. Frank J. Palmer. In 1907, he returned east, establishing a commercial printing business in Lima and remaining there until 1920. After a short association with the Allen-Bailey Tag Co. of Caledonia, he reestablished the commercial printing business here under the same name of The Keith Press. In 1947, the Caledonia Advertiser was purchased and Mr. Keith became editor of the paper and president of the combined plants, in which capacity he continued until his death.

Surviving are his wife, Elisabeth Keith; two sons, the Rev. Donald F. Keith, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Williamson, and Gerald of Caledonia; three grandchildren, Dona Annette, Elisabeth Tallulah, and Frederick Wortman; also a brother, Jay J. Keith, of Peoria, Illinois, and a niece and nephew.

Mr. Keith was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia, and had been a charter member of the Caledonia-Mumford Lions Club and was for some years chairman of the Boy Scout Troop committee. He took an active interest in church and civic activities. For the past several years he had been historian of the town of Caledonia and was gathering data for a history of the town, and especially of the service boys of World War II. He was a charter member and vice-president of the Big Springs Historical Society.

Mr. Keith rested at his home until Tuesday, where many friends came to pay tribute. Services were conducted at the Sabin Funeral Home at 2:30 Tuesday, local stores being closed during that time. A beautiful memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Orville G. Bosley, at which Rev. Donald F. Keith read poems appropriate to his father. Interment was in Mumford Rural Cemetery.

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1949

Frederick Keith Dies; Caledonia Publisher

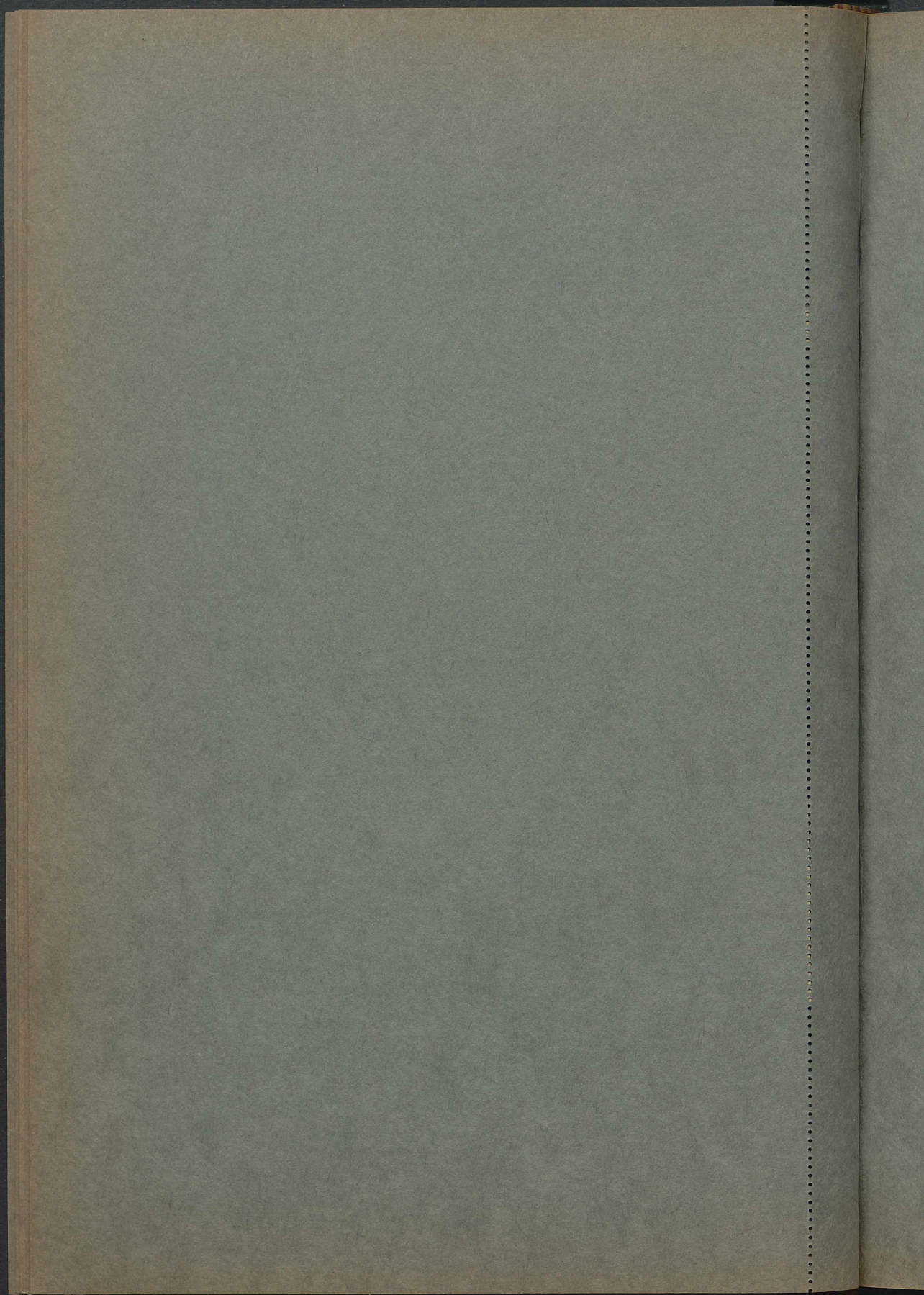
Caledonia—Frederick Foster Keith, 80, of 24 Main St., Caledonia, editor and publisher of the Caledonia Advertiser, weekly newspaper here, died yesterday (May 7, 1949) in his home. He underwent a serious operation last January and never fully recovered his health.

He was born in Dansville on Oct. 21, 1868, a son of Benjamin and Fanny Foster Keith. He was married to Elisabeth Freeman of Lima on Jan. 1, 1900, at Lima, by the Rev. Frank J. Palmer.

From 1897 to 1907 he was editor and publisher of the Harvey Tribune at Harvey, Ill., a Chicago suburb. He left there and opened a printing shop in Lima which he operated until 1920. He then came to Caledonia and opened a printing shop. On Jan. 1, 1947, he purchased the Caledonia Advertiser from Lawrence King.

Mr. Keith was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, a charter member of the Caledonia-Mumford Lions Club, and had been town historian for the past 5 years.

He leaves his wife; two sons, the Rev. Donald F. Keith of Williamson and Gerald F. Keith of Caledonia; three grandchildren; a brother, Jay J. Keith of Peoria, Ill., and a niece and a nephew.



"TIMES HAVE CHANGED"

After the War in '65 taxes were not
so high,
To make a living it was not so
hard to try.
We were quite contented in having
our share
Of plain food to eat and warm
clothes to wear.
At this time many of our people
bought a home,
For which the family helped pay
and call their own.
The Boys helped Dad until they
were twenty-one,
They didn't buy gas or have a car
to run.
In Scottsville times were better
then than now,
Because many families kept two
pigs and a cow.
The boys herded the cows on the
road each day,
And at the end of the week
received their pay.
We never had to go to the store
every day.
Because the cellar was full stored
away—
With apples, potatoes, some hams
and kraut,
And pumpkin pies to melt in your
mouth.
Mothers always had plenty of flour
to bake,
All the bread needed for a family
of eight.
And those old fashioned cookies and
fried cakes,
We never can forget how good they
did taste.
Today foods of all kinds may be
had in cans,
Cars and radios are bought on the
installment plan.
Flour mills and shops have all gone
to decay,
And many of our men are working
on the W. P. A.
Those happy days of long ago have
passed,
But in our memory they will al-
ways last.
The old home town that is still
here,
Let us hope we will have better
times this year.

—GOODARD J. FREIDELL,
Scottsville, N. Y.



Out Our Way

ROCHESTER TIMES-UNION

Mon., Apr. 14, 1958

29



Rambles in Local History

By F. F. KEITH

The address by Judge Arthur Jay Lacy at the pioneer railroad centennial celebration of August 27th was an outstanding feature of the occasion. Journeying from his home in Detroit to meet this date made last January, Judge Lacy paid a distinct compliment to the present day people of Wheatland—the home of his ancestors and correlated families—by his presence. He was accompanied by two appealing young men, his nephews.

Expressing his warm appreciation of the privilege of treading the soil of his forefathers and of meeting face to face again not only his own kin but the descendants of neighbors and friends of his ancestors, he voiced the opinion of another speaker that the pioneers in sparsely settled regions were in every way equals in intelligence and stamina with those who built cities.

Culture Shown by Pioneers

He stressed his conviction that the men and women who were tied by their daily life to supposed roughness and lack of what we term culture by their pioneer environment were, in fact, as refined as later generations in their thinking. As proof he presented a letter written, as he supposed, by Zachariah Garbutt to his young friend Levi Lacy. On his return home Judge Lacy writes me that he believes he was mistaken: that the writer of the letter was William, a son, instead of Zachariah Garbutt, who died in 1807.

This letter, signed by initials only which are illegible, was written in December, 1811. Levi Lacy was to be married on Christmas Day.

On one Sunday morning shortly before his marriage, William Garbutt took a walk across the fields to visit his friend Levi, but Levi was absent. It is not at all improbable that Levi was with his bride-to-be, the lovely Eunice Cady, in attendance at the new Baptist Church of Wheatland, which had just been organized in that year and of which his father, William Lacy, was one of the original twelve organizers. Reverend Solomon Brown, a Revolutionary Soldier, as was also William Lacy, was the preacher in the log schoolhouse where they first worshipped.

William Garbutt returned home, and that evening, in the quiet of his log house and by aid of candlelight and a quill pen, he wrote a letter to his friend Levi, which is a classic in composition and wisdom. The original of this letter is in the possession of Judge Lacy of Detroit, a descendant of William and Lucy Gregory Lacy, and was read by him on this occasion. A photostat copy is now in the possession of Big Springs Historical Society. It reads as follows:

Letter to a Prospective Groom

"Friend Levi: This morning, I took a walk across the fields to see you, but you were not at home. If my eyes will permit me to write, I will make up the loss by sending a few lines.

"Friend, you are about to enter into the bonds of matrimony, an action that requires your serious attention, for on it your happiness or misery depends. If you prove yourself to be unworthy of the trust that you take upon you, or if you neglect the duties of a husband, it will be a gall of bitterness that will render you and your partner miserable for life; but if you do your duty and discharge the important trust with tenderness and wisdom, you most likely will pass your life in sweet tranquility and peace, and when old age comes on you may look back with pleasure on a life that has been well spent in cherishing your spouse and instructing your posterity in virtue and truth.

"Friend, you are about to take into your charge for life the welfare and happiness of one who ought to be as dear to you as your life itself, and on whom your own happiness depends. It, therefore, becomes you to study her happiness with a tender and sympathetic

heart, and you will likely meet your reward, for a good husband makes affectionate wife.

"I must conclude for my eyes refuse to give me any longer aid. I remain, sincerely, W. G."

Levi and Eunice both fulfilled in highest degree this wise counsel, lived happily, raised a family of fine and successful sons and daughters, were greatly esteemed in their community, and rest side by side among their parents and loved ones in the peaceful pastoral Garbutt Cemetery in Wheatland Township, which has since become the burial place of many of their descendants and collateral relatives.

High Standards of Pioneer Girls

Judge Lacy's estimate of the character of the Wheatland settlers is amply reinforced by Hon. Philip Garbutt, whose address before the Scottsville Literary Society in 1903 states: "The early settlers of Wheatland held a reputation for intelligence, enterprise and stability of character above what is usually looked for or expected in isolated settlements where opportunities for culture are wanting. Much of that reputation resulted from the fact that a large number of the settlers came with families wherein were many young women who become the mothers of Wheatland whose influence molded the character of the community."

Judge Lacy's address, which was not in manuscript, was closely followed and has received much warm and favorable comment. A few paragraphs about the Lacy family, who were prominent in both Wheatland and Caledonia and are still represented among the inhabitants of these towns, including also Chili and Avon, will make an interesting historical record.

The Lacy Family

William (1761-1814) and Lucy Gregory Lacy (1759-1808), originally from Fairfield County, Connecticut, settled in Seneca Township, Ontario, New York, in 1800. In that same year, Zachariah Garbutt, who with his wife and his three sons, John, William and Philip, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Phebe, had come from England in 1798, lived on the banks of the Hudson River for two years, until 1800, also settled in Seneca Township, Ontario, New York, where they lived as neighbors of the William and Lucy Gregory Lacy family for about four or five years.

In 1804, the Lacy family moved westward, settling in what is now Wheatland Township, Monroe County, a short distance west of Scottsville, and the son, John Garbutt, also came to Wheatland at that time, and was shortly afterwards followed by the rest of the Garbutt family.

The Cadys and Garbuts

About this time, or shortly afterwards, Col. Rufus Cady (1755-1821) came with his family from Dalton, Mass., to Wheatland. Among his daughters was Mercy Cady (1788-1848), who married John Garbutt (1780-1855); and also Eunice Cady (1790-1875), who married Levi Lacy (1786-1854), the eldest child of William and Lucy Gregory Lacy, hence John Garbutt and Levi Lacy were brothers-in-law.

Levi Lacy was a captain in the War of 1812-14, and reputed as a very courageous and valiant soldier. On the roll of his company dated September 1, 1814, appear the names of his brother, Ephraim Lacy as a corporal, John Garbutt, as a sergeant, and Philip Garbutt and William Garbutt as privates; and to this roll is appended this memorandum: "Fort Erie, Sept. 23, 1814. Left the Fort, having conquered the British. J. Garbutt, Sergt. Commandant." Pervis W. Cady was also a sergeant in Capt. Levi Lacy's Company. After the war, Capt. Levi Lacy continued in service, and in 1816 was Captain of the 77th Regt. N. Y., and in 1818 he was Captain of a company in

(Continued on Page Eight)

CALEDONIA, NEW YORK

tained at first 200 acres which he cleared and on which he built a log house. He added 100 acres and in 1839 built a new house, still used. It is related that when ready to build he sent his sons Volney, then aged 17, and Daniel, aged 12, to Dansville with an ox team to haul the lumber. This farm descended to Volney, who is remembered by the older generation. Ephraim's wife was Mary Dickinson (1792-1870). He died in 1866.

William Lacy had also the following six children:

Sally (1790-1819), who married a Mr. Hosmer.

Polly (1792-1873), husband's name unknown.

Eli (1795-1876), m. Joanna Franklin, daughter of a Chili family.

Daniel (1798-1828), a physician, married Lucy Dickinson.

John W. (1800-1831), lived in Ontario County.

Lucy (1802-1847), unmarried.

"Who's Who" Record

Judge Arthur J. Lacy is descended from Eli Lacy through a son, Francis (1838-1907), who married Eunice Stevens and lived in Wyoming County. He was a lumberman, agriculturist and writer. From his father and by home study Judge Lacy received his preliminary education. From "Who's Who in America" we glean that he received the degree of LL.B. from Valparaiso (Ind.) University in 1896 and was graduated from the University of Michigan 1898, when he was united in marriage with Beth Garwick. In 1899 he was admitted to the Michigan bar, beginning practice in Claire, Mich., settling in Detroit in 1899. He is a member of the faculty of the Detroit College of Law and is recognized as an authority on taxation and government costs. In 1934 he was Democratic candidate for the governorship. His judicial work has been with the Domestic Relations Circuit of Wayne County, Mich. His activities have led him into the directorship of a bank, and honored positions in the Bar Association, a hospital board and various societies and clubs.

Rambles in History

(Continued from Page One)

the Regiment of which Rufus Cady, Jr., his brother-in-law, was Colonel.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that as neighbors and through military service and intermarriages, the Lacy, Garbutt and Cady families were closely associated and related. Levi Lacy married Eunice Cady on December 25, 1811, as noted above.

Some Genealogy

The Philip Garbutt review of pioneers says that "the Lacy family were intelligent, studious and assiduous readers of books. To them the community owed much for its intellectual life and reputation."

Ephraim Lacy was a resident of Caledonia, having purchased a farm two miles east of town still known as the Lacy farm and still owned by members of the family. It con-

