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A

DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
Genesee Country,

IN THE  
STATE OF NEW-YORK:

IN WHICH THE SITUATION, DIMENSIONS, CIVIL DIVISIONS, SOIL,  
MINERALS, PRODUCE, LAKES AND RIVERS, CURIOSITIES, CLIMATE,  
NAVIGATION, TRADE AND MANUFACTURES, POPULATION,  
AND OTHER INTERESTING MATTERS RELATIVE TO  
THAT COUNTRY, ARE IMPARTIALLY DESCRIBED.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
AN APPENDIX,  
CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF  
The Military Lands.

BY ROBERT MUNRO.

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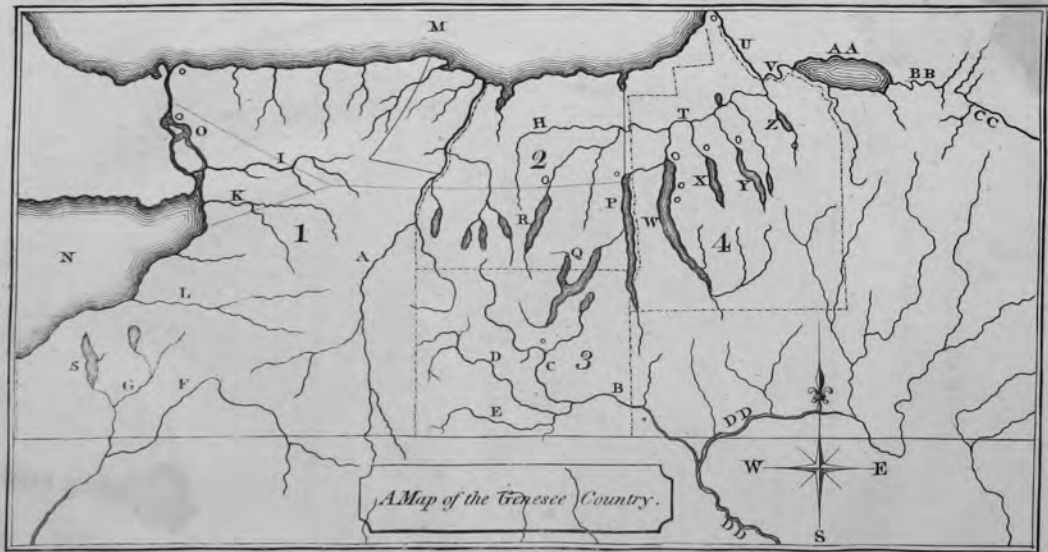
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Description, &c.

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REFERENCES TO THE PLATE.

A <i>Genesee River,</i>	S <i>Chataughqua Lake,</i>
B <i>Tioga River,</i>	T <i>Seneca River,</i>
C <i>Conhocton River,</i>	U <i>Oswego River,</i>
D <i>Canisteo River,</i>	V <i>Onondago River,</i>
E <i>Canawisue River,</i>	W <i>Cayuga Lake,</i>
F <i>Alleghany River,</i>	X <i>Owasco Lake,</i>
G <i>Canowongo River,</i>	Y <i>Skaneateles Lake,</i>
H <i>Mud Creek,</i>	Z <i>Salt Lake,</i>
I <i>Tonawanda Creek,</i>	AA <i>Oneida Lake,</i>
K <i>Buffalo Creek,</i>	BB <i>Wood Creek,</i>
L <i>Catteragus Creek,</i>	CC <i>Mohawk River,</i>
M <i>Lake Ontario,</i>	DD, DD <i>Susquehanna River.</i>
N <i>Lake Erie,</i>	1 <i>Genesee County,</i>
O <i>Streights of Niagara,</i>	2 <i>Ontario County,</i>
P <i>Seneca Lake,</i>	3 <i>Steuben County,</i>
Q <i>Crooked Lake,</i>	4 <i>Military Tract.</i>
R <i>Canandarqua Lake,</i>	

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THE country to which the name of *GENESEE* is given, is the most westerly part of the State of New-York, and is situated between 3 degrees and 5 deg. 50 min. longitude west from New-York city, and between 42 deg. and 43 deg. 15 min. north latitude. Its greatest length from east to west is 125 miles, and its greatest breadth about 95 miles, containing nearly 5 millions of acres. It is bounded south on the north boundary of the State of Pennsylvania; north by the southern shore of Lake Ontario; west by the eastern boundary of Presque-Isle (a flourishing settlement in Pennsylvania) 18 miles; north-west by the south-east shore of Lake Erie, 70 miles; west by the streights of Niagara, upwards of 37 miles; and east by a meridian line running due north from the north boundary of Pennsylvania, at the 82d mile-stone, to the south shore of Lake Ontario. Its least distance by roads is—to Albany 190 miles, to New-York 245 miles, to Philadelphia 250

miles, to Baltimore 250 miles, to Washington-City 280 miles, to Pittsburg nearly 100 miles, and to Montreal by water 250 miles.

Its name is taken from the river Genesee, and signifies in the Indian language a pleasant valley. In the year 1789, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, Esquires, of New-England, purchased from the State of Massachusetts the pre-emption right of a large tract of land in the eastern part of this country, under the jurisdiction of the State of New-York ; but little was done in the settlement of it until the year 1792, when the roads leading to this country were made and improved, and other extensive improvements were effected ; and the progress of the settlement of this country has since been uncommonly rapid.

Nearly one half of this country, situated nearest the southern boundary, is generally hilly and broken, consisting however of many fertile tracts of land. The face of the other parts is generally even, a considerable part, on the east of Genesee river, consisting of low ridges or gradual swells running parallel with each other, which form handsome uplands and meadows ; and on the west of Genesee river the country is more level.\* On both sides of Genesee river are large openings which are thinly timbered, very fertile, and could easily be put under cultivation. In the eastern part the country in many places makes a pleasant and flourishing appearance, the settlers having a prevailing practice of building adjoining the public roads, and cultivating lands nearest them. From Canandarqua to Genesee river, a distance of 25 miles, the country has the most flourishing appearance, that part being earliest settled, and abounds with very substantial improvements, which are seldom equalled in the United States, in the pleasantness of their appearance.

The quality of the soil is various, but in the better or most even parts of the country before mentioned, a rich loamy soil is the most common, and it is sometimes covered on the top with a loose black mould, from six to ten inches deep. The most common sorts of timber in these parts of the country is as follows : sugar maple, beech, lyn (here called basswood) oak, ash, and elm ; and the hilly parts are mostly timbered with oak. Where the sugar maple and basswood are most common, the land is generally esteemed best for grass, and probably for grain, and is experienced to be durable ; and lands which produce mostly beech timber, are considered as generally clayey, wet, and cold. A considerable portion of the better part of the country is timbered with oak, and lands on which it is of a large growth are by many esteemed the most durable, although at first not productive of as good crops as maple lands, and harder in tillage. Grain is frequently put into

\* According to the geographical descriptions given of this country, it is erroneously reported as being "a dead level," a description that is only applicable to a small proportion of it.

the ground without ploughing, the ground being only broke with a heavy harrow, and often yields, with this cultivation, upwards of twenty bushels of wheat from an acre. In a considerable portion of the country, a rock of limestone lies from 2 to 6 feet under the surface of the earth, and large quantities of the loose stone are sometimes found above the surface, which is manufactured to advantage, and some of the best quality is now used in building.

But although the growth of timber usually denotes the sort of soil on which it grows, yet it sometimes happens that the soil varies materially in different places where the same sort of timber grows; and it is observed in some parts that the growth of the young timber is of a different sort from the old. Lands on which the growth of timber almost entirely consists of maple, basswood, and beech, appear to be attended with a scarcity of timber most suitable for fences; although a quantity of oak, elm, ash, &c. is usually found on land of this description, sufficient for the purposes of fencing and building, and basswood rails, when the bark is taken off, are tolerably durable.

The most useful sorts of timber are, the sugar-maple, oak, pine, yellow poplar (here called white wood) wild cherry, white and black walnut, chesnut, hickory, wild plumb and dogwood.—Of shrubs and plants the most noted are, sassafras, wild hops, fox grapes, in some parts, elder, sumac, raspberry, ginseng, sarsaparilla, snakeroot, spikenard, mandrakes, in taste and flavour much resembling a pine apple, strawberries, whortleberries, cranberries, and wild gooseberries. The sorts of trees and shrubs which are most scarce, are hemlock fir, cucumber tree, white poplar, white and black birch, turmeric tree, spruce pine, locust tree, prickly ash, spice wood, hazel nut, willow, and alder. Fruit, as apples, peaches, plumbs, cherries, &c. grows to much advantage, and in some parts are orchards that were raised by the Indians; but fruit trees, in this country, were mostly destroyed in the expedition of General Sullivan against the Indians in the revolutionary war. This country is very favourable for the raising of grass, the uplands usually producing from a ton and a half to two tons an acre, and sometimes three tons. It is uncommonly favourable for wheat, of which, when it is well and early put into the ground, from twenty to twenty-five bushels are usually raised on an acre; but it has been known to yield forty and frequently thirty bushels an acre, and the grain is generally large and of a good quality. Corn generally grows to the amount of 30 to 40 bushels on an acre, and in some instances, on the flats of Genesee river and of Mud Creek, it is said, to the extent of 70 and 80 bushels an acre, and is very heavy and substantial in quality. Rye commonly yields a less quantity than wheat; oats, buckwheat, and other sorts of grain, are very productive. Flax and hemp grow very luxuriantly, though in some years the crops of flax are indifferent. Potatoes, turnips, cabbages, onions, and

other productions of the gardens, grow to great perfection. Tobacco is raised of a good quality, but as yet not in large quantities : a gentleman from Maryland has raised some thousand plants of it, last fall, and it is believed that it might be advantageously raised for market. Maple sugar is manufactured in such quantities, that some of the inhabitants make from five hundred to upwards of a thousand pounds of it in a season. A tree produces, by boiling down the sap, from two to five pounds of sugar, and it is made near the end of winter, when but little of any other work is done on a farm. The sap of the maple also affords a supply of vinegar, and excellent molasses.

Of wild animals, the most remarkable are bears, wolves and deer, which abound most in the hilly parts ; also, elks, a large species of deer, weighing five or six hundred pounds, and a few panthers. Foxes, martins, minks, otters and muskrats, are found here. Sheep are sometimes destroyed by wild animals ; but as a liberal reward is allowed for killing these, they become scarce, as population increases. Squirrels are so numerous in some years as considerably to injure corn ; and upwards of 2000 of them have sometimes been killed in a day, which is occasionally appointed for that purpose by the inhabitants ; the most common kinds of them are the black, and the red ; the grey coloured being very scarce. Of reptiles, the most remarkable is the rattle-snake, which is seen mostly in the hilly country. Large numbers of pigeons frequent the country in spring and fall, of which a great many are caught by nets and by shooting, and beds are sometimes made of their feathers. There are partridges and quails ; and wild fowl and fish are abundant in lake Ontario and the other lakes, and in the rivers.

In reference to horses, those which have been raised in this country are very thriving. It has been supposed that this country is unfavourable to the raising of horses which are brought from other states, when they are put to feed on the natural pasture and herbage ; but it is reported that when they are well kept, and have salt sometimes given them, they are then as healthy as elsewhere. Oxen grow uncommonly large, frequently measuring from six and a half to seven feet and upwards, round the shoulders, and are mostly used for work, being very manageable and perhaps most suitable for the working of new lands. A larger breed of horned cattle has lately been introduced, and is now raising. Sheep and hogs are very thriving. The growth of cattle is rapid, from the abundance of the herbage natural to the woods, and the excellence of the improved pasture ; and a cow commonly brings forth a calf at the age of twenty four months and frequently of twenty months.

Several mineral springs have been discovered, one of sulphur situated 12 miles north-west from Geneva, is of a sufficient size and fall for an overshot mill, and its scent is conveyed by the wind nearly the distance of two miles. This spring issues out of

the ground in different branches, and adjoining it are two large bogs of sulphur, into which a stick may be thrust upwards of six feet deep. It is supposed that at this spring the manufacture of brimstone would be considerably important. Near this spring a house for entertainment is opened, which is much frequented, either from motives of pleasure, or the medicinal qualities of the spring. A spring is reported to be discovered near Canandarqua lake, the water flowing from it forming a crust of allum on the adjoining rocks. A salt spring is said to be discovered west from Genesee river; but the inhabitants are at present plentifully supplied with that valuable article from the salt works in the military lands, at the distance of 10 to 60 miles, and is sold and also exchanged for grain, near Geneva, at a dollar a bushel. Near the head of Genesee river there is a remarkable spring, the water issuing from it being covered with a sort of oil called by the Indians Seneca oil, which is excellent for wounds and other medicinal uses. A considerable quantity of Plaister of Paris was lately discovered near Geneva, which is reported to be of a good quality.

This country is considered as indifferently watered in regard to springs and running water; but it is expected that the further clearing of land will cause a greater plenty of that article, which at present frequently runs under ground by the hollowness which is occasioned by the roots of trees; and a considerable quantity is now probably consumed in the nourishment of timber. Water is, however, readily found by digging wells, commonly 15 to 20 feet in depth, and is not worse in quality than in many of the most populous parts of the United States. The practice of the inhabitants of building adjoining the public roads, often occasions too great a distance from springs, and they might frequently be conveniently supplied with water, were they to build on other parts of their farms. There is, however, a considerable number of streams suitable for mills, insomuch as the greater part of the inhabitants are not farther distant than a few miles from mills which are plentifully supplied with water in all seasons.

As to curiosities, the falls of Niagara and of Genesee river, are very remarkable; the falls of Niagara being the greatest curiosity of the sort in the world, falling 157 feet perpendicularly, where the river is three quarters of a mile wide, and are sometimes heard at the distance of 40 or 50 miles. There are many remains of ancient fortifications, a chain of which appears to extend from the lower end of lake Ontario to the west of the Ohio river. These forts afford much speculation concerning their origin, but the most probable conclusion is that they were erected by the French upon their first settlement in America, about 200 years ago.

The following are the principal rivers and lakes:

Genesee river, rising in Pennsylvania, runs a north-easterly course of above 100 miles, and empties into lake Ontario. It is situated 40 miles west from Seneca lake, and is boatable nearly

50 miles, but its navigation is interrupted by some falls. On this river are extensive and very rich bottoms, which are in some parts nearly two miles wide, and are partly overflowed in the spring season; in consequence of which the inhabitants near them are subject to agues and other bilious complaints. Its flats are in some parts cleared of timber for several thousand acres, which are covered with very high and thick grass.

The Tioga river receives the waters of the Cawanisque, Canisteo and Conhocton rivers, and flows about 8 miles through the south-east corner of this country to the Susquehanna river at Tioga point. From this river, arks loaded with 1200 bushels of grain, boats and rafts of lumber, proceed to markets on the Susquehanna river, and even to the city of Baltimore.\* In the spring of 1804, it is supposed that 50 or 60 arks and boats, laden with produce from this country, besides many rafts, were floated down this river to the Susquehanna.

Conhocton river rises near the east of Genesee river, and running a south-easterly course, empties into Tioga river. From this river, arks loaded with 1200 bushels of wheat, boats and rafts of lumber, are floated by Tioga and Susquehanna rivers to markets in the lower parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland, every spring, sometimes in summer, and commonly in the fall, and loaded boats navigate from Susquehanna into this river until midsummer.

Canisteo river rises south from Conhocton river, and running nearly in the same direction, empties into Tioga river. It is navigable for arks, boats and rafts, for about 40 miles in spring and fall.

The Canawisque runs south from Canisteo, empties into Tioga river, and is navigable in spring and fall.

Mud Creek rises east from Genesee river, and runs a north-easterly course to Seneca river. It is navigated by boats from Lyons, 14 miles north from Seneca lake, and about 15 miles from its junction with Seneca river; from whence boats proceed to the neighbourhood of Albany, or into lake Ontario. On this creek are very fertile and extensive flats, which are overflowed in freshes.

Alleghany river rises in Pennsylvania, near the southern boundary, and runs in this country a westerly course 46 miles, thence

\* It is expected that a great part of the produce of this country, will soon be transported to the Philadelphia market, by a turnpike road, which is nearly completed, between Niscopeck, on the Susquehanna, and the river Lehigh, which discharges itself into the Delaware river; the distance of the road being 23 miles. By this route, it is said, the most difficult falls on the Susquehanna may be avoided, and produce will command the highest prices.

Produce which is transported down Susquehanna river, is insured by Mr. Goldborough at Newtown.

southerly to Pittsburg, on the Ohio river. It is navigable by arks and boats in the spring season, from this country to the Ohio, or to the Gulph of Mexico.

The Conowongo river rises east from Lake Erie, running southerly to its junction with Alleghany river. This river, at the distance of only 9 miles from Lake Erie is boatable into the Alleghany river.

Tonawanda creek rises west from Genesee river, runs a westerly course, and falls into the streights of Niagara; it is navigable by boats several miles.

Buffalo creek rises south from Tonawanda creek, runs a westerly course, emptying itself into the streights of Niagara. The lands on this creek are remarkably good in quality.

Lake Ontario, by which this country is bounded on the north, is about 180 miles in length, and about 60 miles in breadth. Its shores are watered by many creeks and inlets, which form excellent harbours for vessels; and the adjoining lands are generally fertile. It is navigated by several sloops and schooners, and a British armed brig, pierced for 16 six pounders. From this lake, large boats proceed by the river St. Lawrence, nearly to Montreal, a large, populous and commercial city in Canada, where considerable quantities of produce and lumber from this State and Vermont, are sold, and shipping take in cargoes for Europe and the West Indies. From this lake also, by Oswego and Onondago rivers, Oneida lake, Wood Creek, and Mohawk river, navigation is extended to the Atlantic Ocean, only with the interruption of 16 miles by land from Schenectady to Albany. Navigation is continued from this lake, with the intervention of two carrying places not exceeding the distance of 23 miles, by lake Erie, to the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

Lake Erie, by which this country is partly bouded on the north-west, is nearly 300 miles in length, and nearly 40 miles in breadth. It is navigated by some sloops, and from hence there is carrying place of 14 miles to Le Beuf, in Pennsylvania, near the head waters of French Creek, which is navigable by boats to Alleghany river, and from thence to the Ohio; and by this route quantities of salt, which is transported from the Military Lands, are conveyed to Pittsburgh. This communication was used by the French before the taking of Fort Pitt from them by the English in 1758, and it is probable that by it, goods could be transported from New-York and Albany to the Ohio, at less expence than by any other. There are also communications from the waters of this lake to the Ohio, by the Muskingum and Scioto rivers. Navigation is interrupted from lake Erie to lake Ontario by a carrying place of 9 miles at the falls of Niagara.

Seneca lake is situated on the eastern line of this country, and is 35 miles in length, and from 2 to 4 miles wide. It stretches in a direction nearly from south to north, forming a handsome

sheet of wholesome water, of a great depth, and never freezes over in winter; and in summer, a bottle being let down under the surface, is filled with cool and pure water. It is navigated by a sloop and perrianger, besides boats, and by its outlet boats proceed by Seneca and Onondago rivers to Schenectady. From this lake also, boats proceed by Seneca and Oswego rivers into lake Ontario, and from thence to Montreal, &c. From the head of this lake, there is a carrying place of 22 miles by land, to Newtown, on Tioga river, to which place considerable quantities of produce are transported, and from whence they are floated to markets on the Susquehanna river.

Crooked lake is situated 8 miles west from Seneca lake, is 20 miles long, and 2 or 3 miles wide. From this lake there is a carrying place of 7 miles to the Conhocton river, where it is boatable in spring and in fall to the Susquehanna. A considerable part of the lands adjoining it are reported to be of the best quality.

Canandarqua lake is situated 20 miles west from Seneca lake, is nearly 20 miles in length, and 2 miles in breadth.

Chataughqua lake is situated near lake Erie, and is nearly 15 miles in length. The lands near this lake are very rich.

Mud lake, Honeyoy, Hemlock, and Canesus lakes are situated from 10 to 35 miles west from Seneca lake, are from 6 to 10 miles long, and from them are easy carrying places by land to the boatable waters of Susquehanna,

The climate appears to be subject to changes, which is probably caused by the neighborhood of the immense bodies of water contained in the lakes by which this country is partly bounded. These lakes also are probably the cause of the mildness of the climate in summer and winter; for the air passing over extensive bodies of water which are of nearly the same degree of coldness in summer as in winter, and freeze not in winter, is more uniform in its temperature than it would be if it passed over land. The northerly and westerly winds which occasion an extraordinary coldness in winter, spring, and fall, on the east side of the Alleghany mountains, by blowing from the high and cold tract of country composed of those mountains, are tempered in this country by passing over the extensive bodies of water which are situated on the northern and western bounds; and the south wind does not produce those frequent changes in winter which are injurious to the raising of grain in the easterly parts of the states.—Whilst the neighborhood of these lakes also renders the air in summer cool and temperate; and the nights, very few excepted, are so cool as to admit of sleeping under blankets. The heat of summer in this country is accordingly more temperate than in the eastern parts of the States, which are situated even in a more northerly latitude; and the frosts in winter are remarked as less violent than in the middle states.

In most parts the climate is healthy, particularly as a newly settled country, of which an inconsiderable part is yet improved;

ough in the neighborhood of marshes and stagnated waters the inhabitants are subject to agues and other bilious complaints. Once in three or four years, as is the case in most countries, it has been sickly in many parts. The fall of 1801 was probably as sickly a season as any one since the earliest settlement; which is imputed to an uncommon wetness of the weather, occasioning much stagnated water. The prevailing sickness, which was the bilious fever, proved however not very mortal to the sick; and the number of deaths was most probably not more than one for every two hundred inhabitants.

Trees usually put forth leaves, the earliest sorts in the first week of May, and oak and other later sorts near the 25th of that month. Corn is planted from the 15th to the 25th, and by some near the 1st of May. Rye begins to ripen, and hay is begun to be cut near the 4th of July, and near the 20th July wheat harvest is begun. Water commonly begins to be frozen near the first week of October, and snow usually falls near the 20th of November; but cattle are sometimes kept in pasture until January, and on the flats of Genesee, nearly the whole winter. Snow commonly lies about nine inches deep. In the beginning of the year 1800, snow fell in most places about three feet deep, but there is no other instance known of so great a fall of it. The continuation of snow, besides its usefulness to grain, renders sleighs common and convenient for the transportation of produce to market, a pair of horses travelling, with thirty bushels, at the rate of 35 or 40 miles in a day. The winters usually break up about the middle of March.

The cheapness and fertility of land in this country, together with its easy communications to different markets, and the temperateness, and healthiness of the climate in general, are advantages not possessed in an equal degree in other new settlements, which render this country an object worthy of attention to those who wish their estates in a few years to increase in extent and value. The price of the best lands, not improved, on the east of Genesee river, is commonly from two to four dollars an acre, and one hundred acres, having twenty or thirty acres improved, and a house and barn, are sold from six to twenty dollars an acre. On the west of Genesee river the best unimproved lands sell from one and a half to two and a half dollars an acre, and may be purchased on a credit of six to ten years. Lands that are now selling at four dollars an acre, were sold twelve years ago at only the same number of shillings an acre, and the advance of their value in the course of 10 or 15 years hence will most probably be very considerable. A farm may probably be purchased in the cheapest manner by buying land without any improvement. Three men with a yoke of oxen may clear and fence, and sow or plant ten acres in five or six weeks, and also build a comfortable house; and such improvement may be hired at the rate of ten or twelve dollars an acre and 50 to 100 dollars for a log house. If an improvement is made in

the early part of spring, a sufficient supply of corn and spring-wheat may be raised the first season for a family ; and cattle may be well kept in the woods. There are many instances of cattle being kept throughout the winter only by browsing, or eating the tops of basswood and some other sorts of trees cut down for them ; although hay may be purchased cheap and in abundance.

This country contains three counties, viz. Ontario, Steuben, and Genesee, which are subdivided into townships, commonly six miles square. The whole number of inhabitants is nearly 30,000, of which number the county of Ontario alone contains about 20,000 in the limits of 45 miles square. The number of votes given in Ontario and Genesee counties in spring 1804, for 3 *members of assembly*, by which an idea may be formed of the population of each township, is as follows:—Canandarqua 272, Hartford 134, Bloomfield 405, Palmyra 198, Genesee 118, Jerusalem 37, Easton 163, Williamson 51, Charleston 173, Bristol 188, Northfield 168, Sodus 53, Augusta 120, Middletown 87, Seneca 303, Pittstown 183, Farmingtown 142, Vernon 217, Phelps 265, Sparta 95, Batavia 220, Leicester 81, Southampton 114, and Northampton 80. In all 3865 votes, of which 1838 were republican, and 2027 called federal.

Canandarqua is the chief town of Ontario county, and consists of about 70 dwelling houses, many of which are well built, and some are elegant. The principal street is spacious, extending in a straight line upwards of a mile from the lake of the same name, and rising by a gradual ascent, makes a very pleasant appearance. The houses have generally a lot of land under cultivation belonging to each, and many of its inhabitants are wealthy in circumstances. It has a convenient court-house, in which public worship is performed by a minister of the congregational persuasion ; a handsome jail, a large academy nearly finished, which is said to be well provided for ; several well supplied stores, in which goods are sold on moderate terms ; several considerable distilleries, a large tan-yard, in which is manufactured a large quantity of leather, a market for butcher meat, several convenient inns, and two printing offices, in which have been printed nearly 1,800 papers weekly.

Geneva contains about 70 dwelling houses, and is handsomely situated near the outlet of Seneca lake. It has a large and elegant hotel, kept in the best manner, two school-houses, one of which is occasionally used for public worship by a presbyterian minister, several well supplied stores, 3 considerable distilleries, a brewery, and a market for butcher meat, of which 1500 pounds is killed weekly. It is a place of considerable business, and from hence large quantities of wheat and other produce are sent to the head of Seneca lake, and thence to markets on the Susquehanna. Flour, potash, and other productions of the country are also transported from this place to Albany, &c.

Bath is the chief town of Steuben county, and is situated on the Conhocton river. It consists of about 30 houses, and thence

many arks, boats, and rafts, are floated in spring, and sometimes in fall to the Susquehanna; and flour has been transported from this place to Baltimore at less than a dollar for the carriage of a barrel.

Batavia is the chief town of Genesee county, and is situated 30 miles west from Genesee river. It contains about 30 houses built within a few years, and a handsome court house.

The most noted place besides these, is Niagara, situated at the mouth of Niagara river, and remarkable as an ancient fortification, and one of our principal posts.

The manners and customs of the inhabitants are different, and resemble those in the several states from which they have emigrated; the greater part being from the New-England states. Between Geneva and Canandaigua are many families from Pennsylvania, New-Jersey, and Maryland; and there are several families from England and Scotland. The inhabitants are generally an industrious and civil people. There are but few black people, and those that are born in this state are by law allowed their freedom after the age of 28; but those from other states continue as slaves during life. The blacks have an attachment to this country, as they live well, and have an example of industry from the settlers. There are but few ministers of the gospel yet settled, but schools are numerous and well provided for.

A turnpike road is now completed from Albany to Canandarqua, at a great expence, which is discharged by tolls, and renders traveling and carriage of produce to market much easier when the rivers are not navigable. Waggoners now frequently carry loads of fourteen barrels of flour to Albany, and return with an equal weight, and sometimes carry two tons; going and returning in fourteen days. A mail stage runs from Canandarqua to Albany twice a week.

Trade is yet in its infancy and has much increased within a few years. Grain is sent in considerable quantities from Seneca lake and the Conhocton, Canisteo, Canawisque, and Tioga rivers, to markets on Susquehanna river; and flour, potash, and other produce, to Albany; and a considerable quantity of grain has for some years past been exported by sleighs in winter to the west of Albany. Whisky is distilled in considerable quantities, and mostly consumed in the country, and is also exported to Canada and to Susquehanna. The produce of the country is received by storekeepers in payment for goods, and, with horses and cattle, is paid for land. Several thousand bushels of grain have been purchased in the winter beginning this year, 1804, for money at Newtown and at mills near Cayuga lake. Hemp is raised on Genesee river and carried to Albany. Dröves of cattle and horses are sent to different markets, and a considerable number of cattle and other provisions, are used at the markets of Canandarqua and Geneva, at Niagara, and by settlers emigrating into the country. Cattle commonly sell for money at a good price, and as this country is very favorable for raising them, they will probably become the

principal article for market ; many being of the opinion that the raising of stock is more profitable as well as easier than any mode of farming. The following is a list of the prices of articles, and the rates of wages since January 1801 :

Wheat, from 62 cents to 1 dollar a bushel—Corn from 37 to 50 cents a bushel—Rye from 50 to 62 cents a bushel—Hay from 6 to 12 dollars a ton—Butter and cheese, 10 to 16 cents a pound—A yoke of oxen, 50 to 80 dollars—Milk cows, 16 to 25 dollars—Cattle for driving, 3 to 4 dollars a 100 lb.—A pair of good working horses, 100 to 125 dollars—Sheep, from 2 to 4 dollars—Pork, fresh killed in winter, 4 to 6 dollars a hundred, and salted, in spring, 8 to 10 dollars—Whisky, from 50 to 75 cents a gallon—Salt, 1 dollar a bushel weighing 56 pounds—Field ashes, 4 to 9 cents a bushel : 600 bushels may be manufactured into a ton of pot or pearl ash, which has been sold at market at 125 to 150 dollars ; and some persons by saving their ashes, or by manufacturing them, have nearly cleared the cost of improving land—The wages of a laborer, 10 to 15 dollars a month, and board—A suit of clothes made at 4 to 5 dollars—A pair of shoes, 175 to 250 cents—Store goods are sold at very moderate prices, the expence of carriage from Albany or New-York being about two dollars a hundred weight.

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## Appendix,

CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF THE MILITARY LANDS IN THE  
STATE OF NEW-YORK.

THE military tract was granted by the legislature of New-York as a gratuity to the officers and soldiers of the line of this state, which served in the American revolution. This tract contains a million and a half of acres, and is divided into 25 townships, containing 60,000 acres each, which are again subdivided into lots of 640 acres each. It is bounded west by the counties of Ontario and Steuben, in the Genesee country ; on the north by lake Ontario, about 10 miles to fort Oswego ; thence on the east by Oswego river ; thence on the north by Onondago river and part of Oneida lake ; on the east by Oneida and Chenango counties, and on the south by Tioga county ; and is in length 60 miles, and 55 miles in breadth.

The face of the country is generally even, but not level. On each side of Cayuga lake the land rises very gradually for some miles, and in the other parts it generally consists of gentle swellings; but the eastern parts are broken into hills of gradual ascent. The quality of the land is, with little exception, of the best sort, being in general loamy, and is nearly the same as described in Genesee; as are also the timber, productions, and animals.

The following are the rivers and lakes:—

The Seneca river issues out of Seneca lake. It is joined by the outlet of Cayuga, and by Mud Creek from the west; and by Onondago river from the east. From the junction of Onondago river to Oswego, where it discharges itself into lake Ontario, it is called Oswego river. The course of navigation from this river to Schenectady, by Onondago river, Oneida lake, Wood Creek, and the Mohawk river, is already mentioned.

Cayuga lake, situated 10 miles east from the western bounds, is 40 miles in length, and from 2 to 4 miles in breadth, extending in a north-westerly course, and makes a handsome appearance. It is well stored with fish. From this lake boats proceed by Seneca river, &c. to the neighbourhood of Albany, or into lake Ontario; and from its head, produce is transported 30 miles to Owego, on the north branch of Susquehanna, from whence arks, boats, and rafts are floated to markets on Susquehanna river.

Owasco lake is about 12 miles long, and is well stored with fish. The lands adjoining it are remarkably excellent.

Skeneatelis lake is nearly 16 miles in length.

Otisco lake is about 8 miles in length.

Onondago lake is situated near the north-eastern parts. Salt is manufactured at springs adjoining this lake, in a reservation of land belonging to the state, in very considerable quantities. The salt weighs 56 pounds a bushel, and it is sold at the works at two dollars a barrel, containing 5 bushels, and sometimes cheaper.—From these works the western parts of this state are cheaply supplied with salt, and considerable quantities of it are transported to Canada in the neighbourhood of lake Ontario and lake Erie, and to the Ohio. The salt springs appear to be inexhaustible, and sufficient for the supply of works of any extent. Iron ore has lately been discovered in the neighbourhood of this lake, where a furnace has been erected, and is worked to advantage....Slate appears to abound in some places between Seneca and Cayuga lakes, and adjoining the head of Seneca lake.

Seneca lake, which is situated on the western bounds, is before described.

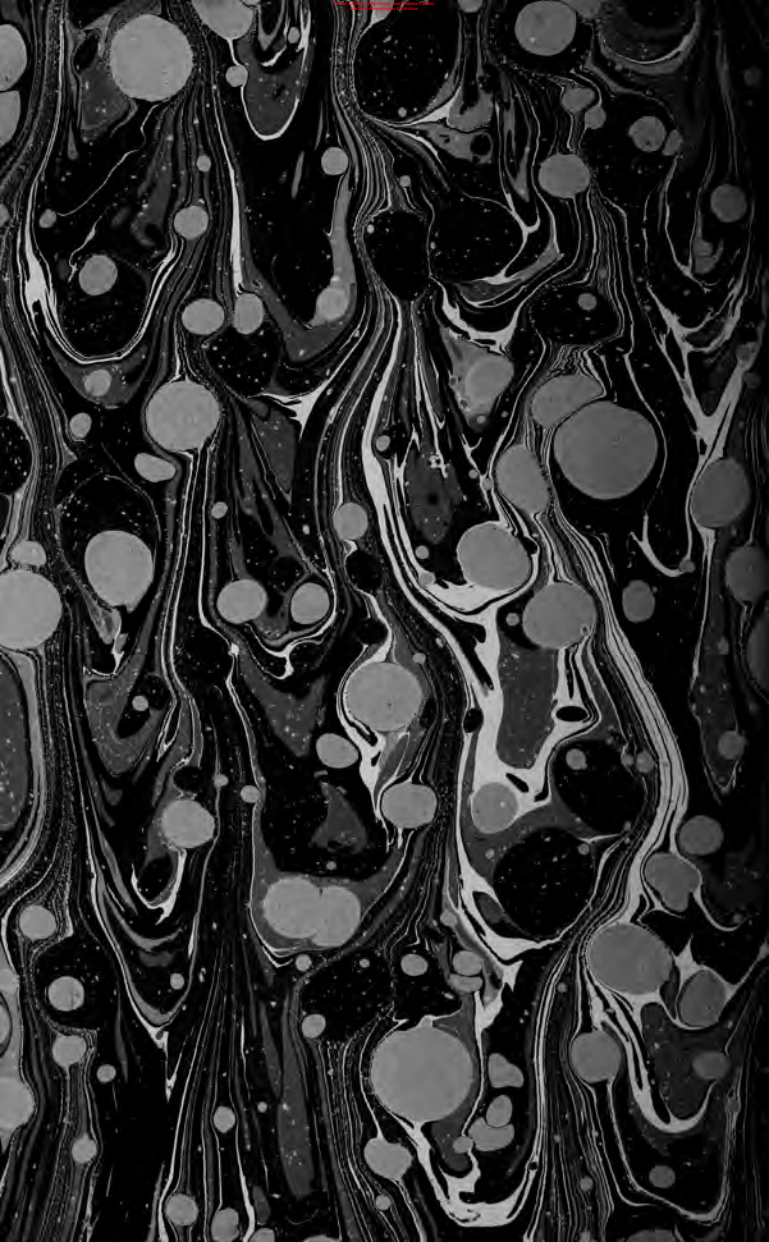
The eastern and southern parts are partly watered by the Chenango river, which is boatable in spring to Susquehanna river, and from thence boats and arks proceed to Baltimore; and by Salmon creek, Fall creek, besides many lesser streams.

This country is divided into three counties, viz. Seneca, Cayuga, and Onondaga. Population has been uncommonly rapid, not-

withstanding the discouragements proceeding from disputed titles to these military lots ; several deeds having been frequently granted for the same lots, and nearly one third of these titles are yet undetermined, though they are expected to be shortly ascertained by commissioners who are appointed for that purpose by the state legislature. The number of inhabitants amounts nearly to 30,000. Between Seneca and Cayuga lakes, the settlers are mostly from Pennsylvania, Jersey, and the eastern parts of this state, and in the other parts, they are mostly emigrants from the New-England states.

The most considerable village is Aurora, which is pleasantly situated near the Cayuga lake, and contains about 25 dwelling-houses, several stores, and an academy. Cayuga village is situated near the outlet of Cayuga lake, and consists of about twenty dwelling-houses, and several stores. The Cayuga bridge is built over the lake at this village ; it is in length nearly a mile, and cost 25,000 dollars, which is defrayed by a toll. Levana village contains 20 houses. At this village, Mr. Richardson some years ago had 425 acres under a crop of wheat, which produced 12,000 bushels. The turnpike road to Albany is before described, and on some parts of it are buildings and improvements closely adjoining to each other, which have the appearance of villages. This road in the year 1792, was only an Indian path a little improved, and settled only with a few straggling huts 10 or 20 miles from each other, for the distance of nearly 100 miles ; and was then the only road leading to this country and Genesee. Many parts of the country are well improved and make a pleasant and flourishing appearance.

From this country a considerable quantity of produce is transported to Owego on Susquehanna river and to Newtown, at which places a considerable part was, in winter beginning 1804, sold for money, and from those places was floated in arks and boats to markets on the lower parts of Susquehanna. Wheat is also sold for money at mills, at which it is floured ; and wheat is transported to Albany. A considerable quantity of produce is carried by sleighs in winter to markets on the Mohawk river. Potash is often manufactured and transported to Albany. Whisky is distilled in considerable quantities. Cattle, particularly cows, and sheep, always command a liberal price in money, and grain and other produce are sold for money to settlers emigrating into this country. The prices of produce is nearly the same as in the Genesee country.







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