

Artist's Sketch of the Village of Gouverneur in 1865.

## PART TWO, 1872 - 1890

### CHAPTER I

When the closing chapter of this history was written, late in the year of 1872, we were conscious of a desire to follow the fortunes of our town a little farther. Nearly seventeen years have passed, during which time a great many changes have taken place. A new race of people are walking our streets and new faces greet the scribe at every step of the way. Familiar forms are missing, and the music of their voices is hushed for all time; yet their sons and daughters have taken up their work and the hum of industry is heard on every side. Could the pioneers of our goodly town be permitted once more to visit the scenes of their early labors, we think they would retire satisfied that they had not lived in vain.

The years of '73, '74 and '75 were marked by a peculiar fatality among our elderly people. Mr. Peleg Chamberlain, one of the first officers of the Gouverneur Agricultural Society, suddenly expired, November 15, 1873. Mr. John Fosgate, lumberman and miller, died February 4, 1874, a man of great industry and financial ability, who had kept hundreds of men in his employ, providing for them and their families with a liberal hand. Zebina Smith, for a long time sexton of the church and cemetery, died March 17, 1874. Elwell Austin, who came with his parents here in 1806, died in a neighboring state, January 31, 1875. James Parker, in his nineties, and Benjamin Leavitt, in his ninetieth year, died a few days later. Dr. S. C. Wait, who followed his profession for more than forty years in this town, died October 30th of this year. Mr. Joseph Hopkins, formerly teacher of the Gouverneur High school, and later principal of the Seminary, died in Minnesota, December 13th of this year. The remains were brought to Gouverneur for interment in the family lot at Riverside.

The old brick school house, on the corner of Church and John Streets, was purchased in 1873, by Dr. McFalls, of Rossie, who fitted it up for a dwelling house and commenced the practice of medicine in this place.



**OLD EAST SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** built in 1872 at the corner of Gordon and Barney Streets where the village playground is now; closed when the High School moved into the new Dean building in 1918 and the elementary grades moved into the brick school on Main Street. It was demolished in 1921.



**OLD WEST SIDE SCHOOL** — The early log and frame schools probably stood on this same spot. The building was closed when the centralized schools were built in the mid-1950's.



**THE SOUTH SIDE SCHOOL** opened in 1890 on Depot Street and burned in 1934. It was not replaced.



**THE BANK OF GOUVERNEUR** on the corner of Main and Park Streets was built in 1871 and later faced with marble. Started in 1860 as Charles Anthony & Co., incorporated in 1879 as a state bank, it is now located on the other side of Main Street as the St. Lawrence National bank.



**THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK** building, erected in 1875, is now the Conway Photo Stop. The bank moved to a new building at Church and Grove streets in 1953 and is now the National Bank of Northern New York.

Meantime a site for a new school house, with accommodations for a larger number of scholars, had been purchased on Gordon street. A large and commodious building was here erected, which has been added to from time to time, until this, too, proved too small for its purpose, and the system of Union schools was inaugurated, an account of which will be given in its proper place.

In the year of 1874, the Roman Catholic society of St. James, purchased the building in the rear of where the Fuller House now stands, formerly owned and occupied by the Methodists, who removed it from their lot on Grove street. It was for a time used as a Town Hall and Opera House; but was remodeled by this society into a pleasant place of worship, and was dedicated September 22, 1874, Bishop Wadhams, of Ogdensburg, and other clergymen assisting. A second bank was this year organized by Messrs. Godard and Herring, which is now represented by G. M. Gleason as First National Bank of Gouverneur. That business demands should warrant a venture of this kind, is proof positive that a healthy growth was progressing, a fact which future events have justified. Of late it has even been hinted that a third bank could be made useful in Gouverneur, and it remains for some idle capital to undertake the enterprise.

## CHAPTER II

In a former chapter the fact was noted that no disastrous conflagration had yet visited Gouverneur; but immunity from this calamity was not always to last. Early on the morning of January 13, 1875, the cry of fire aroused our citizens to the realization that the fire fiend was with us. An unbroken block of five wooden buildings, three stories in height, reaching from the corner of Park and Main streets to the block now owned by S. C. Potter, crammed with stores, shops, offices and human habitations, was almost a sheet of flame when discovered. The weather was intensely cold, a fine snow was falling, and quite a body of snow covered the ground and neighboring buildings. This fact, with the help our Holly waterworks, went far toward mitigating the damage which otherwise might have been even greater. Among the sufferers were the *Herald* office and furnishings, Evan Mosher, W. F. Sudds, Andrew Kinney, W. A. Short, James Brodie and Killmer & Morris; besides the entire loss of property in the second and third stories. The buildings being of such known inflammable character, little insurance was carried and the savings of years were in a few hours reduced to ashes. From the first it was conceded that the Roman Catholic church in the rear was doomed; but amid the roar of flames and din of voices a beautiful sight struck each looker on. The large, white cross, tipped with gold, was almost the last thing to take fire, and as the blaze curled about the extended arms, they lingered lovingly awhile as if loth to level this emblem of the christian's hope.

The society of St. James, after disposing of their vacant lot, at once purchased a building site on Gordon street. Here they immediately erected a new frame church, which was dedicated November 25, 1875, Bishop Wadhams again officiating.



ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH, Gordon Street, opened in November 1875, served the parish for fifty years. The addition was built in 1889 for a parochial school which closed in 1896.

But little time was spent in idle regret by the sufferers from the fire of January 15, 1875. Before the smoke had fairly cleared away, material for a row of substantial brick and stone buildings was secured. The lots were cleared of debris and phoenix-like arose from the ashes, the superb structures which now grace the spot. Charles L. Fuller erected the hotel which still bears his name. It was opened to the public early in July, 1876, D. Peck having charge. W. A. Short built the two brick blocks adjoining. James Brodie added still another, and Messrs. Killmer & Morris finished the row with two large and convenient stores. These were nearly completed during the year, so that in April, 1876, temporary wooden buildings in the park were taken down and order once more

reigned.

The old brick stores on the corner of Church and William streets, built by Messrs. Thos. Thompson and Rockwell Barnes, about the year 1833, had long shown a "flavor of mild decay," and during the year of 1875 they were taken down to make room for Union Hall block, which owes its existence to the enterprise of S. B. Van Duzee and Willett Bowne. The need of a Town hall for elections, lectures and public entertainments had long been felt. A central position was desirable and it was unanimously voted that no fitter location could be provided. The original building, 90x83 feet, contained four handsome stores with the large public hall above, measuring 84x65 feet, also offices for rental purposes. The third story was finished with a large Masonic hall and rooms for storage purposes.

The first election was held in Union Hall in November, 1875, and the first lecture therein was given by Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, Dec. 4th of the same year. The subject, "What shall we do with our daughters?" was handsomely presented by the lady, and many of our citizens availed themselves of the opportunity of hearing this distinguished personage.



THE NEW UNION HALL BLOCK — 1875, had a fire in 1877, necessitating a rebuilding in 1878.



THE FULLER HOUSE and other new buildings on Main Street which replaced the wooden ones burned in 1875.

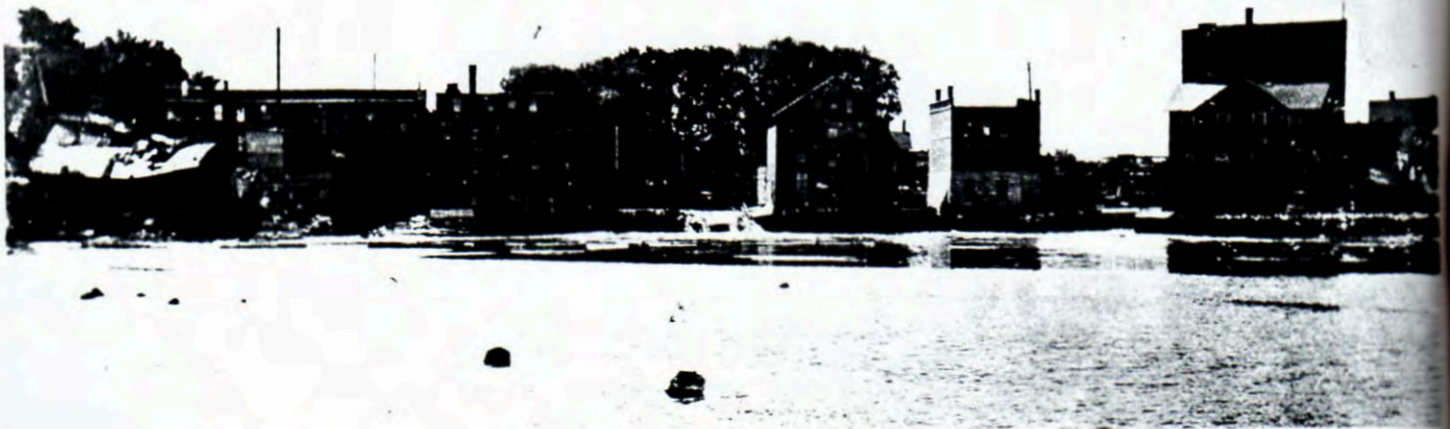


The old buildings at Church and William Streets which Mrs. Parker says were built in 1833. The Gouverneur Cornet band was famous in the north country.

### CHAPTER III

The year of 1876, now passed into history as centennial year, witnessed great strides of advancement in Gouverneur. The winter of '75-'76 was one of remarkable mildness. On the night of January 1st doors and windows were open, while crowds of people were parading the streets, listening to fife and drum and watching the fireworks and bonfires on public square. There was no snow and the ground was like early April, mud and water on every side.

The first sewers were laid this year. Street lamps were placed on Main street, and a handsome fountain purchased by private subscriptions of one dollar, was placed in the centre of our village park. This, if we rightly remember, made its first public exhibition July 4, 1876. The old wooden bridge spanning the river and channel in this village, becoming unsafe from age and the wear of water against the abutments, it was decided that it be replaced by one of



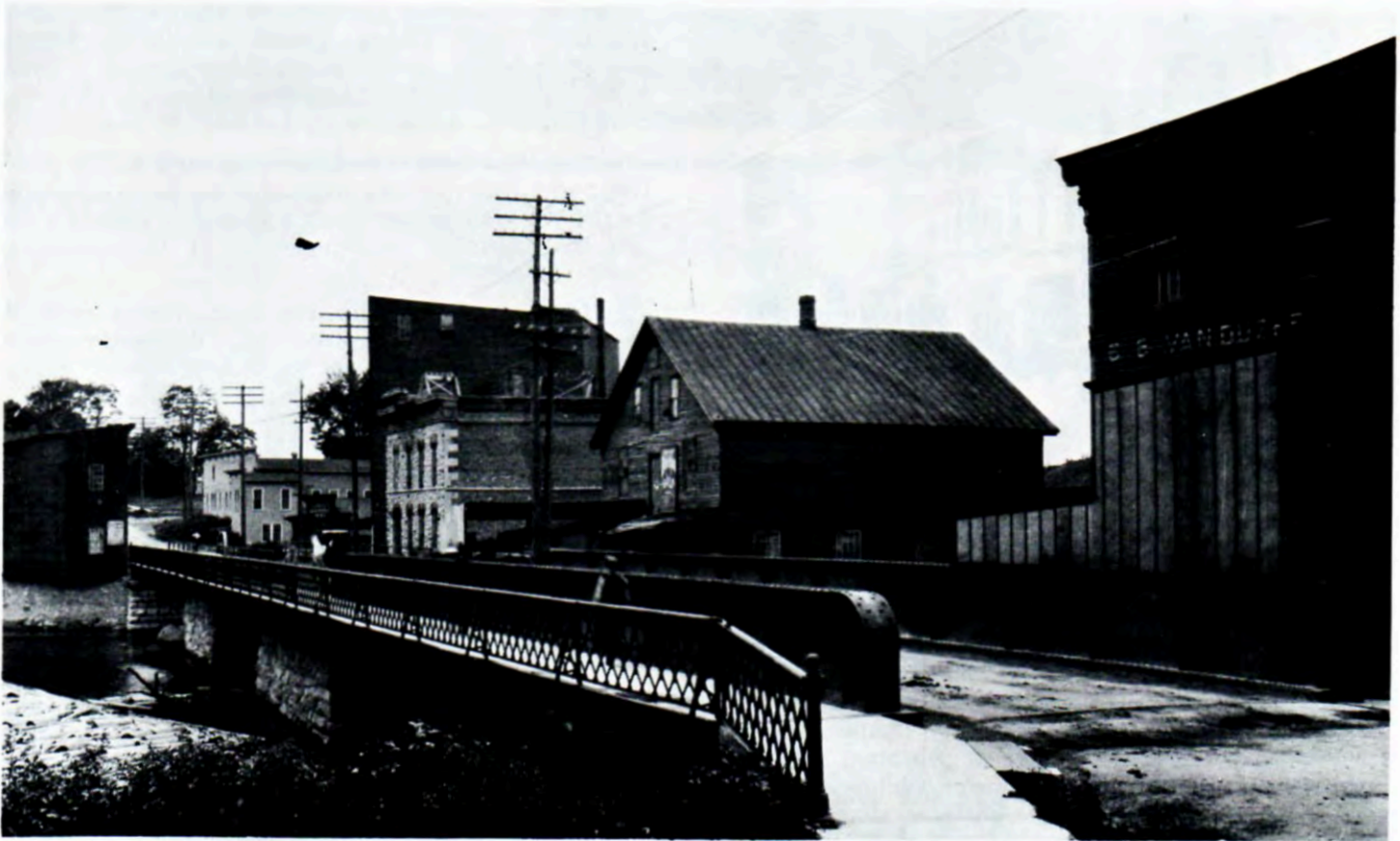
Industries gathered along the bridge across the Oswegatchie, taking advantage of the water power, from the time of Downs' fulling mill (1814) and Israel Porter's saw mill (1815). There have been six bridges from the log one built in 1808 through the present one built in 1955. The last building to go was the tallest one at the right of the picture which, beginning as Israel Porter's flouring mill (1820), was 135 years old when it was demolished as McAllaster's feed mill in 1955.



Probably the first iron bridge, showing how the mills were approached directly from the bridge. The S.B. VanDuzee furniture manufacturing plant was located here about 1850.



STEPHEN B. Van DUZEE began making furniture in Gouverneur in 1831, eventually building a flourishing business. He also had interests in marble, talc and other business and was a part of almost every civic enterprise in Gouverneur.



This iron bridge was built in 1877. The piers rest on the islands, which have been flooded. There was a board sidewalk for pedestrians but the road was not yet paved.

iron with more permanent foundations. A diver was accordingly secured to make the necessary surveys under water, and many of us can recall his droll appearance, as clad in his water tight suit, he went in and out of the water like some huge monster of the deep. Six hundred cords of stone were used alone in piers and abutments. The bridge was completed early in the year of 1877, at a cost of \$18,000. It has given

such general satisfaction that many of the same model have been built in town and county. The building of the iron bridge was literally the marriage of East and West Gouverneur. In '76 and '77 the formidable hills on either side were leveled by blasting and grading until the ascent is now comparatively easy.

During the years of '76 and '77, several more of our aged citizens were removed by death. Mrs. Erminia Parker died April 22, 1876; Daniel Keys, July 2nd, aged 94 years; Mrs. Benjamin Leavitt, April 23, 1877, aged 90 years, and Edwin Dodge, November 15, 1877.

On the night of January 19, 1877, an abortive attempt was made to burn the wooden buildings reaching from the McAllaster block to the Egert block below, which was successfully accomplished a few months after. Late in the evening of May 1, 1877, the now familiar cry of "Fire!" again called our citizens to the rescue of property and home. The principal sufferers were Boardman & Cutting, Laidlaw & Kinney, O. G. Waldo, S. B. Stinson, Thomas Doyle, G. L. Van Namee and A. Kinney. Many others lost heavily. The entire loss was estimated at \$60,000 with but light insurance.



View of the new brick buildings constructed after the 1877 fire toward the Clinton Street end of Main Street.

Again was the industry and enterprise of our people put to the test. Before the close of 1877, J. E. McAllaster and G. L. Van Namee had completed substantial brick buildings, and before the close of 1878 the wide gap was closed in the following order: J. E. McAllaster, G. L. Van Namee, George Draper, J. W. Tracey, S. B. Stinson, Foster & Barbour, James Stype, and Clarence Waldo. Some of the blocks have since changed hands, but it is asserted that a finer row of stores can not be found in Northern New York.

Early on the morning of October 7, 1877, fire was again discovered; this time in the ware-house of S. B. Van Duzee, in the rear of Union Hall block. The building was also used as village lock-up and storage for hose-cart and hose. The river was low and the utmost work of the pumps barely succeeded in forcing the water to the top of the buildings. The marble shop of the Whitney Brothers was soon in ruins. The Presbyterian church and sheds on the east side, were saved by almost superhuman efforts, but Union Hall

block was doomed. Some of the walls were left standing, which, with the old foundations, were again brought into service. The loss was \$30,000; but pluck and energy pushed a new edifice into existence, with a brick ware-house in the rear, measuring 24x60 feet. The Whitney Brothers put up a one story building 20x40 feet, where the marble works are still located.

The year 1878 was scarcely ushered in when Union Hall block was again ready for occupancy. The new hall was finished with finer appointments than before, and was re-rented for town purposes by the voters of the town. That this series of disastrous fires was of incendiary origin has never been questioned; and while the matter was generally discussed at every corner, an old loungee settled the question with the remark, "They may talk all day about the incend'ry theory; I believe the thing was sot." A good laugh being a panacea for many ills, we may hope all hearts were lightened by this sage conclusion.

#### CHAPTER IV

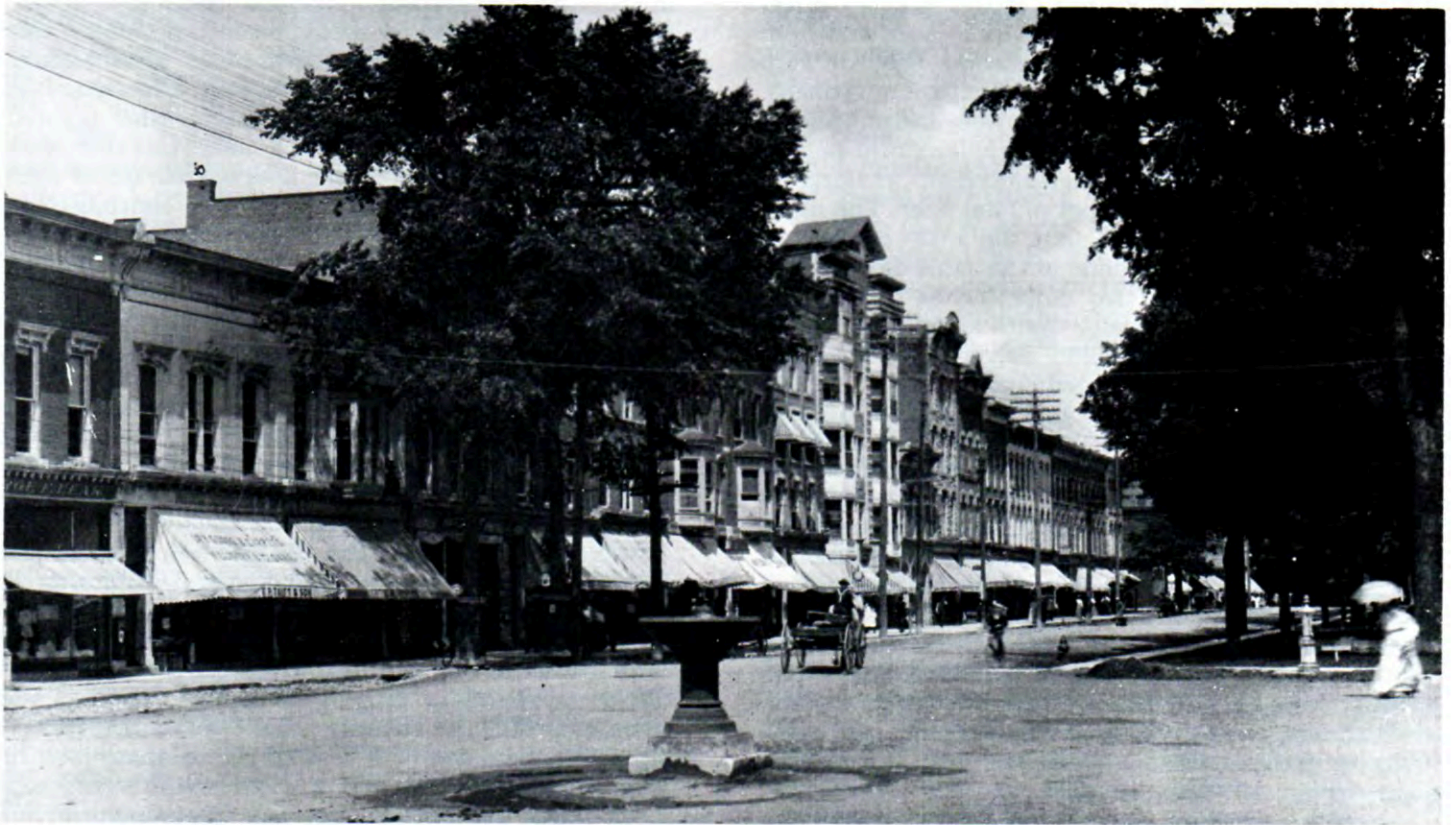
Mr. Augustus E. Norton, for many years identified with the insurance business of this section, died January 27, 1878. He was a public spirited gentleman and by industry and economy had acquired a competence, which as failing health came, left him free from care or solicitude for the future.

Union Hall block was fully completed in March of this year, less than six months from its destruction by fire the October previous, and to-day stands a fitting monument to its founders, S. B. Van Duzee & Co.

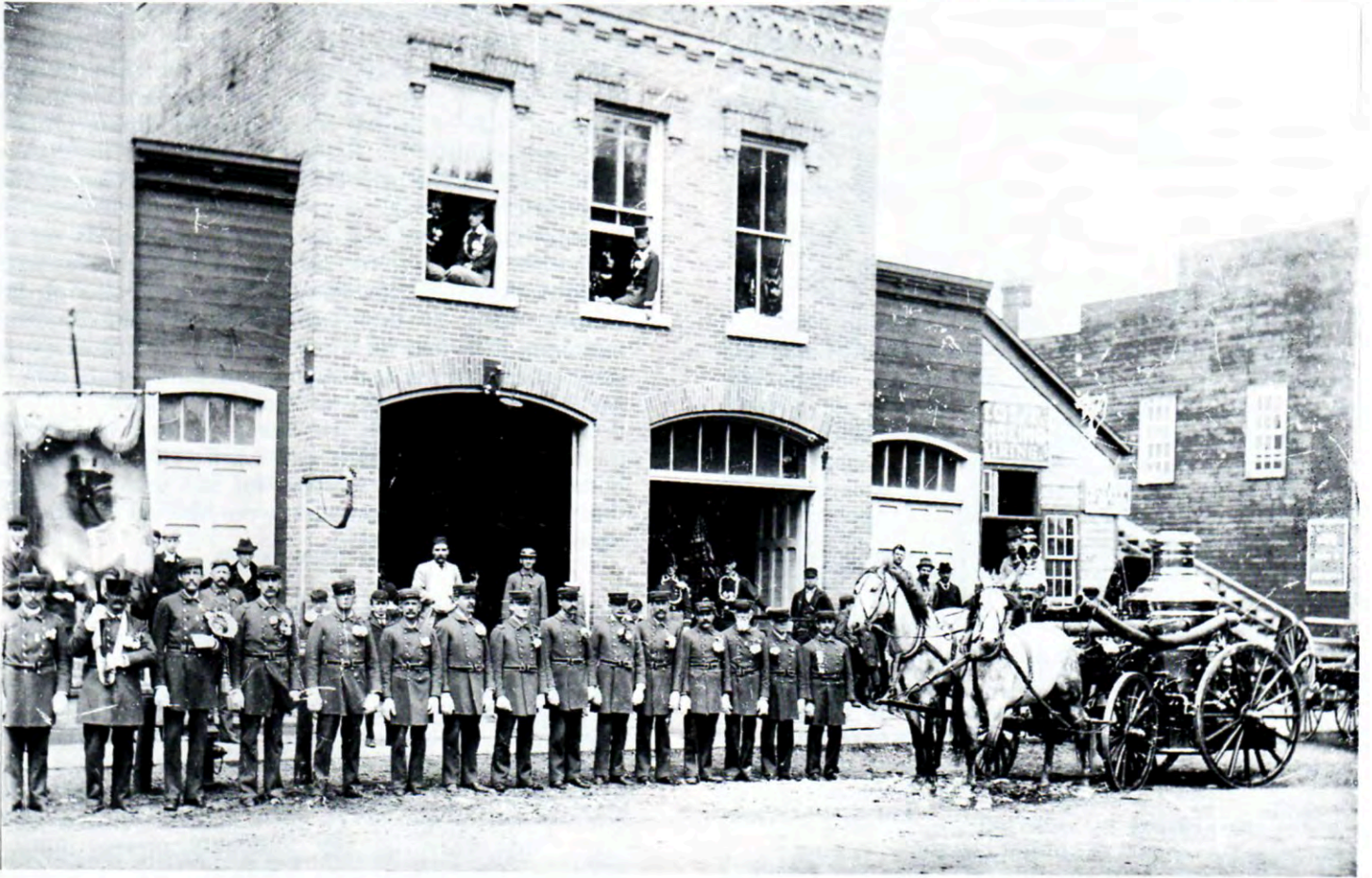
A fine watering trough, cut from a solid block of granite, was this spring placed in public square where it still furnishes pure water for thirsty animals which have learned its location. It is amusing on a warm day to watch them come and go with gratitude expressed on every brutish feature.

The want of a suitable building for storing hose and cart, as well as for the meetings of our firemen, was this year met by the purchase of a lot on Clinton street, costing four hundred dollars. A handsome brick structure 25x45 feet, with a secure stone basement to be used as village lock-up was erected at a cost of about two thousand dollars. The first floor is used exclusively for fire extinguishing apparatus; here our fine La France steamer is housed, of which we shall have more to say in another chapter. The second floor is finished for holding meetings, drying hose and any legitimate purpose connected with the fire department. A belfry holding a good bell surmounts the whole and the building is as near fire-proof as such a structure can be made. Being centrally located, it is readily reached and is an ornament to the street upon which it stands.

An event, perhaps not properly belonging to this recital, is here introduced as being of general interest and which will not soon be forgotten. On the night of August 8th, 1878, a storm of lightning, thunder and rain occurred which for duration, force and destruction has seldom been equaled. The day preceding had been warm and oppressive; in the early evening



The new watering trough (1878), which many Gouverneur residents still remember. The picture was taken about 1900.



THE FIRE HOUSE ON CLINTON STREET where the Municipal Building now stands and the LaFrance pumper Mrs. Parker credits with saving the village so many times. See note in appendix.



flashes of lightning lit up the horizon in every direction. Not a cloud, however, was to be seen and hundreds of people were out to welcome the Antwerp band which was discoursing music to our citizens. Before eleven o'clock mutterings were heard and the storm burst upon us in all its fury. The rain poured for ten hours without intermission, making a precipitation of ten inches per pluviometer. The lightning was almost constant, but did little damage in this section. In the afternoon of the same day another shower occurred with two more inches of rain-fall. Thus in the space of twelve hours about one foot of water fell; small bridges and culverts were washed away, houses half submerged, cellars filled, garden and field crops carried off and incalculable damage done to trees, fences and roads. The brick store of Foster & Barbour then in course of erection was leveled to the ground, streams burst their bounds and the country resembled a vast lake interspersed by islands with commodious harbors. Legends of former storms were silenced in the face of this reality and few who witnessed the storm of August 8th, 1878, will care to see it repeated.

Rev. John W. Armstrong, for many years principal of the Gouverneur Seminary, died August 12th, 1878, at Fredonia, N. Y., where he was still engaged in his favorite pursuit, that of teaching the young. His memory is still held in pleasant remembrance by those of his scholars who survive him. A head-stone in our cemetery marks the spot where the wife of his youth was laid many years ago.

Dr. Eben L. Beardslee, to whom we are indebted for many facts regarding the Methodist church, died November 22nd, of this year, aged eighty-five years. Himself and wife were among the first half-dozen members of the church and Dr. B. lived to see its numbers multiplied to his heart's fullest desire. He came to Gouverneur during the year 1835 and several of his children still reside in this vicinity.

## CHAPTER V

The year 1879 came in cold and blustering; the first week of January snow fell to an unusual depth and travel was almost entirely suspended. New York mails were one week behind and for five days not a car was pushed through. Groceries and provisions were low and many families were out of the necessities of life. The winter following was severe but uneventful. The first Decoration Day services were held this year in Gouverneur, Rev. H. C. Townley delivered a pleasant address and other home talent was enlisted for the occasion. The march to Riverside and Hailesboro cemeteries was becomingly performed with bands of music and a large concourse of people, witnessing at once the patriotism and kindly remembrance of our nation's dead by a grateful people. The day has since been observed without exception, the interest apparently growing as the years pass by.

A phenomenal rain fall occurred in the autumn of 1879. Three inches per pluviometer fell at one time, besides a succession of similar storms.

Early in 1880 the friends of education began a series of efforts by word and newspaper correspondence to prepare the minds of the people for a change

in our school system. The old Seminary, loved, honored and revered by many, seemed no longer able to compete with the advanced ideas of education. Potsdam Normal drew many in that direction, Ives Seminary at Antwerp took a class who favored denominational supervision, and Cornell was beckoning others to a higher course than either could offer. The harmless war of words continued for several years, when by an almost unanimous vote a Union Free School was decided upon, the workings of which must be reserved for a separate chapter.

After the disastrous losses by fire our people were not slow in learning the lesson thus summarily taught, and a beautiful steamer, costing three thousand dollars, was purchased from the inventor La France from the works at Elmira, N. Y. An exhibition of its power was given on July 3rd of the same year. The working was so satisfactory that many neighboring towns have fortified themselves with one of the same manufacture. The steamer was on exhibition at our annual fair where it had a host of admirers. The first real work laid upon the machine was on the night of Friday, October 1st, when the workshop of S. B. Van Duzee & Co. was burned on the Brooklyn side. Much surrounding property was saved and it was remarked that the steamer more than earned its cost upon this occasion. The loss to the company was fifteen hundred dollars; but without doubt would have been much greater had not the forethought of our people provided for the emergency. Early in evening of April 18th, 1881, the now familiar cry of fire was again sounded on our streets. The Van Buren House, a large three storied frame structure, was belching smoke and flame from its roof; this with the wooden store, owned and occupied by William Whitney, druggist, was of course consumed. Adjoining property was seriously threatened and several fires were lighted across the streets, both the Presbyterian and Baptist churches being on fire and several dwelling houses. The trusty steamer again won laurels for itself, while our brave firemen covered themselves with glory. Before midnight the fire was down, though the heated walls of adjacent buildings still required watching. The loss on the Van Buren House property reached the sum of ten thousand dollars, while that of Mr. Whitney was over four thousand dollars.

Dr. S. L. Parmelee, for many years a practicing physician in this village, died April 17th, 1881, at his home in Watertown, whither he had removed a few years previous. The remains were interred beside his aged mother in Riverside.

## CHAPTER VI

With little respect for the strange as supernatural, we may mention the phenomena of 1881, as at least exceptional. Science accounts for them all; but the frequent extremes of heat and cold, the dry and hazy atmosphere, with halos about the sun and moon attracted general attention. After a warm rain on Sunday, June 5th, the sky suddenly cleared and a blighting frost swept over Northern New York. Ice a half inch in thickness formed on standing water, trees were denuded of leaves, grass was blackened and

many garden vegetables were entirely killed. On Sunday, July 3rd, light thunder storms occurred during the day and the air was hot and murky; at half-past six in the afternoon a rumbling sound was heard in the sky, much like the incoming of a heavy train of cars. The sound lasted for several minutes and many eyes were scanning the heavens for a solution of the mystery. A repetition of the phenomenon occurred a half hour later, though not of so long duration. Meantime the clouds had rolled away and a cool starry night ensued. Various theories were at the time advanced, the most rational of which was that a cyclone of considerable magnitude passed over us, happily spending its force in cloud land. Dry and intensely hot and smoky weather followed, so that during the first week of August when the moon was nearing its full, the nights were dark and gloomy.

On Tuesday, September 6th, a few hours before sunrise, the sky was lighted by a red and lurid glare, which, upon the approach of day became a brassy yellow. Lamps were burned until late in the forenoon and people gathered in knots to discuss the situation, many, too badly frightened to listen to reason, or look to natural causes for an explanation. In some sections cattle roared and bellowed with fear, and an oppressive apprehension settled over all. House-wives in adjoining towns reported dark stains upon linen left out to bleach, and an ash-like dust settled in some places.

Reports by telegraph only noticed a continuation of the dark and smoky weather and by 12 o'clock noon, the sky had resumed its usual appearance.

Monday evening, September 12th, a luminous belt spanned the heavens from northeast to southwest, remaining from 8 to 9 o'clock, and on Wednesday following a similar belt again spanned the sky.

This being the month of President Garfield's death, a general depression had settled over the country, intensifying, perhaps, the peculiar atmospheric conditions; but timely rains the ensuing week dispelled the smoke, reviving the fields and cooled the air, and nature apparently satisfied with her unusual exploits, resumed the even tenor of her way.

The above, taken from notes made during the year, is not given to excite surprise, but the recurrence of such phenomena in the short space of six months, attracted such general attention that we have given it in full. The wise man has well said, "There is no new thing under the sun and the thing that hath been, it is that which shall be."

## CHAPTER VII

In April, 1882, some of our business men resolved upon the establishment of a second newspaper in this village. Accordingly, Mr. B. G. Parker, of Norwood, formerly a Gouverneur boy, was invited to come here. He sold out his business at Norwood, and purchased an entire new outfit and started the FREE PRESS. The venture proved successful and the two papers have had an increasing circulation until they hold their own with most of the county publications. Work upon Van Buren block commenced in May of this year. The frontage of 118 feet has three fine stores which pay a handsome annual rentage. The building

is three stories in height, has 75 rooms, and is heated throughout by steam. The outer work is of brick, a metal roof covers the whole and the structure is one of the finest of the kind in Northern New York, costing about \$40,000. The hotel was opened to the public the first week of November, and on Friday, November 10th, a handsome party was given, at which two hundred people were entertained in royal style. The hotel is still in charge of Mr. J. B. Van Buren and has always received a liberal patronage. The Rhodes block, a small brick structure adjoining Union Hall block, was also built this year.

On June 12th, 1882, occurred the death of Mr. Milton G. Norton, one of Gouverneur's model farmers, whose fine cattle and well-kept farm were a source of pride to our citizens.

The immense steam saw mill of Starbuck & McCarty was built this year, the workings of which will be given in another chapter when we discourse of the lumbering interests of this section.

Saturday, August 5th, 1882, at about noon still another conflagration visited our village, at which time Van Duzee's shop, Corbin's manufactory, the old house built by Eli Robinson, and several smaller buildings were burned. The day was very hot, making the labors of firemen and citizens particularly exhausting. The loss by this fire was about \$40,000. The works were immediately rebuilt and are still in active operation.

Mrs. Elwell Austin died Sept. 14th, of this year; she had lived in Gouverneur for more than fifty years and was known as a lady of more than ordinary intelligence.



MOSES ROWLEY HOUSE (37 Rowley St.). This home was moved from the site of the old Bank of Gouverneur on the north side of Main St. There was then no house between it and Rock Island St., which the front door faces.

Rev. Moses Rowley died in Wisconsin Dec. 9th, 1882, aged 87 years. Mr. Rowley spent his early days in Gouverneur, was the first postmaster here, was once elected to assembly from this county, and engaged in mercantile affairs until his removal to another sphere, that of minister in the Baptist

society, which he served through several successful pastorates. The house on Rowley street, moved from the spot now occupied by Anthony's bank, still has the knocker on the door bearing the name "M. Rowley."

On Thanksgiving night, Nov. 31st, 1882, snow fell a foot or more in depth and good sleighing at once followed, continuing 130 days without interruption; a fact almost without parallel in this latitude.

## CHAPTER VIII

With the unprecedented period of sleighing, Gouverneur probably never saw a busier winter than that of '82-'83. Every day was improved and immense consignments of freight and produce were made at the depot.

Mrs. Jerusha Dodge, another of our respected pioneers, died March 7th, 1883, aged 80 years. Her residence in Gouverneur covered a period of nearly fifty years.

The April freshet of this season was considerably above high water mark; several of the low streets and houses were inundated and considerable damage was done. At one time it was devoutly hoped that the unsightly covered bridge leading to the cemetery would be carried off; but unfortunately it proved equal to the situation and to-day remains a blot upon the otherwise fair landscape.

Captain George Parker, one of the veterans of the late war, died May 11th, 1883. He was captain in the 16th regiment, and remained in the service two years. Besides serving his country in this capacity, Mr. Parker held several positions of honor and trust at home.

A rousing celebration was held July 4th of this year. Among other notables present we may mention General Daniel E. Sickles and Hon. Roswell P. Flower as among our honored guests, both gentlemen taking part in the exercises.

Capt George B. Winslow, died at Vienna, Virginia, Sept. 30th, 1883. He enlisted from this place and his remains were brought home for interment.

Negotiations for telephone communication with neighboring places were commenced this year, but no work was done until the ensuing season.

On Monday night, October 22d, the large wooden stores of S. C. Potter and Stephen Burtis were burned; the loss was about \$15,000 with a small insurance. These buildings were replaced the following year by the fine brick structures now known by the names of their owners.

Jason Smith, one of our earliest pioneers, died January 26th, 1884, aged 82 years. He had lived in Gouverneur seventy-eight years of his life and was a man of unusual vigor.

Mrs. Anna Hills Smith, died March 31, 1884, aged 82 years. She came to Gouverneur in 1826, riding all the way from Washington county in a lumber wagon.

Mrs. Belinda Barnes Paul, with whom the writer has spent many pleasant hours, and from whom she has received many valuable facts, died April 19th, of this year. She was the daughter of the late Rockwell Barnes and was a lady of unusual intelligence.

A serious accident happened at the Whitney Marble Works Saturday, May 3rd, 1884, at which time six men were killed. The men were testing a boiler, but the particulars of the catastrophe will never be known, as the mill and men were destroyed in a few moments of time. The loss to the company was about \$15,000 and will be treated of in our account of the marble interests. Hundreds of people visited the scene of the disaster which will not soon be forgotten.

Snow fell on Decoration Day of this year and much damage was caused by frosts.

In June, 1884, Gouverneur was honored by a visit from one of her old settlers, Mr. A. Z. Madison, of Fredonia, N.Y. He came to Gouverneur in 1819, when but 16 years of age. Accompanied by his son he made a tour of our village and was greatly pleased at its appearance of prosperity. On Tuesday night, July 16th, 1884, the last remaining wooden structure in the business part of Main street was burned. It was a one-story building and was occupied by J. M. Reynolds, jeweler, and H. G. Reynolds, postmaster. The entire loss was over \$4,000, partially covered by insurance. The handsome postoffice fixtures were an entire loss.

Rev. G. G. Dains, for a time principal of our Seminary and a long time resident here, died August 4th, 1884, at Hamilton, N. Y., and was brought here for interment beside his deceased children.

Mr. O. G. Barnum, another of our old and successful farmers, died Aug. 12th, of this year.

Telephone poles were set in the autumn of '84, giving us communication with Ogdensburg, Watertown and adjacent villages.

The month of December took from us another aged inhabitant, Mrs. Mary Preston Smith, widow of the late H. D. Smith. She passed away Dec. 10th, on her 84th birthday. The memory of this lovely lady will long remain fresh in the minds of those who knew her.

## CHAPTER IX

The handsome structure known as the "Reynolds Block," was finished late in 1884. It fills the last remaining gap made by the various fires on Main street and is an ornament to the place. The building is four stories in height, has a convenient store in front and the upper rooms are filled with offices, shops and dwelling rooms. The *Herald-Times* office occupies the rear and basement with composing rooms above. The whole is built of rough ashlar, and like the St. Lawrence block, is a standing advertisement for our inexhaustible quarries of marble.

A blacksmith shop, owned by S. C. Merritt, burned on Friday night, Jan. 23rd, 1885. Its proximity to other inflammable buildings made it a serious centre for a fire, but our firemen with their usual energy, assisted by a heavy body of snow, prevented further mischief. The loss was about \$1,000, partially covered by insurance.

It will be noticed that our series of conflagrations, commencing in January, 1875, closed at the end of ten years, if we may except the burning of the steam saw mill and Gardner's carriage factory, which occurred two years later. During this time, Main street passed

from an unsightly wooden pile to its present substantial and artistic state.

The month of February, 1885, was particularly cold and tempestuous. A blockade of snow lasting from the 14th to the 23rd of the month, so hindered railway travel that the city mails were mostly cut off. An occasional newspaper found its way through the Utica & Black River line and a few telegrams were received from the outer world. We well remember the first train on a Saturday night piloted by a snow plow and two engines as it wheezed its way through the accumulating drifts.

In a former paper we noted the establishment of a Union Library Feb. 14th, 1815, with a board of trustees then and there recorded. Many of these books found their way into the Seminary library, and the stock was from time to time added to by donation or subscription. These volumes have with or without authority been so scattered or lost that but a few remain. The present Reading Room Association was organized Nov. 19th, 1885, and is known as the Gouverneur Ladies Reading Room Association. The board consists of a president, five vice-presidents, the latter taken, one from each of the religious denominations of the place, a secretary, treasurer and librarian, with a general executive committee. By this method each church and society is represented, thus securing a mutual interest from all. The principal magazines and papers of the country, most of the county papers and some foreign publications are found at the rooms. There are about 650 volumes of choice literature on the shelves and scarce a month passes without an addition thereto. Political and denominational issues of every creed and belief are admitted — if found to be moral and instructive — and all private opinions are by this means respected. A few quiet games are provided for the little folks, and a more home-like, cheerful resort cannot be easily found. The society after a few years sojourn in rented apartments, have lately secured the old Seminary house on Grove street which is open afternoons and evenings, Sundays excepted. The rooms are daily thronged with visitors and the central location is a great convenience.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union having been in operation since 1884, it was decided a short time previous to the organization of the Reading Room Association to enlarge their sphere of action by establishing a Public Library with rooms where all classes could resort for recreation and instruction. Having quite a supply of books and furniture in their hands they generously turned all into this new channel of benevolence, and though still working in their own particular line, they keep a lively interest in the Reading Room. The W. C. T. U., commencing with only fourteen members, now numbers over one hundred ladies whose labors in the temperance field are telling upon our community. Aside from weekly meetings for business and consultation, they edit a column in a local paper, circulate temperance literature and by personal effort are waging war against a monstrous evil.

In connection with the Reading Room may be mentioned another organization, which though dating from September, 1883, has the same end in view, the

reading and study of healthful literature. The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, doubtless owes its existence to the untiring efforts of Professor T. B. Mackey, the work of course seconded and assisted by others. The line of reading and study, while keeping pace with the home society, is varied to suit the tastes and pursuits of others. The meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month, and the transient and permanent membership must exceed one hundred persons.

## CHAPTER X

Mr. Abida Smith, brother of our esteemed townsman, Benj. Howard Smith, died with his daughter in Michigan, Jan. 16th, 1886. Mr. Smith was for many years a resident of Gouverneur, and at the time of his death, was 82 years of age. Mr. Benj. H. Smith came to this place in 1825, was married a year later and with his wife still enjoys a green old age on the farm he has tilled for so many years. January 26th, 1876, the happy pair celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, when many friends gathered to attest by their presence the respect to which this amiable couple are entitled. Again, on the 26th of January, 1886, friends and neighbors repeated their visit to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the aged couple; and it is not unlikely that 1896 will see a similar gathering, as both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are in good health with unimpaired faculties of mind and body.

Rev. Erastus Wentworth, teacher in our Seminary from 1837 to 1842, died at Sandy Hill, N. Y., May 25th, 1886. Mr. Wentworth visited this place a few years since and was warmly welcomed by his early friends of the Seminary.

Col. Albert M. Barney died in New York August 24th, 1886, aged about fifty years. Col. Barney enlisted early in the war; he proved a good soldier and was once or twice promoted for bravery. His body was brought home for interment with his father's family.

Beginning sometime in 1886 our village authorities have been industriously at work straightening, leveling and graveling the streets, grading and building sidewalks, making commodious gutters and other needed improvements, until with a few exceptions, Gouverneur has the most perfect system of drainage to be found in this section. The various small streams have been arched over with substantial stonework and firm iron guards protect the traveler on either side. The wisdom of filling in our beautiful park — questioned at the time ~~is~~ is shown by the fine turf now seen and the absence of the unsightly pool of water left after every season of wet weather. A general system of sewerage is now about decided upon, which for the health and convenience of our community is earnestly recommended.

Two more of our aged citizens were called away early in 1887, Mrs. Julia Crane, long time active in church and society, died January 21st, and was buried beside her first husband, Rev. Robert Wilson, whose death occurred many years before.

Mrs. Matilda Horr died March 12th, 1887, aged 87 years. She had resided here nearly fifty years and

belonged to that long list of persons born in the year 1800; there were at one time if we rightly remember, about twenty-five of our citizens born in this year; only three or four of them are now alive.

During this year a neat and commodious building was erected by the Water Works company for the pumps which supply the village with water. It is of rough ashlar and brick, with a metal roof and is as near fire-proof as such a building can be. The pumps work day and night, with a reserve for cases of emergency. In it are rooms for a night watchman and conveniences for the company's system of operations. In this connection we may add that twenty-four new and large hydrants have this year been set, and the company are rapidly extending their works as the demand therefore increases.



**BENJAMIN HOWARD SMITH**



**CAROLYN JACKSON SMITH**, wife of Benjamin H. Smith



**HOME OF BENJAMIN HOWARD SMITH (120 E. Barney St.).** This house was moved from its original site on the corner of Barney and Rock Island Streets to make way for the Dean High School.

## CHAPTER XI

After a few years trial with kerosene and naphtha lamps, our enterprising village decided upon a new system of lighting the streets. A committee was accordingly formed to test the various modes of electric illumination and the "American" was selected as the most perfect light. A stock company was formed in the summer of 1887, called the American Illuminating & Power Company, of Gouverneur, with a paid up capital of \$20,000. The first officers were E. D. Barry, President; W. F. Sudds, Vice-President; V. P. Abbott, Treasurer; and C. Arthur Parker, Secretary. At a meeting of the village board it was voted to receive the lights for three years, the circuit to be completed October, of the same year. One dynamo being found insufficient for the demand, a second was purchased, giving both a street and commercial circuit. Both instruments are now loaded to their utmost capacity. There are thirty-one arc lights on the streets and between forty and fifty arc and incandescent on the commercial circuit. These beautiful lights can be seen at a great distance and many neighboring towns are now lighted in the same manner. The day is probably not distant when the company will enlarge their works and our homes will be lighted by electricity. The present power is furnished by the Gouverneur Machine Company.

The Union Free School system having been duly canvassed, public opinion was found to be largely in favor of the new movement. Students of the old Seminary still clung to their *Alma Mater*, but "Progress" was the watch-word and all barriers to a free education must be removed. The millionaire and the pauper here meet on an equal footing. Armed with the knowledge which is power our free institutions will be the safer in educated hands. A meeting was called for March, 1887, to consider the establishment of a Union Free School in this village, and the uniting of districts No. 1 and 12. The opposing vote was small and it was then and there decided to consolidate the two. A motion was made and seconded that a board of education consisting of nine trustees be appointed. This was carried without opposition. The first board consisted of H. Sudds, J. B. Johnson, L. M. Lee, J. W. Ormiston, J. Laberde, B. L. Barney, John McCarty, A. S. Whitney and F. H. Norton. The school opened the following autumn with an able corps of teachers and has thus far proved an entire success. Twenty teachers are now employed and it will surprise many to know that at the last school census there were on the east side 753 children of school age, and on the west or Brooklyn side, 404. A new school house is now in process of erection on Depot street which will accommodate the large number of children south of the railroad. There is thus provision made for all classes and it would seem that stringent measures should be used to enforce attendance upon the privileges so freely given.

Early on Saturday morning, July 9th, 1887, the large steam saw mill of Starbuck & McCarty took fire from the engine room and was totally destroyed; the fire having made such headway that no attempt was made to save the building, the firemen directed their attention to adjoining property and the large piles of



THE WILLIAM F. SUDDS HOME at 28 Barney Street is now the home of E.H. Case.

lumber in the neighborhood. By this calamity a large number of men were thrown out of employment and the company sustained a loss of over \$30,000. The works were almost immediately replaced as will be detailed in the account of our lumber interests.

Just two weeks from the former date, on Saturday morning, July 23d, the carriage shop of Gardner & Turnbull, with a small dwelling house, burned to the ground. This fire being in a dangerous centre, near the saw mill, tannery and flouring mills, great anxiety was for the time felt, but pluck and fortune again conquered and for the time being these fearful calamities were at an end. The loss in this instance was about \$5,000.

To say that our village has been purified by fire will be questioned by none, and in almost every case the buildings have been replaced by handsome and substantial structures at once ornamental and remunerative.

In accordance with our progressive element, a third newspaper, entitled *The Northern Tribune*, was started in the summer of 1887 and has a liberal patronage. The three papers are now edited by enterprising young men, who, though occasionally engaging in local controversies, are believed to have the interests of their patrons and the reading public at heart and weekly send out neat and newsy sheets.



ISAAC STARBUCK



JOHN McCARTY



W.F. SUDDS, well known Gouverneur musician, composer and teacher. Mr. Suds studied under eminent teachers, here and abroad.

## CHAPTER XII

As early as 1812, Freemasonry had quite a representation in Gouverneur. Many good men of that period were Masons and held their views unmolested until the kidnapping of William Morgan, of Batavia, Sept. 11, 1826. The excitement incident upon that occasion shook society throughout the land, and one of our churches was nearly disrupted at the time. A few withdrew; others were dismissed from the church and sought a home with other denominations. Still the organization flourished until the year 1851, when the first meeting under the present charter was held June 9th, with B. F. Skinner, Grand Master; Josiah Waid, Senior Warden, and William Holmes, Junior Warden. The present membership is 180, and their meetings are held at Masonic Hall, which is a neatly furnished room in Union Hall block. Among our many benevolent organizations may be reckoned No. 156, of the Grand Army of the Republic, founded in 1880, whose motto, "Fraternity, Loyalty and Charity," is continually exemplified. The Erwin H. Barnes Post now numbers 170 members, with 19 who no longer answer to the roll call. The society was established through the indefatigable labors of our townsman, G. S. Conger, who may well be termed the sponsor of the movement. The sick are visited and cared for; their dead have a soldier's burial, and a lot in our cemetery has been provided for those who have none of their own. The annual camp fire is kept up where the comrades live over their camp life with tale and song of battlefield. May these social re-unions continue until a softer bugle call shall muster them into the great army on high, where the sword shall be exchanged for a harp of gold, and the din of war is forever forgotten.

Gouverneur Council Royal Arcanum, organized in September, 1889, with 19 members, its object, "Beneficiary and Fraternal." The society originated in Boston in 1879, and New York state alone has now a membership of 17,000 persons.



**ERWIN S. BARNES**, the son of Rockwell Barnes and father of Erwin H. Barnes for whom the local G.A.R. post was named.



**LUCRETIA ALLEN BARNES**, wife of Erwin S. Barnes.

The Knights of Labor have a large membership, established about two years since, for mutual protection in the matter of wages and general interests.

An Independent Order of Odd Fellows also exists with rules and practices peculiar to that society. There is also a department of Grangers, the workings of which order are generally known. Many of our prosperous farmers are interested in this organization, holding their meetings at stated intervals and having their annual festival as the year rolls around.

A lodge of Good Templars, numbering less workers than we could wish, has long been in operation here. The first lodge dates back to the year 1849, when some of our most prominent men were interested in temperance matters and exercised a wholesome influence upon society. In this connection we may mention the "Band of Hope," consisting mostly of children and young people; the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor and a number of other societies, all of which are working for the general weal of our growing town.



**GARRETT S. CONGER**, Gouverneur attorney active in the establishment of the Gouverneur E. H. Barnes Post, G.A.R.

Before entering upon the industries of Gouverneur, it may be well to conclude the events of interest occurring in the years of 1888 and '89. The summer of '88 will be remembered as hot, dry, windy and disagreeable. Vegetation suffered, and the rains were light and infrequent. Forest and field fires were reported from all sides, and considerable mischief was done in this section. When showers did occur there was often damage from lightning, and in one instance a child was killed in an adjoining neighborhood. On the evening of Wednesday, July 11, at seven o'clock, a storm of cyclonic character passed over Gouverneur. The wind, which had been high during the day, increased in violence. Many trees were prostrated, and chimneys, roofs and fences suffered considerably. The clouds hung low, with an angry, coppery appearance, and the mercury fell twenty degrees in as many minutes. But little rain fell and the cold wave which followed neared the freezing point.

August 28th and 29th marked an epoch in our history which deserves mention in this place. A few ladies had occasionally availed themselves of their right of suffrage as allowed by our school laws; but upon this occasion more than one hundred females stormed the polls, carried the election, and returned to their homes well satisfied with the results. The custom has obtained such favor that our school meetings are about evenly represented by the sexes.

A phenomenal storm of sleet occurred on Sunday, January 6, 1889, which for destruction and damage, stands without a parallel. Ice formed upon telegraph and electric wires until they appeared like immense cables stretched from pole to pole. Trees were so coated that they bent to the ground, and the crackling of broken boughs was like the roar of artillery. Some streets were rendered impassable and many shade and forest trees were ruined. Some idea of the weight of the ice may be formed by the fact that a gentleman weighed a small spray from an elm tree and found its weight to be eight pounds. Our photographers, taking advantage of the occasion, have produced some lasting mementoes of the scene.

The summer of 1889 was one of almost continuous rain; scarcely two days of clear weather followed in succession, and the sun was hidden for days together. Several showers gave two and three inches per pluviometer; the streams were full and low lands were flooded. Hay, which was an enormous crop, was harvested in a damaged condition; much grain was ruined, and many vegetables were left to rot in the ground. A tour through the northern part of the state revealed a worse condition than that which existed in this section.

A neat monument was this year placed in our cemetery, with the following inscription: "In memory of Pardon and Martha Babcock." "Erected by the Cemetery Association." It is to be regretted that the date of death and ages of these pioneers of our town were not added, as the cemetery occupies a part of the Babcock farm. Pardon Babcock died of consumption, Oct. 29, 1834, aged 57 years. Martha Babcock, his wife, died of old age and debility, March 29, 1856.

aged 78 years. The writer remembers several pleasant interviews with this lady, from whom she obtained many interesting reminiscences of pioneer life and the hardships incident upon it. We ever found the old lady cheerful and a vein of humor ran through all her conversation.

Mr. Jas. Maddock died Sept. 10, 1889, aged 85 years. He had resided in this town for 72 years and was one of our thrifty farmers. His father, Roger Maddock, was at one time agent for the elder Gouverneur Morris.



Home of BRADLEY BARNEY, at the corner of Barney and Clinton Streets; later the home of Senator Rhonda Fox Graves.

We will conclude this chapter by shaking hands with some of our elderly citizens who link the present with the past.

Mrs. Betsey Smith, widow of the late Rodney Smith, came to Gouverneur in the year 1836, and will be 96 years of age in December, 1889. She is in the enjoyment of perfect physical health, and resides with her daughter on Wall street, on whom she leans with a childish faith, receiving the tender care her years demand. Mr. Benjamin H. Smith, born June 17th, 1800, and now in his 90th year, came to Gouverneur when a young man, and with his worthy wife enjoys the pleasant surroundings their united industry has secured. Mr. Orin Freeman, born June 15, 1801, is today hale and hearty, with the prospect of many years before him. Himself and wife perform the entire domestic duties of their home, and both carry their more than four score years with unusual lightness. Mr. John Van Namee was born September 23, 1809, and came to Gouverneur when a lad of fifteen years. He is still active, in the store or at his home, and enjoys a joke or story with the relish of fifty years ago. The Van Buren brothers came to Gouverneur in 1821. But two are now living, Mr. Samuel Van Buren, of Gloversville, 87 years of age, and Mr. William Van Buren, nearing his 80th year. The latter gentleman is almost daily seen upon our streets and carries his years with unusual ease. Mr. Nathan Hale can be found at his home on Park street, attending to his

own affairs with the zest of a younger man. Mr. Andrew H. Rutherford, 88 years of age, can be seen in winter time shoveling the snow from his own and his neighbors' walks with a gallantry born of his own Scottish hills. Messrs. Washington Nichols and Henry Nobles were born in this town, and carry their four score years with lightness. Grandpa Cutting is still one of our "boys," and the list may be concluded with the names of Almond Barrell, James C. Read, S. B. Van Duzee, Myron Parsons, Milton Barney, and Isaac King; all active, reliable citizens of whom our town may well be proud. Of elderly ladies we may be permitted to name Mrs. Maria Van Buren, Mrs. Pauline Smith, Mrs. Caroline McAllaster, Mrs. T. M. Thayer, Mrs. Newell Haven, Mrs. Milo Shattuck, Emily Sheldon, Mrs. Matilda Bignall, Mrs. James Maddock, and many others, whose busy, virtuous lives have placed them on the honored list of Gouverneur's noble women.

## CHAPTER XIV

As in all new settlements, the lumber interests were the first to develop the resources of the town. In the year 1809, a saw mill was built at Natural Dam by Joseph Bolton under the directions of the elder Gouverneur Morris; considerable land was cleared and the point was for many years known as Morris' Mills. Indeed, Natural Dam was for a time quite a business rival of Gouverneur village, it being distinctly expressed by Mr. Morris, that the noise of machinery should not disturb the quiet of the little settlement at this place.

An incident properly belonging to the early history of Gouverneur, will be none the less interesting if recorded here. The first bridge, built in the summer of 1808, existed only in the near future, when Mr. Alexander Parker, then of Antwerp, and father of the late Capt. George Parker, purchased a cow of Mr. Isaac Austin paying therefore the sum of \$47, with the proviso that said cow be delivered on the west side of the Oswegatchie river. It was early spring and the ice being of questionable firmness, a place below



NATURAL DAM, where Gouverneur Morris wanted the settlement located and where he built a sawmill, a grist mill and a house.

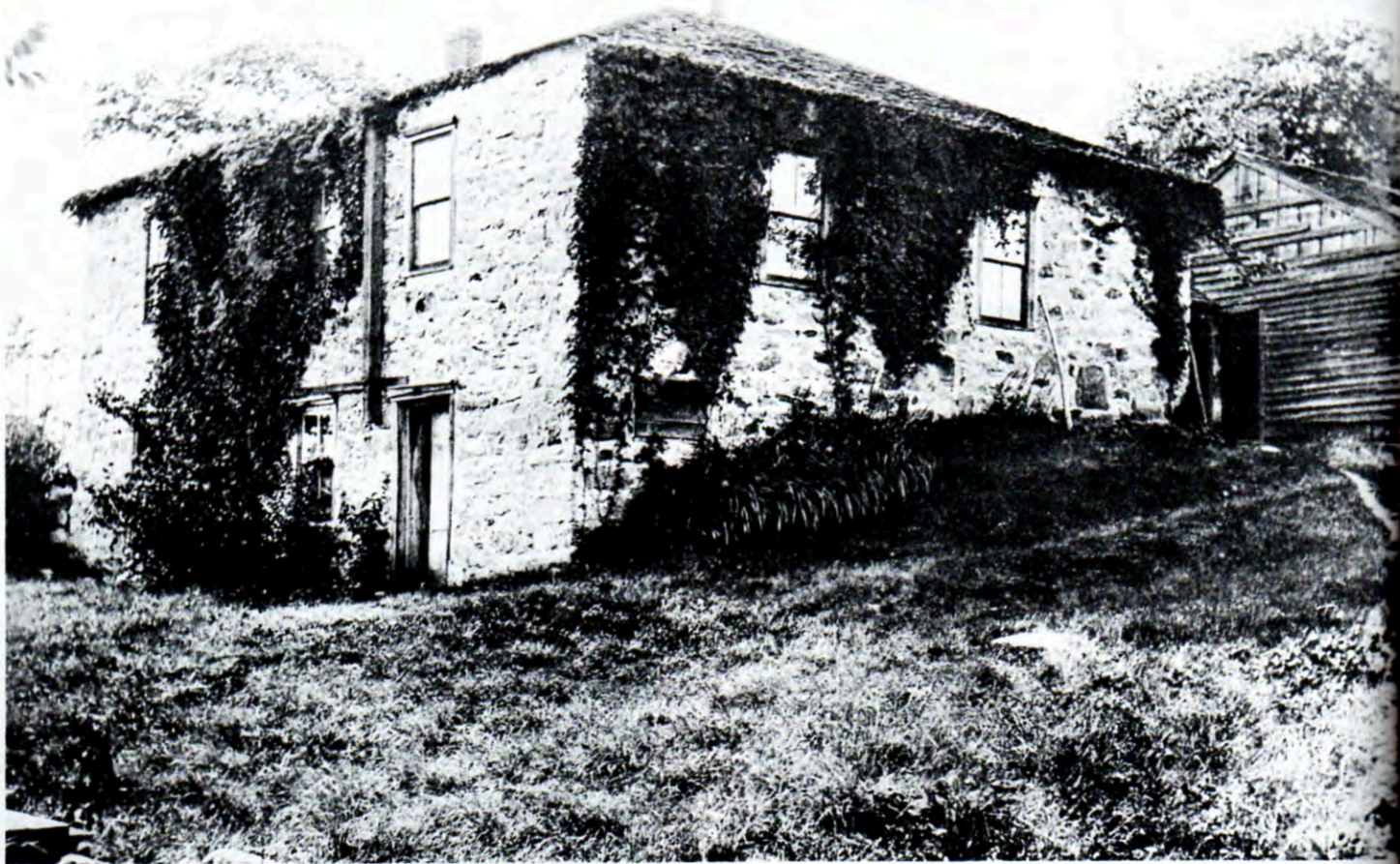


rapid water was chosen for the transfer. A pathway of straw and boards was carefully arranged and a rope was attached to the horns of the animal who made the passage in safety, and we are told that her descendants long ministered to the sustenance of the Parker family.

In the year 1866 Messrs. Weston, Dean & Aldrich purchased the Natural Dam property, where they erected extensive mills for the sawing of lumber. There they have a box factory, a shingle mill, and kindling-wood factory. The lumber is put in assorted piles, and the place looks like a vast city of lumber with streets, alleys and lanes. The works are well worth a visit as few industries of the kind are to be found in this section. The company have a private railway connecting with the Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg road and the sales are on a large scale. The yearly cut at these mills is upwards of 16,000,000 feet.



The Weston, Dean and Aldrich lumber mill at Natural Dam.



GOVERNEUR MORRIS MANSION. It was used mostly for storage and for boarding workmen. Roger Maddock, Morris' second agent, lived in it a few years.



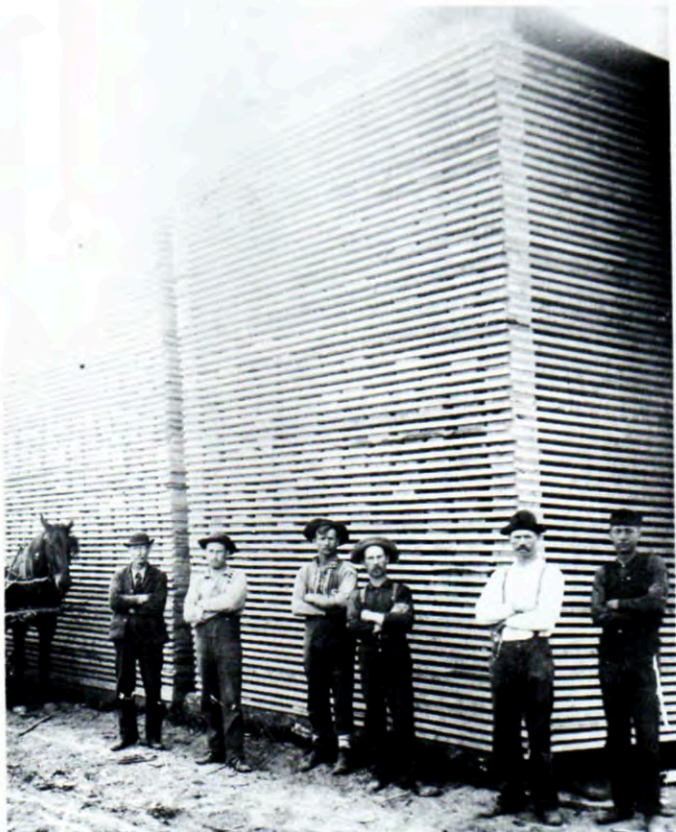
NEWTON ALDRICH



ORISON DEAN



HOME OF ORISON DEAN, now the American Legion home.



Lumber piled in the Starbuck and McCarty shipping yard on the railroad where the lace mill building stands.



STARBUCK AND McCARTY MILL on Halesboro Street, showing booms across the river to hold logs coming down.

The second bridge at this village was built in 1820, and two or three years later the water power was improved and the first saw mill was then built by Israel Porter. The property subsequently passed into the hands of a company consisting of Rockwell Barnes, Josiah Waid, Moses Rowley, John Spencer, and others. Asa Hunt held the mill for a time, when it was purchased by the late John Fosgate who added it to his flouring mill property, and for some years did a large lumbering business. The mill again changed hands, but the operators proving unequal to the

situation, it was purchased by Messrs. Starbuck & McCarty in the year 1869. These gentlemen have kept the works in motion up to the present time and in connection with their immense steam saw mill are doing an extensive business. The steam mill was built in 1882 and 1883 and the first log was sawed Saturday, August 25th, 1883. This mill, as before mentioned, burned Saturday morning, July 9th, 1887, and was immediately rebuilt though somewhat smaller than before. The company now saw upwards of 12,000,000 feet of lumber per annum. They have a lumber yard near the railroad on the west side of the village where every grade of lumber is piled for sale. Spruce logs are also prepared at this mill for the Watertown market where they are ground into pulp for paper. A branch yard has also been established at the latter place for the sale of their lumber. The supply for these immense works is from Lewis and Herkimer counties; a quantity is also cut from St. Lawrence county. The logs are floated down the Oswegatchie river which is often packed for miles with them. Hemlocks are peeled for tanning purposes before being consigned to the water.

## CHAPTER XV

The mineral resources of Gouverneur are of world wide reputation. Iron ore exists in many localities and is worked with large profits. Lead is found of a superior quality; silver in small quantities has been unearthed, and graphite is abundant. To the mineralogist a field almost without a rival is open, and it has been playfully remarked that whatever is lacking in his collection can be supplied at Gouverneur. Mica can doubtless be had in paying quantities; we have seen specimens weighing many pounds, from which were taken sheets of eight or ten inches of considerable purity and clearness. Fine tourmalines of white and brown, beautiful crystals of garnet and many other interesting specimens are to be had at this place. The crystals of apatite are among the largest yet discovered in any part of the world, and are abundant in Gouverneur." (Dana's Manual of Mineralogy, page 121.) A mass quarried from the grounds of the Gouverneur Marble company, by the late Dr. P. O. Williams, containing more than thirty perfect crystals and forwarded to Prof. Dana of Yale college, received the following response: "The specimen is a magnificent one and we are glad to add it to our Yale collections." Iceland spar of a beautiful shade is found in boulders; chalk and potters' clay of an inferior quality, besides a long list of other rare minerals, for which refer to "Dana," page 386. Serpentine of a beautiful quality occurs near the river and crops out in several places about the village. Scotch granite of a fine grain is so plenty that mills for cutting and polishing are already talked of. Steatite or soapstone will be treated of in a separate chapter as it has become one of the great industries of our place. Indeed, the whole of St. Lawrence county seems to rest upon a valuable mineral deposit, which time alone can utilize. Scarce a year passes but some use is found for hitherto waste matter, and little surprise is manifested when a new discovery is made.

The unsightly waste of stones and rocks cropping out on many farms west of this village, had long been a topic for ridicule or served to point a joke upon the unfortunate owner.

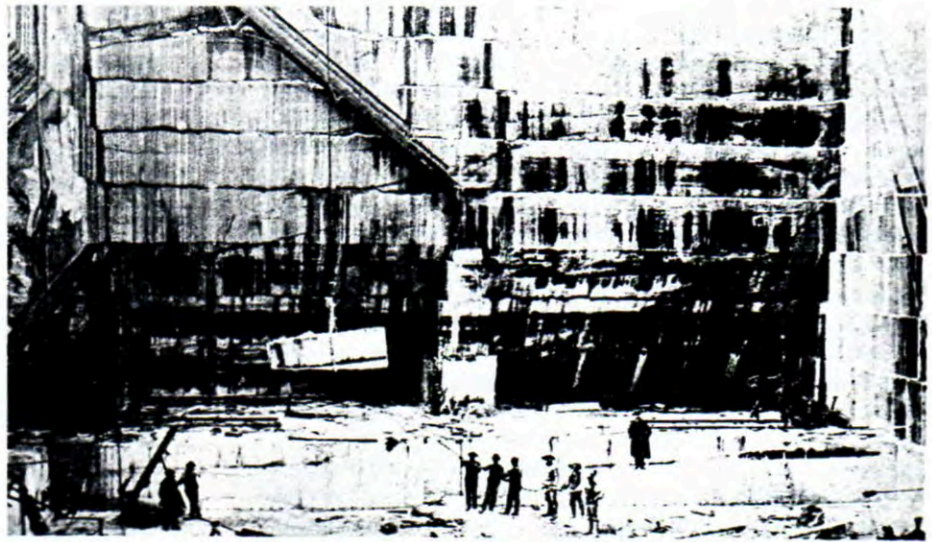
The open ground and crevices furnished a meager pasturage, while an occasional school house or cheese factory occupied some rocky site. To use a provincialism, the men were land-poor, and many left their farms for more fertile lands, little thinking they were parting with untold wealth. A mill for sawing this marble, then only known as gray limestone, was built by Jasper C. Clark, at Hailesboro, about the year 1825. This mill stood near the spot now occupied by the Agalite Fiber company, on Mill creek, a strong water power at that point. Headstones, many of which are still to be seen in our cemeteries, water-tables, window - sills and caps, mantels, firejambes, and other matter was here prepared as the demand required. The old Spencer House, built in 1825, was trimmed with this material; the house occupied by Isaac Starbuck, the old Eager house and several others. Quite an elaborate mantel piece once ornamented the "Moses Rowley" house, and if we mistake not, is still to be seen there.



The fountain was placed in the park in 1876. The occasion pictured here was the laying of the corner stone of the Presbyterian Church.

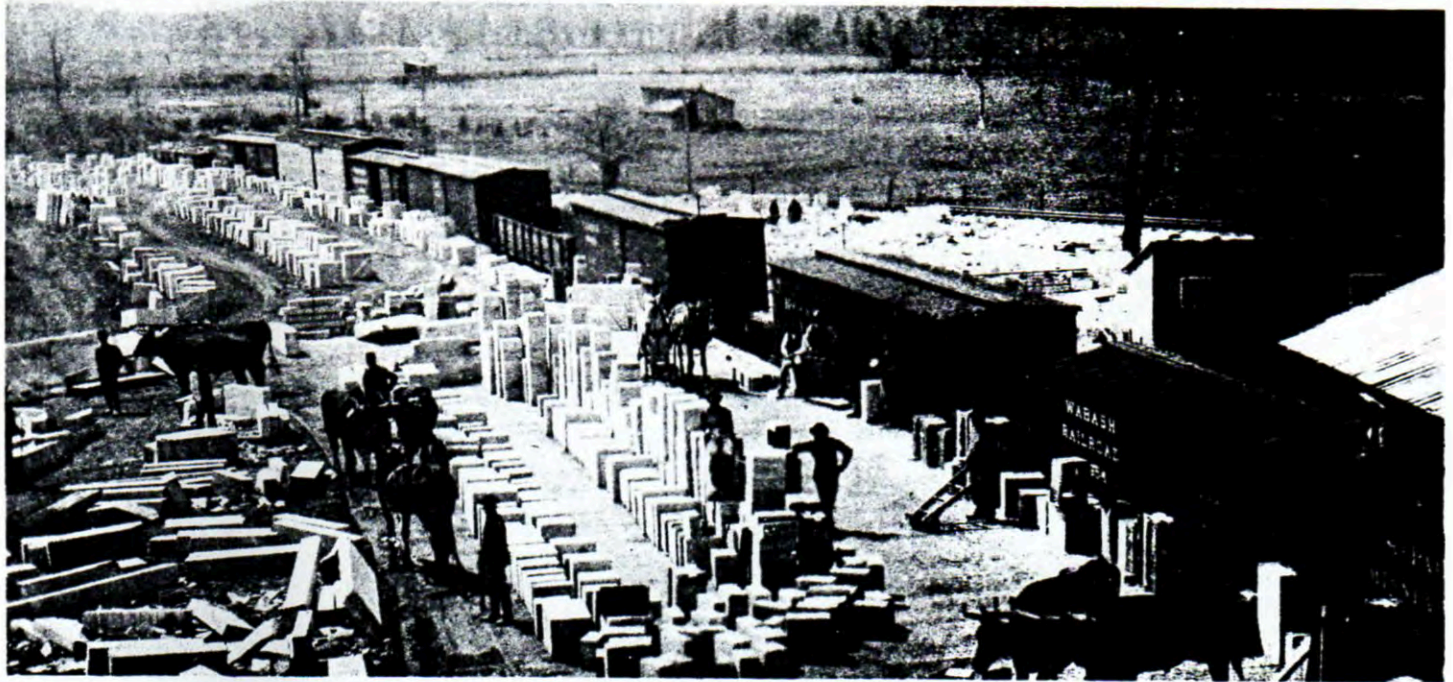


DANIEL J. WHITNEY



The steep walls of the quarry

THE ST. LAWRENCE MARBLE COMPANY



The shipping yard. Oxen hauled the great blocks of marble



The cutting mill

The brothers, T. J., and Daniel Whitney, quarried and dressed a small amount of marble on the Jas. Barney farm, from 1876 to 1880, but having no suitable machinery, for a time abandoned the work. In the year 1880 Mr. J. E. McAllaster leased fifteen acres of land of J. B. Preston, on the south side of the railroad, west of this village. The enterprise of this gentleman so developed the quarry that he sold his interest therein in April, 1884. It is now known as "The St. Lawrence Marble Company," of Gouverneur, and operated by the following gentlemen: John Benham, president; J. W. Griswold, vice-president; Austin Stevens, secretary, and T. J. Whitney, superintendent. This company at once erected a mill with sixteen gangs of saws and four channeling machines in the pit, which is already about seventy feet deep. The original opening was one hundred feet square, but has been enlarged by cutting and drifting in various directions. The company employ upwards of sixty men and by a judicious division of labor the works are kept running day and night. They have also an artesian well 440 feet in depth, which supplies all the water needed for the works. The yearly sales of this quarry already aggregate \$125,000 with a constantly increasing demand. The works, which are about one mile west of this village, are well worth a visit, where the visitor can spend a few hours in profitable and instructive observation. We are permitted to make a few extracts from the records of this company showing the extensive and increasing demand for the products of their quarry. In the city of Chicago fourteen private residences have lately been built of this famous marble, besides public buildings for various purposes. It has been largely used in the asylum buildings at Ogdensburg, the county clerk's office, town hall and Presbyterian church at Canton, churches and bank at Carthage, various public and private buildings at Watertown, Syracuse, Antwerp, and other places. The *Herald-Times* and St. Lawrence blocks of our own village have only to be seen to form some estimate of the beauty and utility of this product of our town. The texture of the stone is fine, capable of a high polish, and the many specimens in our neighborhood which have for fifty and sixty years been exposed to the elements, are proof of its enduring quality.

In 1881 Messrs. John N. Baxter, John S., and E. H. Sanford, of Vermont, purchased one hundred acres of land of I. W. Stacy. These gentlemen expended a large amount of money on the property, erected buildings and bought machinery, but for some reason abandoned the work for their old quarries in Vermont.

In November, 1881, the Whitney Marble company was organized, having purchased thirty acres of land of William McKean. Here they opened a quarry which was worked with reasonable success until their mill was destroyed by the explosion of a boiler on the morning of Saturday, May 3, 1884. Six men were killed by this calamity, and the company's loss was \$20,000. This was a very severe blow to the owners, but the works were immediately rebuilt and business resumed. Misfortunes, however, followed, making it necessary to reorganize in 1888, under the corporate name of "Gouverneur Marble Company" The present

proprietors are S. B. Van Duzee, Daniel Peck, James C. Read, Lewis Eckman, and Geo. P. Ormiston. They have four gangs of saws and employ upwards of twenty-five men. They have also purchased a few acres from the James Barney farm and the company are throwing out a fine quality of marble, with active sales which have placed the owners on a solid business footing.

In the year 1888 Messrs. Alexander and J. A. Davison, of Chicago, bought of J. B. Preston, eight acres of land west of the St. Lawrence works and have opened a fine quarry there. It is unfortunate for Gouverneur that the city of Watertown has offered this company a water power at a nominal price, so that much of their cutting and polishing is done at that place.

We have been thus particular in detailing the history of the marble interests of Gouverneur, believing that this industry has opened a fountain of wealth without a rival in Northern New York. Several fine quarries are only awaiting capital to bring them to notice, and as the demand is almost as unlimited as the supply, it needs no prophet's eye to see the works multiplied in a few years of time. Fortunately many of the quarries lie near the railroad so that markets are readily reached. The work of cutting is reduced to such a system that builders can call for the amount needed with a surprising nicety. Slabs of desirable thickness are prepared for side-walks, and much ornamental work is already done.

We may add in this connection that Scotch granite of a superior quality is found at Hailesboro and Natural Dam, and that preparations for working our beautiful serpentine are already in progress. The latter material bids fair to become a source of wealth. Tables and indoor work, paper weights and many ornamental articles have already been furnished. The stone takes a fine polish and some of the markings are of great beauty.



**HOME OF THOMAS J. WHITNEY** located at the corner of East Main and Beckwith Streets.

## CHAPTER XVI

The talc industry having assumed proportions of such magnitude in our town, it has been thought best to devote an entire chapter to its production and sale.

Steatite, or soapstone, more commonly known as talc, is found in many localities and its uses are various. The American Indians had many cooking utensils of the material, and in some of the arts it is almost indispensable. It is found in beds, veins and even in pockets; often in company with serpentine which it somewhat resembles, though softer and greasy to the touch. The first known in this section — unless small quantities gathered by mineralogists — was quarried at Natural Dam and Little Bow, during the winter of 1869 and 1870, by Mr. Daniel Minthorn of Watertown, N. Y., and to his untiring zeal and enterprise belongs the credit of opening up this vast industry to Gouverneur, although like many other inventors and discoverers, Mr. Minthorn has realized nothing from his labors. Prospecting about the above named places, enough was procured to warrant him in building a mill for testing the material.

Wanting capital for the enterprise he enlisted Messrs. G. W. Goodrich and George Paddock of Watertown in the matter and soon rocks were blasted away for a flume and the following year a mill was erected at Natural Dam. The material thus far obtained proved too impure for the filling of paper — the first use made of the pulp. Here also a soft clay was used for pottery; but the indifferent results produced discouragement and the works were for the

time abandoned. Attention having been called to the fact that this mineral existed in this locality, prospectors were at once put upon the track and their efforts have been amply rewarded. Mr. Minthorn again sought for material on the farms of Abner Wight and William Woodcock of Fowler, just west of Little York. A portion was ground at this village and also at Natural Dam, and proved to be of purer quality than any yet found, though still containing some gross matter. Suitable machinery was still lacking and it was not until the spring of 1875 that successful efforts were made to make it a paying industry. At this time Messrs. G. A. Mendon, A. L. McCrea, Sen., A. L. McCrea, Jr., and Henry Palmer built a small steam mill on the farm of Abner Wight, incorporated under the name of "Agalite Fiber Company." This mill was operated with considerable success until 1878, when the works were removed to the saw mill of Clark & Howard, Hailesboro, N. Y. Here they continued operations until 1880, when they purchased the Henry Haile flouring mill at Hailesboro, where they are still at work turning out large quantities of the powdered material. The mill runs day and night and the hum of its machinery has become a familiar sound. In 1877, Col. Palmer, having retired from the company, found a superior quality of talc at Freemansburgh, on the Brayton lot. Associating with himself, S. B. VanDuzee and John S. Honeycomb, later they purchased thirty acres of land of Egert and Averill at Hailesboro, with a suitable water power. Here they erected a large mill which was operated until 1882, when they sold their interests to the Adirondack Pulp Company, and which is now known as the lower mill.



ROCK ISLAND STREET, with partial view of the Amasa Corbin, Jr. home, as they were before the turn of the century.



**AMASA CORBIN JR., prominent in mineral exploration and manufacturing for many years in Gouverneur.**

In 1880 A. G. Gillett, L. M. Gardner, A. Corbin, and S. Graves, bought of A. W. Brown a water power, situated one mile south of Hailesboro, built there a mill, obtaining their talc of Charles Anthony on land east of the Brayton lot, continuing there two years, after which they also sold to the Adirondack Pulp Company.

In 1883, Messrs. M. Belding, G. H. Kenedy, W. B. Putney and Austin Stevens, purchased 20 acres of land of Fred Haile, at Hailesboro, organizing under the name of "St. Lawrence Pulp Company." These parties obtain their material from the Brayton lot, also from L.M. Gardner's lands at Edwards. Capt. W. L. Palmer erected a steam mill on the west side of this village on land owned by J. F. Sayer, adjoining the railroad. This mill was run for a time, with varied success, talc being drawn from the farm of William Woodcock in Fowler. This mill is not just now in operation. In 1888 L. M. Gardner commenced a talc mill on the old furnace water power at Freemansburgh, he, also, obtaining his material from the Brayton lot near by. The Natural Dam property after a time was purchased by T. W. Bayud, S. Fred Stevens and A. J. McDonald, who also superintends the works. The mills have been enlarged and the talc is brought from land in Edwards, owned by Charles Anthony. The company is incorporated under the name of "Natural Dam Pulp Company," and like most of the others, is doing a thriving business.

From the above it will be seen that seven mills for grinding talc are pouring the fruits of their industry into our town, while many of our citizens have largely invested their capital in its manufacture. Mr. A. L. McCrea, Jr., is the enterprising superintendent of the "St. Lawrence," A. J. McDonald at the Natural Dam, C. A. Millett, at the "Adirondack," George E. Hogg of the "Agalite," and L. M. Gardner, at Freemansburgh.

The talc is quarried in slabs, also in huge, rocky looking matter, when forced from the bed by powder. Some specimens have a cold, greenish, icy look, and are very beautiful. It seldom appears on the surface

and is oftenest found by boring, some times where least expected. The veins are often fifteen feet in width and the mines are well worth a visit. The underground work is at present attended with some danger, though new appliances are almost weekly added. It is probable that further prospecting at Natural Dam and other portions of our town will reveal a pure article, as only that near the surface has as yet been tested. The pulverized article is put up in sacks of fifty pounds, quite resembling the flour we receive in similar sacks . . . although larger bags of burlap are used for exporting the article.

The present weekly shipments from this village aggregate upwards of six hundred tons; this involves a large amount of teaming and it is no uncommon sight to see a procession of wagons loaded with the crude or manufactured material. The question is often asked, "To what use is all this product applied?" That considerable is employed for adulteration cannot be denied; but could we know no more harmful matter entered into our daily food, no complaint would be made. Most of the paper now made is filled with talc. The pulverized article is largely used in porcelain; crayons are made of it, cosmetics, tooth powder, and it is also the base of many paints. Sizing rollers in cotton mills are manufactured from blocks of soap stone and many beautiful articles are made from the sawed material. As it soon hardens after being taken from the mine, a little added heat allows it to take a fine polish.

The marble and talc industries of Gouverneur have added largely to our population, as many laborers with their families have been drawn hither finding permanent and remunerative employment here. Much foreign capital has also been invested here. All of which adds largely to our wealth and prosperity.

Nothing will show more plainly the amount of business done in the various industries of the place than the shipments of the different products from this station during the past year. The grand total of freight billed from Gouverneur depot in 1889 was 154,314,769 pounds or 77,158 tons. Lumber takes the lead in amount over all other products, being twenty percent. greater than the talc, and excepting the talc, nearly twice as much as all other products combined, as the following table will show:

Total No. pounds lumber shipped . . . . .	63,531,982
Total No. pounds talc shipped . . . . .	52,372,567
Total No. pounds marble shipped . . . . .	16,267,769
Total No. pounds wood pulp shipped . . . . .	6,363,908
Total No. pounds butter & cheese ship'd	1,297,500

The balance of tonnage is made up of agriculture implements, furniture, etc. The amount of money collected during the year on freight received here was \$54,465.99. The passenger traffic also shows that this is an important and bustling station — 27,518 tickets having been sold for \$30,702.09 during the year. But the freight business so far exceeds the passenger that we are reminded of the oft heard remark of our genial friend, the commercial traveller, when he strikes this branch of the R. W. & O. rail road that "this is the road where the freight trains have the right of way."

## CHAPTER XVII

The closing of the year of 1889 brings of course the closing chapter of this history. Having followed the fortunes of our town from its birth to a ripe majority, a period of over eighty years, but few events of interest remain to be chronicled.

On Sunday, November 10, 1889, at Spencerville, Ont., occurred the death of Mrs. Eunice Boyden, widow of the late Ezekiel Bullard and a former resident of this place. Her age was nearly ninety years and many of us remember her as a lady of rare beauty and refinement. The remains were brought to Gouverneur for interment in the family lot.

At a little after nine o'clock on Saturday evening, Nov. 23d, the cry of "fire" called our people out to witness the burning of the old Spencer house property, situated on Main and Depot street. The brick building was erected more than sixty years since and was considered one of the ancient land marks of the town. The wooden additions and barns were all destroyed and the loss reached about five thousand dollars, mostly covered by insurance. The walls of the brick structure still remain perfect and may again be rendered habitable. The location being a desirable one, it is expected the remaining space will soon be covered with substantial modern dwelling houses.

Note has elsewhere been made of the warm and open fall and winter of 1889. Moderate weather ruled until the end of the year; but as this section seldom fails of its full complement of wintry instalments, little anxiety need be felt for the incoming year.

The population of the town of Gouverneur at this time is estimated at about seven thousand persons, though it is several years since any census has been

taken, and we must wait until the count of 1890 is made before the number can be officially stated.

There are six churches in the town besides one or two chapels where religious services are held. Of school buildings and houses there are twenty, employing about thirty-five teachers, with an aggregate outlay of ten thousand dollars in salaries.

Gouverneur village has four dry goods stores, five drug stores, fifteen groceries, beside two at Natural Dam and one at Smith's Mills. Of clothing stores we have five, furniture stores two, printing offices and newspapers three, machine shops two, carriage shops four, with blacksmiths' shops and minor interests many. Four hotels and four saloons minister to the natural and artificial needs of the traveling and local public, while seventeen lawyers stand ready to right the wrongs of mankind. Of physicians there are ten resident here, besides two who are only away for a season. This may seem a large number for a town enjoying such general immunity from disease as Gouverneur, but it must be remembered that they are called to ride over a radius of many miles, this being the nearest point from which they may be called. Two efficient banks meet the present wants of our people, having facilities for carrying all the industries of the town.

Gouverneur lies about equi-distant from Watertown and Ogdensburg, both of which cities find in it a formidable rival, it being the centre of a wide and rich, farming country and the *entrepot* of mill, mine and dairy for miles around. Lying as it does on the R. W. & O. railroad, there is an almost hourly run of trains loaded with passengers, freight and the produce of our town.



East Main Street looking East from the Corner of Gordon Street



## A GLANCE BACKWARD

Gouverneur Morris, who was an ardent outdoorsman, once insisted upon stopping to fish while sailing with James de la Ray from Cape Vincent to Sacketts Harbor. LeRay was reluctant because he knew the dangers of wind on Lake Ontario, but he yielded to his guest. They landed, set up camp, fished and enjoyed a fish dinner cooked by Morris. The wind did come up, scattering the embers of their camp fire and setting fire to their tent. In the scramble to escape, Morris left his wooden leg to be burned with the tent.

Some of the following scenes are dredged from our memories, if we are old enough; or they may be based on stories passed down in our families; or they may even, in one or two cases, belong to a select group of legends.

At any rate, have you ever heard that:

The handsome stone watering-trough which Mrs. Parker mentions stood for nearly fifty years at the end of the park where the traffic island now is? Every passing horse or team stopped automatically on a warm day for a refreshing drink without worrying about red and green lights.

Sixty years ago Chautauqua came to Gouverneur for a number of seasons, pitched its big tent in a vacant lot on outer Rock Island Street and for a week brought the ultimate in culture to the townspeople in the way of music, drama and lectures?

'Way back in the days when the receiver rather than the sender paid the postage on United States mail an itinerant peddler stole a turnip from Timothy Sheldon, the original owner of the former Graves farm on the Richville road? The owner of the turnip caught the thief red-handed and charged him twenty-five cents, an outrageous price for a turnip in those days. For weeks thereafter Timothy kept getting letters and paying postage only to unfold a nearly blank sheet with the terse message: "D\_\_\_\_\_ you, remember the turnip!" It is said he reached the point where he refused to accept his mail.

Theodore Roosevelt, in his campaign for the presidency on the Bull Moose ticket in 1912, appeared in the old bandstand in the park? During his speech the crowd was distracted by the efforts of a small boy

to climb into the bandstand. Roosevelt finally hauled him in with the remark that the boy had certain rights as a citizen and climbing into bandstands was one of them. During his stay in Gouverneur the ex-President was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. V.P. Abbott whose home was the house at the corner of Main and Gordon Streets across from the Catholic Church. Afterwards the room in which he slept was known as "the President's room."

On fine summer afternoons Mrs. Newton Aldrich used to take a drive in her black surrey with the "fringe on top?" She wore "smoked glasses", an early variety of sun glasses, and sat alone in the back seat with the coachman up front. She took special pains to wave to children, one of whom, at least, waited for her each day and was disappointed if she failed to appear.

The night old Dr. Wait brought home his seventh bride the boys left a coffin on his doorstep?

"Uncle Peter" Van Buren who planted the first trees in the park was a familiar sight with his horse, cart, driver and water barrel as he faithfully tended them? How much we, who loved the beautiful elms, owe him!

When "Ed" Noble, one of Gouverneur's best known benefactors, went to high school in the old brick building at the corner of Main and Grove Streets, many odd things happened, like the morning teachers and students congregated for opening exercises to be stunned at the first chord on the piano by a chorus of shrieking and cackling from half a dozen hens which had been imprisoned inside it the night before?

Miss Emeline Van Buren, small, erect and dignified, crossed each day for years from her home (later known as the Red Brick Tavern) to the north side of Main Street, long black skirts swishing, black plumed bonnet bobbing, and on her feet a pair of felt house slippers!

In the heyday of the New York Central Will Holt's hack met every passenger train that passed through Gouverneur? It was drawn by a famous pair of matched bob-tailed sorrels names Nip and Tuck. It is reported that one small boy, enamored of Nip and Tuck, cut off his grandmother's "switch" to match their tails.

# APPENDIX I (Explanation of Text References)

## PART I

Page	Column			
7	m.2	<p><b>The first building was an open shed . . .</b> These first shelters are described in some accounts as log lean-tos covered with brush, and in others as flat-roofed sheds covered with board troughs like a sugar shack. They were located along Brainard Creek near where it flows into the Oswegatchie at the lowest point on Austin Street. The creek now flows through a flume and cannot be seen.</p> <p>Soon these families bought separate farms on which they built, first log cabins, then frame or brick houses. Isaac Austin stayed on the original site along the river where Austin St. is; Pardon Babcock bought the acres that now contain Riverside Cemetery; Willard Smith at first located down the river from Austin's and later on the Richville Road; Eleazar Nichols went toward Little Bow.</p>		<p>settled on what became the Henry B. Holbrook farm, later purchased by Amasa Corbin, four miles out on the Richville Road. Rufus owned the farm later occupied by Levi Smith, a prosperous farmer, who married Lydia Holbrook and built the home on South Street now occupied by Dr. Richard Scranton.</p>
7	b. 2	<p><b>The first four-sided building . . .</b> Joel Keys lived on the Hailesboro Road in the vicinity of Riverside Cemetery, as nearly as can be ascertained.</p>	10	<p>b. 2</p> <p><b>Gouverneur Morris</b> spent three weeks as the guest of Isaac Austin in Gouverneur in 1808. Mr. David Dill, who has made an extensive study of the Morris papers, many of which have only recently come into the possession of the Library of Congress, believes that Morris himself visited Gouverneur only twice, in 1808 and 1815. A man of wealth and refinement, he did not enjoy the primitive living conditions of the early settlers and, if he could choose, would go to Morris-town and stay with the Fords where he found comfortable accommodations and congenial company. The signature of Gouverneur Morris on documents after 1816, the year Morris died, is that of his son.</p>
8	b. 1	<p><b>Shortened the route to Antwerp . . .</b> Originally the settlers followed the road along the river, the Johnstown Road. The shortened route started as a trail through Somerville, probably just about where Route 11 is now. By 1840 it was a road and later became a plank road.</p>	11	<p>t. 2</p> <p><b>1809 . . . to open a district school . . .</b> Some local historians state that the first building, used for about a year, was a small log hut built to house the men erecting the bridge. The one mentioned here was the first built specifically as a school.</p>
9	t. 2	<p><b>The three islands in the river,</b> where the successive bridges have been built, was one reason for choosing the site for settlement. The island on the east side was a hundred feet out from the bank, necessitating a pier. The westernmost island has been engulfed by fill and the other two are covered with water behind the dam.</p>	11	<p>b. 2</p> <p><b>The first slave brought to town . . .</b> The 1905 Centennial History notes three slaves in Gouverneur: Dr. Townsend's Jenny, Dr. Spencer's George, and a man belonging to Benjamin Leavitt. In 1810 there were five slaves in St. Lawrence County and well over 14,000 in the state. Slavery was not prohibited in New York State until 1827.</p>
9	t. 2	<p><b>A toilsome journey to Cooper's Falls . . .</b> Usually logs and grain were hauled overland to Little Bow, then rafted to Cooper's Falls. The finished products returned by the same route in reverse.</p>	14	<p>t.1</p> <p><b>Porter's Inn . . .</b> At the corner of West Main and Mill Streets above the river, where the Ruderman building, recently purchased by Harron's Electric, stands.</p>
10	t.1	<p><b>Willard Smith,</b> one of the four founders, first came in the 1805 surveying party. Later his father, Aholiab, and three brothers, "Benjamin of Little Bow", Rufus and Stephen followed. Willard eventually settled on what was later the George M. Dodds farm a short distance north of town on Route 11. Benjamin was killed by a fall suffered while building the brick house, still standing, near Little Bow corners. He had an army of descendants, some of whom are buried in the adjacent cemetery. Stephen</p>	14	<p>t.1</p> <p><b>Fosgate's Four Corners . . .</b> Where West Main St., the Johnstown Road and Hailesboro Street come together. The exact site of the school is not known.</p>
			14	<p>m.1</p> <p><b>John Brown's Store . . .</b> On the east side of the river in the first block above Wall Street where the Red Brick Tavern was located.</p>

14	b.1	<b>Mrs. Pardon Babcock . . .</b> Riverside Cemetery is on part of the Pardon Babcock farm. The Daniel Austin farm was on lower Grove Street. Mrs. Babcock thus rowed upriver, around the bend and across to the Grove Street side.			Dr. Spencer bought Dr. Townsend's house on the Johnstown road and continued to operate it as an inn and tavern through the War of 1812.
14	m.2	<b>Church's Mills . . .</b> At Wegatchie. Harvey Van Buren's residence was on the Johnstown Road.	19	b.1	Dr. Townsend built the house pictured on p. 29, then, later, the hotel on p. 39. In the days of homespun, the woven fabric, usually woolen, was taken to the fulling mill to be "fulled", i.e., treated with heat and pressure to shrink and thicken it ready for cutting and sewing.
15	b.2	<b>First baptism . . .</b> Baptisms took place in the river at the outlet of Brainard Creek.			
16	t.1	<b>A plain frame church . . .</b> The Baptist churches have always been on the same site as the present one (which burned in 1976 and is about to be rebuilt.)	21	1&2	Rockwell Barnes was a millwright and builder who came to Gouverneur in 1808. A master builder to whom a difficult job was a challenge, he was a man of tremendous activity and enterprise who pushed any undertaking he once started until it was finished. In 1838 he purchased the site of Morris' old mills at Natural Dam and built a sawmill, barn, house, storehouse and bridge which later became the property of Weston, Dean and Aldrich.
17	t.2	<b>The Block House</b> was approximately in Clinton Street about in front of where Kaplan's and Totum Market (formerly A&P) are now.			
17	t.2	<b>F.M. Holbrook</b> was the son of Henry Holbrook who married Rebecca, daughter of Isaac Austin. The Holbrooks, like the Dodges, were prominent in the life of the town for three generations, covering most of the 19th century, only to disappear without a trace we can now discover. F. M. Holbrook, at the age of 82, wrote a monograph for the 1905 Centennial History but neither he nor his children returned to Gouverneur.	21	t.2	The first frame barn is said to have been on the Kearney road, this side of the bridge. Though the bounds of the Kearney farm are unclear, the Kearney tract of which it was probably a part, was a huge parcel of land owned by the father of General Philip Kearney, of Mexican and Civil War fame. It was originally three-quarters of a mile wide and extended nearly twenty miles from Gouverneur to the St. Lawrence River. Several early farms on the Johnstown and Gravel roads were part of it, including those of William Herring, Sr. and James Bowne.
17	m.2	<b>"Wally" McKean</b> spent some years in the west during frontier days and returned with tall tales about the Sioux and Chippewa whom he came to know quite well and whose language he understood.			
18	m.1	<b>John Garrett</b> was born in England and came to America as a soldier in the British army. He deserted in Connecticut, narrowly escaping capture by the British, joined the Revolutionary forces and came eventually to New York. He married twice and is said to have had three or more children. One daughter married Willard Smith and another James Barnes. A head stone in his memory was placed in the G.A.R. plot in Riverside cemetery.	23	1&2	<b>The burying ground:</b> the two acre plot granted by Gouverneur Morris in 1808 included a substantial amount of land inside John, William, Church and South streets, in back of the Presbyterian church. The present Riverside cemetery is the thirty-plus acres purchased from the Pardon Babcock farm.
			29	t.2	<b>Harvey D. Smith</b> was considered by many of his own generation and the two that followed to be Gouverneur's most distinguished citizen of the nineteenth century. He opened a drug store after his arrival from Vermont in 1824. He was special county judge, member of the Assembly and county surrogate judge. He was famous for settlement of disputes without recourse to law.
18	b.2	<b>The houses of Drs. Townsend and Spencer . . .</b> When Dr. Townsend came to Cambray as agent of Gouverneur Morris, he took up a farm and built a house on the Johnstown road, about two miles from the village at the top of the hill across the creek known as Townsend Creek. Mrs. Parker refers to it as the Wallace McKean farm. Since all doctors in those days had to have a source of income more reliable than their medical practices, Dr. Townsend took in travelers and ran a small tavern.	29	1&2	<b>A substantial and elegant Academic building . . .</b> this building, opened in 1834, was at the upper end of the park on the opposite side of Grove St. from the school building familiar in modern times.

		It was owned by stockholders and charged tuition, as did all academies at that time.	48	m.2	Abel Godard's wife, Helen, was a sister of Hiram Herring. The First National Bank was recently merged with the National Bank of Northern New York.
		The school became the Gouverneur Wesleyan Seminary under the Methodist church in 1836 and burned in 1839.	48	t.2	Roman Catholic Society of St. James . . . this was the building on Park Street, just back of the Main Street corner block.
30	m.1	A few rods north of the old ground . . . this second building (1841) was across Grove Street. The Methodist church withdrew in 1849 but the school still operated as a private academy with some funds from state and village until the Union Free School district was formed in 1887.	48	m.2	This fire was on Wednesday, January 13 (not January 15). See Gouverneur Times, Friday, January 15, 1875. The VanBuren Hotel, near the center of the long Main Street block where the Watertown Mattress store is now, just about divided the two great fires. Without attempting to count or identify buildings, it can be said in general that the 1875 fire burned most of the end toward Park Street from the hotel and the 1877 fire most of the end toward Clinton Street. The Fuller block is on the corner of Park and the Egert block on the corner of Clinton.
		The third building, the one familiar to most people, replaced the second in 1895, was the high school until the opening of the Dean High School in 1915, then became the East Side Elementary school until it was demolished in the 1950's.			The Van Buren house had two fires, in 1881 and again in 1893. After the second, it was rebuilt completely as the St. Lawrence Inn.
33	t.2	The Second Congregational church . . . stood where the Methodist church is now. It was moved to Park Street, used as a meeting hall and opera house until 1873 when the Roman Catholic congregation bought it and remodeled it. It burned in the January 1875 fire.	52	m.2	The first fire company was a bucket brigade organized about 1859. The second, organized in 1868 was the Gouverneur Hose Company No. 1, complete with red shirts, hats and belts. They had a hose cart pulled by hand and, on Main Street only, could use the new village water line. The third company (1878) built the fire house and purchased the LaFrance steamer in 1880.
35	m.2	Dr. Franklin B. Hough, distinguished historian of northern New York, was the author of a History of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, recently republished by the St. Lawrence county Historical Society.			
37	b.2	The first Fair Grounds were within the block bounded by Gordon, Rock Island, Main and Barney streets, leased from the Averills.	57	b.1	The reaction of the clergy to the "state of public morals" is shown in a sermon delivered by the Rev. M.J. Conklin in 1876 in which he said that the Saturday night gatherings downtown exhibited so much "profanity and drunkenness, with brawling and fighting . . . that Saturday night was made hideous in the extreme and that often these orgies were continued until the dawning of God's hallowed day of rest."
38	b.2	A word about the Parkers. James Parker was an early settler of Gouverneur and seems to have been unrelated to the other Parkers. His son, Sabin, may be remembered by older people as he lived to be a very old man. Captain George Parker was a newspaper man and the father of B.G. and Helen I. Parker both of whom were prominently connected with the old Free Press. B.G. Parker married Miss Dora Pike and lived in the house that is now the nucleus of the Parker motel on East Main St. Miss Helen I. Parker lived in the house on William Street that was later the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Prescott Loomis. Mrs. Parker, author of this History, was the wife of Cornelius A. Parker and the mother of C. Arthur Parker, both local attorneys. Their home was the house on Grove Street beyond the old Methodist parsonage. In later years there was another attorney, George W. Parker, of Macomb, whose daughter, Deborah, was the wife of Earl Mead.	62	t.1	Two important Gouverneur citizens in the pioneer lumber firm of Weston, Dean and Aldrich were Orison Dean and Newton Aldrich. This company was succeeded by Aldrich, Dean and Aldrich and eventually by the Aldrich Paper Company. Newton Aldrich, besides his lumber and paper interests, acquired a substantial holding in the Bank of Gouverneur. In 1900 he made a gift of the building which houses the present library. Orison Dean's widow, Mrs. Myra Dean, and his daughters, the Misses Jennie and Cora Dean, were responsible for numerous benefactions — the Presbyterian manse (now the museum of the Historical Association), the organ of

the Presbyterian Church, the bronze eagle on the arch, and the original building of Gouverneur High School, among them.

66 1

The Whitney family was connected with the marble industry well into the 20th century. N.E. Whitney and J.H. Sawyer began a retail marble business in 1865, taken over later by Mr. Whitney and his son, D.J. Whitney. The latter sold out after his father's death to George Parker who resold it in 1871 to D.J. Whitney and his brother T. J. Subsequently the business was bought by two younger brothers, A.S. and P.R. Whitney. Later D.J. Whitney operated the business alone for a time, eventually being joined by J. E. McAllaster in what was known as the Gouverneur Marble and Whitney Granite Co. New York interests later took over some of the local marble business, retaining the Whitneys to operate it. In 1881 T. J. Whitney, with the backing of a number of local businessmen, organized the Whitney

Marble Company and began operation on the McKean property where work was continued under successive managers until the quarries closed down in the 1930's. Many other sites around Gouverneur were explored by other interests and some of them put into operation. The finest Gouverneur marble was used as trim for buildings and foundation for monuments. Marble of lesser quality went into the foundations of buildings and bridges or was used for sidewalks. At one time the word "Whitney" meant, among dealers, a specific type of Gouverneur marble. There were other families besides the Whitneys connected with marble, notably the Scholtons, Eckmanns and Hamptons. But by 1940 the marble industry in Gouverneur was a thing of the past. New and less expensive styles of building made no use of marble, and the Great Depression was the final blow.

68 m.1 A.J. McDonald was for many years connected with the local talc industry.



Clinton Street from Barney