Reminiscences

And Early History of Old Peru

A Collection of Papers written by Members of Peru Grange

PREFACE

Perhaps there is nothing that stimulates one's love of country and patriotism, or cultivates a proper regard for one's home or locality in a greater degree than a knowledge of the history of the same. Among the purposes of the Grange is the cultivation of a pride and interest in the home, in the farm, in one's town and country. Although some facts relating to the settlement and early history of this region have already been published, it is in the hope of adding to this information and preserving in a convenient form other matter and facts relating to our early history that these essays have been written and published. Between the time of writing and the publication of these papers the author of one of them has passed from this life to the life beyond, and if the facts contained in her valued contribution had not been gathered and preserved in this manner they would have been lost to the future.

Many interesting incidents and much historical information relating to the past life of this region has already been lost through lack of a chronicler. Times and conditions are continually changing, and those who are here today and know of these incidents, tomorrow will be gone. If a service has been rendered in the publication of this booklet we only ask that due credit be given to the writers and the Grange.

SEWARD ARNOLD,
Lecturer of Peru Grange.

REMINISCENCES

And Early History of Old Peru

A hundred years! They've quickly fled,
With all their joy and sorrow;
Their dead leaves shed upon the dead,
Their fresh ones sprung by morrow!
And still the patient seasons bring
Their change of sun and shadow;
New birds still sing with every spring,
New violets spot the meadow.
A hundred years! And nature's powers,
No greater grown nor lessened!
They saw no flowers more sweet than ours,
No fairer new moon's crescent.

—*Lowell,*

Compiled by
Seward Arnold, Lecturer of Peru Grange.
1913.

Today we make the poet's words our own,
And utter them in plaintive undertone ;
Nor to the living only be they said,
But to the other living called the dead,
Whose dear, paternal images appear
Not wrapped in gloom, but robed in sunshine here ;
Whose simple lives, complete and without flaw,
Were part and parcel of great Nature's law ;
Who said not to their Lord, as if afraid,
Here is Thy talent in a napkin laid ;
But labored in their sphere, as men who live
In the delight that work alone can give.
Peace be to them ; eternal peace and rest.

—*Longfellow.*

PIONEER DAYS IN PERU

THERE is much obscurity concerning the primitive days in the history of our county, after the lapse of more than a century. No one identified with that age and generation is here to testify, and it is no easy task to reproduce the situation, or approximate thereto. The paramount idea in any such effort should be accuracy. Legends may have some value, and traditions should not be ignored and should supplement history. After every stone has been turned, doubtless many events worthy of mention have passed into oblivion for lack of confirmation. Pioneers, explorers and navigators of sturdy stock and, whose faces once set to accomplish any object, are not easily discouraged. Like Columbus, Peary, and Scott who lately perished with all his party on their return from the South Pole, the pioneers of this country were of the same rugged and heroic type. They faced an unbroken forest, and before this wilderness could yield the fruits of agriculture were long years of patient waiting and hard labor and privation. The pioneers knew nothing of luxuries. In a sense they were martyrs to those who came after them. One of them has given the following experience :

"Our forest life was rough and rude,
And dangers clothed us round,
But here amid the green old trees
A home we sought and found.
Oft through our dwellings wintry blasts
Would rush with shriek and moan,
We cared not—though they were but frail,
We felt they were our own."

The history of Peru and Ausable are inseparable. The town of Peru was formed from Plattsburgh and Willsborough December 28, 1792, and included the towns of Ausable and Black Brook. These two were taken off in 1839, since which time there have been no changes. The history of Clinton and Franklin counties, published by J. W. Lewis & Co., in 1880, says that one hundred years ago the town of Peru was an unbroken wilderness; which would mean one hundred and thirty-three years from the present time. While we do not believe in the worship of our ancestors, yet we ought to keep the memory green of those who endured the privations of pioneer life, who subdued the forests, built the roads, bridged the streams, built many of the houses in which we live, and trod the streets just as we do today, and made possible a better civilization for us than they enjoyed.

The central part of Peru was included in Zephen iah Platt's "Great Location" of 17,983 acres. It was bounded on the north by the present town of Schuyler Falls, by Newcomb's and Bell's Patents; east by Newcomb's and Bell's Patents and Lake Champlain; south by the town of Ausable, and west by Watson's and Thorp's Patents; the main street of Peru village being very near the dividing line of Platt's and Bell's Patents. How Platt obtained these large grants of land (in all 117,760 acres) does not appear. He was born in Suffolk county in 1735 and died in 1807. The City of Plattsburgh was named in honor of him. He was not accomplished in the art of

chirography, as his signatures to original deeds testify. William and John Keese, of Dutchess Co., were employed by Platt as surveyors, and it is said for their services he gave them their choice of 500 acres of land. Their choice was a tract east of the Rogers Road, north of the south line of Peru, south of the farm of O. K. Smith, and west of the George Derby farm. In 1789 William Keese built a log cabin on the land now owned by Timothy Davern, and in 1790 himself and wife occupied said cabin. This was the beginning of the early settlement of the portion of Peru known as the Union. John Keese, the father, settled directly west of him. Three other sons of John Keese came and settled near him. Oliver on the William Severance farm, Stephen on the farm of the Northern Orchard Co., and Richard on the farm now owned by his great-grandson, R. Percy Keese. He owned most of the pine forest, and gave commandment in his will that none of it should be cut for the space of ten years after his death. Peter, a son, remained on the farm and built the stone mansion which is a monument to his enterprise and sagacity. His stalwart frame and dignified bearing was suggestive of a nobility of character such as men admire. He is remembered by many as a breeder of choice stock. His herd of Shorthorns and those of Stephen K. Smith were a leading feature of the County Fair for many years. The Keese family were the most numerous of the early settlers. They belonged to the Society of Friends. The members of the society were noted

for industry, economy and frugality. There were no poor and no ne'er-to-do-wells among them. There were no ordained ministers and any one spoke as the Spirit prompted. Often silence reigned during the meeting, but some there were who were gifted in an eminent degree and could charm their hearers with sublime thoughts and purity of diction. Such an one was the wife of Samuel Keese. But schisms arose; the young people were restless and yearned for more liberty, and the meeting houses fell into decay. Their memory lingers and many regret their decline.

One of the most pressing needs of the pioneers was roads. They had lived in log huts, most of them, and followed blazed trees. One of the first of these was the Rogers road, built in 1790–1793, so named because it was built under the supervision of Platt Rogers, probably by State aid. This road entered the town of Peru where it does today, at the old Quaker burying ground, and continued in a northerly course to Arnold's Corners, near James Cromie's, and here it is believed to have deviated to the east, and to have crossed the Salmon River nearly a mile east of Schuyler Falls, and continued to the village of Champlain, and that John S. Barker lived on a section of this old road. The assessment roll of 1798, published by George Bixby in the Plattsburgh Republican in 1898, illuminates the pages of the early history of Peru, giving names and description of all lands in Peru above the value of one hundred dollars. After the lapse of one hundred

years it was difficult to locate the parties named on said roll, and so a gentleman interested gave us the key by naming the present (that is, in 1898) occupants on the Rogers road. Starting at the town line at the Quaker church was Henry Green, now H. E. Heyworth. On the west side of the road, the farm now owned by Elroy Beadleston was a part of one hundred acres owned by Henry Delord. He kept a post office and store which was the center of trade for the town. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Frances D. Hall of Plattsburgh. Later he moved to Plattsburgh and owned the residence of Mrs. Hall. Next north was Nathaniel Platt, now Elroy Beadleston. Next on the east was John Keese, the father of all the Keeses, whose farm comprised the land of Nelson Lapham and William Severance. On the west side was the farm of his son, Stephen Keese, now the land of the Northern Orchard Co. Said land was later owned by Samuel Keese and his son, John, and was a station on the Underground Railroad. Samuel Keese invested in lands in the north part of the county which he later sold to Bentley Sherman, and in the deal took the house and lot now the home of Silas Clark. The residue of the money from Sherman his son John advised him to apply on the payment of a debt on the farm, but instead he invested it in bonds of the O. & L. C. R. R., then being built, and lost it. This item of information was received from his son, John. Next was the land of Benjamin Brown, now George Heyworth. On the east was the farm of John Haff,

now the heirs of Schuyler Haff and O. K. Smith. North was the land of Rowland Stafford, to McIntyre's Corners. West of the road was the farm of Stephen Ketchum, now Michael Davern. Ketchum was a sea captain, suffered shipwreck and all perished but himself and infant child. A daughter of his married Peter Weaver and was the mother of S. K. Weaver. Another daughter married William Rice of Peru. William Lowering lived where the family of Sanford McIntyre now live. On the north was the farm of Lawrence Riley, later owned by Elisha Button, later by the Adcocks, and now by David Jarvis. North was the farm of Jonathan Griffith, now Michael Downs and Charles McGee. Still farther north Elisha Arnold owned 212 acres, which included 100 acres of Seward Arnold's farm and the Champlain Valley Fruit Farm. East of McIntyre's Corners was Samuel Taylor; north of Taylor was Stukely Arnold, now G. H. Stearnes. North of Arnold's Corners was 210 acres of Simeon Eells, who lived near the present site of Willard Eells' residence, and whose farm included what are now the farms of Soulia Brothers and Thomas Hughes. East, land of John Cochran, 790 acres, now lands of James Crommie, George Morse and Peter Soulia's heirs. Here the identification ends. The lands known as the Lewis Fish farm, the Onley Mason farm and Levi Jock's farm are not found on the said assessment roll. So much for the Rogers road. Reference is made to Platt Arthur, Elisha Hoag, David Hallock, Schuyler Haff, Wm. Clough,

John Eells, Henry Arnold and Nicholas Barker, all of whom were old enough to remember many on the list and to tell where they lived and died. But alas! In the short space of fifteen years they have all, save one, John Eells, answered a higher roll call and cannot testify.

The main road of Peru was the present road on the lake shore from the north line of the town to the Little Ausable, beyond which it bore eastward somewhere midway between the railroad and the present highway to Baggs', where it ran on a lower level near Galen Stafford's, and so on to the Page place, or Adgate's, and crossed the river at or near Table Rock, Ausable Chasm. The story goes that during a time of repairs on the bridge across the Chasm, one dark night a man on horseback rode his horse across on a stringer. He reported at the hotel a little way on that he had just crossed over the bridge, and his statement was verified by parties who with lanterns found tracks of the horse. It is a strain upon one's credulity to credit the story. The writer has heard this from men who were living at the time. The assessment roll of 1798 contains the names of the following persons on the main road of Peru, but no one has undertaken to locate them, or to say who at the present time occupy their places: David Weatherwax, Abijah Ketchum, Isaac Finch, all north of the Little Ausable River; and south were Samuel Jackson, John Elmore, Lot Elmore, Jabez Allen, Abram Beman, Moses War-

ren, Isaac Allen, John Douglass, John Howe. The sons of Amos Day were: Ezra, father of Henry Day, Asa Day, father of R. P. McDay and Doras Day, Theron Day, father of William Day, Amos Day, Jr., and Rufus Day, father of Cyrus, Edmund, Nelson and David Day. Jabez Allen, an early settler on the main road of Peru, was a nephew of Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame, and settled on land now owned by S. S. Allen of Plattsburgh, a great-great-grandson, as is also B. I. Allen. Mr. Allen has in his possession a deed from Zepheniah Platt dated 1788, and recorded in office of Clinton County as No. 7. Ethan Allen made his nephew a gift of a yoke of oxen, a mark of generosity, and useful in subduing the forest. Robert Platt, son of Zepheniah, settled on a large farm which his father gave him in the early part of the century and built the stone dwelling owned by the late Randall Bissell. He contributed largely to the erection of the M. E. Church at Valcour in 1833. He also built the dock at Port Jackson. Judge Jonas Platt, another son, eminent as a jurist, once a candidate for Governor, Justice of the Supreme Court from 1814 to 1819, came to Peru and built the mansion now owned by Judge Kellogg. Thus far, this paper has been limited to the mention of such of the early inhabitants of Peru as lived on either of the two roads known as the Rogers road and the main road, and whose names are found on the assessment roll of 1798. The task would be too great and this paper too lengthy to identify and locate all that are found

on that assessment roll, and so, of necessity, only isolated cases of such of the early settlers as we of this generation are most familiar with, and whose history is inseparable from the history of the town can be mentioned. First, alphabetically at least, were the Arnold brothers, Elisha, Stukely and Joseph. They came from Rutland County, Vt., in 1795–1797. Elisha had bought 425 acres on the Rogers road, extending from the road leading to Clark Hill north to the corners near James Crommie's. This tract he divided with Jonathan Griffith, a brother-in-law, giving him the south half. Later he became the owner of 1000 acres, a prominent man in the town and county, a member of the Legislature a Senator, and Judge of the County Court. He bought Arnold Hill ostensibly for a sheep pasture, and it was for many years a source of revenue. Silas, the son, was worthy of the heritage left him and honored the name of his father. He is remembered by many now living, and some may bear out the following incident: He had occasion to make a draft on the Keeseville Bank, and incidentally asked Thomas Giles, a ward of his, to endorse for him, which, of course, Giles did cheerfully. Later, Giles asked a similar favor of Mr. Arnold in order to purchase a cow. Seeing that he was caught by this strategy he signed a note and of course had it to pay. He and his son Elisha removed to Keeseville, where they died and left no successors to the once oppulent and influential family of Elisha Arnold. Stukely, a brother of Elisha, lived where G. H.

Stearnes now resides. He died at the age of 28. Joseph Arnold lived in the house now occupied by Charles Clark. He was a well-to-do farmer, the father of eight sons—Stukely, Caleb, Joshua, Nathan, Elisha, Darius, Henry and Sidney. The immediate and only successors of these living in town are Mrs. Charles Barber, Seward Arnold, Mrs. W. E. Beach and Mrs. Harley Stafford.

Elisha Button lived in Peru in an early day, first where J. B. Spaulding now resides. His name does not appear on the list of 1798. He was for many years a prominent man and lived most of his life on the farm where David Jarvis now resides. He kept a hotel and store, dealt in real estate, made potash, was many years Justice of the Peace and Sheriff of the County. As a Justice he was not governed by technicalities, but by the equity of the case. A party came to him for a summons, claiming trespass, and stated, in his judgment, the amount of damages. On trial the evidence showed a much greater amount of damage. Judgment was rendered for the amount claimed in the complaint. The plaintiff was wroth, but the Justice had honored his judgment. He was once asked if he would accept ashes in payment for wedding fees. He left a large family, all of whom with him have passed beyond the reach of praise or blame. Elisha had a brother, Gardner, who once resided in Peru, and of whose daughters one became the wife of John Arnold and another the wife of Silas Clark. A son, Arnold Button, mar-

ried Harriet Clark, and is now living near Rochester at the age of 91.

One of the pioneers was Asa Elmore, who came from Westminster, N. H. He had six children—Selucia, Washington, Franklin, Lewis, Maria and Jenette (Mrs. H. H. Everest). Asa Elmore was a large land-owner. He engaged in general merchandise in the store now occupied by E. K. Hodgkins. He built the large house near the M. E. Church. Washington Elmore built the house where the Elmores now reside. He died at 30 years of age. Franklin Elmore inherited the business of his father, who died when he was but 18 years old. Franklin Elmore sold goods for many years in the old brick store. It did not seem that he had a lage trade, but he kept a large stock, and a thing to be found nowhere else was sure to be found there. John Cook, son of a Congregational minister, was his right hand man for many years. He was a "hail fellow, well met," and a factor in Peru in the days gone by. John removed to Austin, Minn., in 1856, married, engaged in the mercantile business, secured a competence and died some years ago. Mrs. Jenette Everest, whom most people remember, provided in her will an endowment for the care of "God's Acre" for all time. Elmore Elmore, a grandson of Franklin Elmore, and his mother, Mrs. Morehouse, are the only successors of the Elmores now living in Peru.

Edmund Clark came to Peru about the year 1804. He was the ancestor of all of that name in Peru now living or deceased. He came from Wallingford, Vt. He was the father of eight children, namely: Solomon, Edmund, Jr., Pamelia, Philinda, Lilla, Sally, Polly and Joel. He became the owner of 800 acres of land, which he divided equally among his children, giving each 100 acres of land at the time of his or her majority. The sons settled on contiguous farms. True to their antecedents the posterity of Edmund Clark have been loyal supporters of the M. E. Church, and to this day are known as upright and energetic citizens. The only grandchild now living is Silas Clark.

One of the settlers of the Little Ausable was Peter Hallock, who came to Peru in 1794 from Long Island while all around was a wilderness. He had ten children, a common thing in those days. George, whom many living remember, remained on the homestead, now owned by Datus Clark. He was prepossing in appearance, genial and popular; was several times supervisor and once Member of Assembly: He was a member of the Society of Friends and a cousin of the poet, Fitz Green Hallock.

Benjamin Smith, father of Stephen K., settled in West Peru at an early day on the farm now known as the Robert Tanner farm in Smithdale. He owned a square mile of land. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Stephen Keese. Mr. Smith was a farmer

and also engaged in rafting lumber to Quebec. He suffered pecuniary loss and died. Stephen K., the son, built the stone house now on the farm and afterwards bought the farm now owned by his son, O. K. Smith. His place was a station on the underground railroad. He believed "a man's a man for a' that," black or white, and he was not the man to turn a deaf ear to the entreaties of any colored man in pursuit of freedom, albeit by so doing he was liable to the maledictions of some not in sympathy with those seeking a refuge. Another station on this road was Chittendon's, on the Ira Rowlson place in Beekmantown, and also Townsend Adams', West Plattsburgh.

J. T. Everest, though not a pioneer, deserves a place in the records of Peru. The son of Joseph Everest, he came to Peru while young and bought the farm and built the stone house now owned by the family of Alfred Jock. He was awarded the prize by the Clinton County Agricultural Society for the best cultivated farm for two years. He filled the offices of County Judge, Member of Assembly, and State Prison Inspector for three years. His remains lie in the cemetery in Peru.

Nathan Ferris came to Peru in an early day and settled on the farm still known as the Ferris farm. Farming at that time was not a lucrative business and no sinecure. It meant hard work and small returns. His house was a hospitable abode, and many an itinerant preacher found a shelter there.

His daughter, Adeline, became the wife of Buel Goodsell, and the mother of Bishop Goodsell, of sacred memory. It was here in the Ferris homestead that the Bishop spent many of his boyhood days. Charles Ferris, a son, succeeded to his father's estate. He was "to the manor born," and was an upright and honorable citizen, an uncompromising Union man, and it is said that a son-in-law of his with Southern antecedents and sympathies found little comfort while his guest.

The first settler at Bartonville was Simeon Eells, on the Bell tract. Bell was annoyed by trespassers cutting timber from time to time, and his inquiries always elicited the same reply and pointed to Simeon Eells as the trespasser. At last, worried by his unsuccessful search, he gave Eells 100 acres as a reward for his industry.

Daniel Jackson, the author of the pathetic story of "Alonzo and Melissa," published in 1811, was born in Peru in 1790. The story of the hardships and discouragements of the young people created great interest at the time and even down to a much later date was sought and read by many, among whom was the writer of this paper. There are, doubtles, a few copies in existence at the present time.

Thomas Weaver and family came to Peru from Somerset, Mass., in 1800, and settled on the land opposite J. B. Spaulding, and now owned by Silas

Clark. He had eight children. They were Friends, and were buried in the cemetery in the Union. Peter Weaver bought land in Schuyler Falls while it was a forest and, like most pioneers, had to hew out and farm for himself. Thomas Weaver resided on the premises of J. B. Spaulding and cared for the father and mother in their declining years. Samuel Weaver spent a large part of his life in Saranac, in farming and preaching the Gospel. A daughter, Patience Weaver, was the mother of Silas Clark.

There were numbers more who were factors in the settlement and development of the town. John Haff, settled in Peru in 1793. He purchased nearly a mile square of forest lying between the Rogers road and the State road leading south from Peru village. At that time the streams were alive with fish and the woods with game. It is said that trout weighing two pounds were found in the little stream that finds its way from Haff's to the Little Ausable, near Narza McGee's. He lived to bring into cultivation and leave to his posterity one of the best farms in town.

John Cochran has the honor of being the founder of the village of Peru about 1795. He built a farmhouse on the site of the H. E. Heyworth mansion. The fine water power at that time no doubt seemed an inviting place for business. Directly the place became known as Cochran's Mills. He built a grist mill which was a great benefit to the public. Pre-

vious to this Plattsburgh was the nearest privilege, and to the east portion, Burlington. At that time the road crossed the river below the sawmill and gristmill.

George Heyworth was born in 1774 and died in 1834. He came from England in 1798. He built the house near Mason's shops and lived there until his death. He bought the sawmill and gristmill and for many years these mills were owned by the Heyworths, father and sons. He was the first Supervisor of Peru after the towns of Ausable and Black Brook were detached in 1839. He was a prominent man in Peru, a man of rough exterior but of generous impulses, as witness the following: In a litigation with Nathan Rice he obtained a judgment for the amount claimed, and on the reversed side of the paper was an assignment of the judgment to Julia Ann, daughter of Mr. Rice. He built the stone factory in 1826.

Benjamin Ketchum built the repository of Heyworth's and for many years Stearns and Edgar Beckwith sold goods there. Lyman Woodruff built the brick store now owned by W. R. Weaver. He had sold goods in the building afterward used by William Clough as a furniture shop, said building having been removed previously. William Clough made and sold furniture and kept undertaking rooms until he retired, and was succeeded by his sons, Clough Brothers.

James Bentley came from England by advice of and influenced by George Heyworth, a cousin, and the twain were old friends. He engaged in the manufacture of wagons and became known for the superior workmanship of anything that left his shop. The Bentley wagon needed no guaranty. He was succeeded by Samuel and George, his sons, who made goods in his stead.

Empire Hall was built by Day and McIntyre in 1856, and is a monument to their energy and industry. Washington Stafford, a landmark in Peru, kept a blacksmith shop and was Justice of the Peace for many years. His allegiance to the Democratic party was never known to fail. Samuel Martin was well-known. He had a tannery near Narza McGee's place and also kept a shoe shop. Richard Hargraves, a preacher, a photographer and a manufacturer of matches, was well known and highly respected in his day. Stephen Cole was a physician in an early day, impetuous, impulsive, and sometimes using language forbidden by the decalogue. He died in 1876 and was succeeded by his son, Frank Cole, who was a physician esteemed by many. He had an admiration for a good horse and towards the close of life a weakness for trading horses.

Nathan Lapham was a conspicuous figure in Peru. He carried on a diversified business, was elected to the State Senate, Vice-President of the New York and Canada Railroad. An able man and possessed

of more than average intelligence. A beligerent spirit led him into many controversies and alienated many of his friends.

The bridge in Peru village appears to have been built in 1840; whether by contract or not does not appear on the records. The record shows appropriations aggregating $3,500. It has stood the test of time and the fury of the elements, and may for a century to come. The Arnold bridge was built about 1850, cost a much less sum, being only one arch. Appropriations to the amount of $1,000 are all that appear in the records. A resolution appears on the records for 1857 to pay Andrew Soulia $130 for the gravel bed near Turner bridge. In 1863 the town voted $150 for volunteers; in 1864, $300; in 1865, $500 for men to fill the quota of 300,000 ordered by the President. These figures testify to the loyalty of Peru in those dark days in our history. If anything more was needed the record gives the names of 150 men who went to the front in defense of the Union, and many found a grave in southern soil.

The first M. E. church in Peru was built of logs and stood near the west entrance to the old cemetery. The grave of John Oxford is near by and some of the foundation stones are visible. It was warmed by an inverted potash kettle with a hole cut to insert a pipe. The second M. E. church was built in 1811–1813. It was of wood, with a gallery on

three sides. The site was given or deeded by Thomas Bull. Abraham Haff, Heman Garlick, David Clough, Edmund Clark, Joel Clark, Solomon Clark, Thomas Weaver, Nathan Ferris and Nathan Rice were standard bearers and pillars in the early church. The Congregational church was built in 1833. St. Augustine church was built in 1884, the first pastor being Father Burke. The church was enlarged in 1911. The town meetings in early days were frequently held in the M. E. Church, for which the sum of $5.00 was paid. A resolution that the town appropriate $400 for a site and to build a town hall was offered. A motion that the resolution be laid on the table now and forever was carried.

The aim of this paper was to bring to mind the conditions in the pioneer days in Peru, with "nothing extenuated or aught set down in malice." It may not be amiss to mention some of the enterprises that have contributed to the enlargement and development of the town as we of today find it. And one of these proper to mention is the railroad facilities. About the year 1867 or 1868 the town was bonded for $30,000 in aid of the New York and Canada Railroad, as it was then called, and the expectation was that it would be a through road. But such as it has been, has proven the wisdom of those who favored the bonding of the town. It has been a convenience and made Peru a center and shipping point of no small moment to the town and surrounding country. The enterprise of her citizen-

ship and the commercial spirit has made it a live town. Later, the building of the D. & H. Railroad, connecting at South Junction, was a great impetus to business and commerce, and there seemed to be nothing lacking.

Twenty-seven years ago, or in 1886, Albert Mason bought the shop where Richard Hargraves had made matches, and equipped the building for the making of cider. Later he made bee hives and kept and sold the fixtures that pertain to that industry. That was the beginning of the business career of A. Mason & Sons. The growth of the business has been phenomenal and an agent in the prosperity of the town and identified with its history. The business has grown to great dimensions; their shops and mills are a wonder. The firm is known far and near, and the volume of business has reached a great magnitude.

The telephone has come to us, electric lights, rural delivery, good roads, daily papers, the use of coal in warming our houses, the piano in nearly every home, the automobile—all these things are in strange contrast with the life of the pioneers, and were beyond the flights of the imagination of the most visionary of the pioneers.

NATHAN R. WEAVER.

Life is a leaf of paper white
Whereon each one of us may write
His word or two—and then comes night.

—*Lowell.*

GOSHEN

Biblical history refers to the land of Goshen in Egypt, where the Israelites dwelt for the whole period of their sojourn in that country, as a pleasant land in which to dwell, a pasture land, well suited for the feeding of their flocks and herds.

Of the pleasantness of the Goshen we are asked to describe there can be no question, neither of its excellence as a pasture land (when it rains).

Through the courtesy of Mr. J. W. Harkness, who examined and copied many of the old town records of Peru, we learn that the first settlement of Goshen, which is situated on the Little Ausable River a mile west of Peru village, was made in the year 1800, one hundred and twelve years ago.

At that time a sawmill was built on the north or northwesterly side of the river, for neither the river nor the road run in a straight line nor with the cardinal points of the compass at Goshen.

This mill was built by John Keese, son of Stephen Keese, who had settled in that part of Peru called the Union, at one time a thriving village with many inhabitants. The mill was operated by the father and son in company. James Rogers, also a resident of the Union, joined the firm and business was conducted under the name of Keese, Rogers & Keese. In 1800 or 1801 a house was built for John Keese, for in a record of a road laid out in 1801 it is described as running from Jackson bridge past Benjamin Sherman's and John Keese's to the west part of the town.

There are no means of learning the exact location of this house, but it was probably either near the bank of the river just north of the sawmill where the outlines of a cellar are still visible, or upon the hill above, where there is a well which was directly in front of a fair sized frame house standing in 1865, which was in that year taken down, removed to West Peru, rebuilt there and is now occupied as a dwelling. The house by the river was torn down the year following, being in a much more ruinous condition than the one just mentioned, and hence probably older.

In or previous to 1805 a gristmill was built on the southerly side of the river. The history of Clinton County records that Stephen and John went to Dutchess County in the winter with a team and sleighs and brought back with them to Goshen

the grinding stones for the mill. One at least of those mill-stones, a massive single stone hewn into circular form and shape, can be seen to this day where it is built into the abutment wall of the bridge which formerly spanned the river below the present dam.

A forge was built at Goshen after iron ore was found and mined at Arnold ore bed, near the present railroad station of Ferrona, or Arnold, on the Delaware & Hudson branch running to Ausable Forks. About 1801 a store was built and opened by the Company. This building is still standing in good condition, though not on the original site. Probably from 1800 to 1840, and possibly later, a flourishing business was done there by these mills, more indeed as tradition has it than was done at Peru village. It is said by old inhabitants that the forge was swept away in the great freshet of 1856; when the grist-mill went we do not know.

How much of the surrounding country was cleared and under cultivation in those early days we do not know, but the sites of several old houses, marked by a few gnarled apple trees and here and there a few foundation stones and traces of primitive cellars, or of the old well that was the unfailing adjunct of them are all visible today. On the river road farms were occupied by the Sherman, Hallock and Nichols families. An old house, still standing on the abandoned road formerly leading from the Union to Goshen,

was in existence before 1814, for my grandmother has told me that she spent the night before the Battle of Plattsburgh in that house, how she heard the clatter of horses' hoofs from time to time through the night on the bridge a short distance away across the river on the north and south road, formerly the thoroughfare to the north, as the farmers hurried to the scene of the approaching battle, and in the calm of the early Sabbath morning heard the cannonading as the British troops advanced. Many a stirring tale of those days will soon be lost, resting now in hearsay and the handed down stories of the sturdy settlers who helped to turn back the tide of invasion and win the Second War for Independence.

There were several farms in the immediate vicinity of the Union along the road crossing the little river below the old West's and the present McIntyre's corners. My father, who was born in 1811, when a small boy was often sent on horseback with a bag of grain to the old grist-mill at Goshen, and the dry goods purchased at the yellow store were considered the best obtainable anywhere.

A school house stood on the hill above the grist-mill on the westerly side of the road leading to the Union, and as early as 1864 and 1865 was moved away across the fields to the east, the writer well remembering seeing it moved away, dragged by many ox teams, but where it went is not known. Many of the early settlers were Quakers and their friendly

ways and plain speech must have exerted an influence for better things upon those with whom they came in contact.

As a child I remember hearing all the elderly people of the Quaker faith referred to as Uncle or Aunt —certainly a respectful and kindly form of address. The simple life was much more in evidence than now. Farmers supplied most of the needs of their families from their own lands. Wheat was grown and ground into flour and more nutritious if not as white bread as is now eaten was made. All the meat a family required was raised and fattened on the farm. Wool and flax were spun, woven into cloth, dyed, and made up into garments at home. Even the shoes were made by a shoemaker or cobbler who went from house to house, often using home-tanned hides for his products. Each member of the familiy was provided with one pair of shoes or boots a year, a limit universally accepted as all sufficient, as we are told.

It was also the day of the wide open fire-place the tin baker or more substantial Dutch oven, the pot-hooks and trammels, and the crane which swung the pots over the fire. Tallow candles were dipped and were the only lights, while matches were unknown. Coals were covered up with ashes at night and much care taken to keep the fire, for if by chance the coals blackened and the fire went out some one must hasten early to a neighbor's house

to "borrow fire," or resort to the tedious process of striking sparks from flint and steel upon punk and so getting a light.

The methods of farming were primitive in the extreme as compared with those of today. Ox teams did much of the work of clearing the land of stumps and ploughing the soil, then rich in all elements required for the growth of crops. When the land was prepared the grain was sown, cut, raked and threshed by hand, Hay was cut with a scythe and gathered by means of hand rakes. Milk was milked into unpainted wooden pails or piggins, strained into earthen milk pans, and the cream churned in a dash churn.

If the farmers of that day could have had a view of the mowing, reaping and threshing machines, cream separators, gasolene engines, motor cars and dynamite ploughing of today it would have seemed like magic.

The outdoor, primative life made robust, vigorous health almost universal among the people, for whom the cold had little terror, those living in the log houses, as most of them did, often finding their beds covered with a sprinkling of snow on a winter morning. Patent medicines were unknown, germs had never been heard of, and one doctor making his rounds on horseback with saddle-bags holding his store of drugs was sufficient for the care of the community's health.

About 1815 Arden Barker, a brother-in-law of John Keese, became a clerk in the store at Goshen, and spent the rest of his life in business there. We have no record of when the business passed from the Keeses to his hands or when he built the brick house in which he lived, but in 1840 a frame house was built directly across the highway from the store for his son, John Barker, and some time after a smaller house near the store and on the same side of the road with it for one of his clerks.

These houses are now standing, with another frame house built and occupied by either a Mr. Story or a Mr. Jacobs. The massive timbers in the frames of these houses is proof of the abundance of timber when they were built, and if the lumber used in their construction was sawed in the mill on the spot excellent work was done there. It is said that the brick for the Arden Barker or Lapham house, as it was afterwards known, were made and burned on the adjacent lands now part of the farm connected with it.

After the freshet of 1856 referred to above, the starch factory was built on the grist-mill site and was operated by John Barker until 1865, when he sold to his brother-in-law Nathan Lapham, who conducted it until his death. Two starch factories have been burned down on that site and the third one built on the same site dismantled and torn down. For some time before the starch business

was abandoned the river did not furnish sufficient power to operate the machinery and a steam engine was installed.

Thanks to the wasteful methods of lumbering that have prevailed in the forests at the headwaters of all our rivers the flow is less every year, and perhaps the amount of water in the Little Ausable every summer is now no greater than ran in any brooks that fed it seventy-five or one hundred years ago. We have come to expect every year a long and terrible drought, drying up the meadows and pastures, and it is apparent that new methods of farming must be found to meet this condition.

If the policy of conservation of waters and reforestation can be successfully carried out will it be possible that fifty years hence the rainfall will equal that of fifty years ago? In that event mayhap the mill wheels may turn again at Goshen.

Or, before that day will the whole Champlain Valley have been occupied by summer homes of those who are busiest elsewhere, as the shores of Lake Champlain are now being rapidly taken up?

The township of Peru, well named for its rugged mountains and towering hills, cannot be excelled for natural beauty of lake, river, mountain, rolling country-side and smiling plains, and in our town, Goshen, with its view on one side of the Ausable Valley, old Whiteface, the higher Adirondack peaks and on the other, the far summits of the Green Mountains is indeed a pleasant land in which to dwell.

SARAH B. HEWITT.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
  Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke ;
How jocund did they drive their team afield !
  How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke !

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
  Their homely joys, and destiny obscure ;
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile
  The short and simple annals of the poor.

—*Gray.*

Some Early Settlers of North Peru.

In these days most of us can hunt up a few noted ancestors if we wish to do so, although not many carry their interest as far as did Mark Twain, who said he wished to go abroad that he might lay a wreath on the grave of Adam, who was an ancestor of his.

In the days of the early settlers there was no need of a commission to travel luxuriously through the country and make a study of rural conditions and of how to make life on the farm attractive. The men and women alike of those days faced courageously the hardships and privations of the pioneer home. Very fascinating are the stories of those old people, and the events which helped to make the history of our country, seem much more real and interesting when we learn the parts taken in them by our neighbors and relatives.

One of the first settlers of North Peru was David Fish, on the place still known as the Fish farm and owned by his descendants. Just north of this is the old Mason homestead which was settled by Onley Mason. Upon this farm is the Mason cemetery, where most of those early settlers were buried.

Near here Roswell Bromley built the old tavern through the parlor of which passes the line separating the towns of Peru and Schuyler Falls. At first he built only the upright part, but as the country became more thickly settled greater accommodations for travelers became necessary and rooms and sheds were added until the house and barns were connected as they are today. In this house one of the first temperance women of our town left an unmistakable record, for tradition tells us that Mr. Bromley's daughter, Josephine, refused to draw liquor for the men. Although we do not know how old this house is, we find that about 1857 Stephen Weaver bought it and had it bricked and remodeled as it stands now.

In 1796 the Eells family came to Peru. They were sixth in descent from John Eells, who settled in Dorchester, Mass., in 1628, but returned to England to become a member of the Commonwealth's army under Oliver Cromwell. He afterwards came to America again and his son, Samuel, became prominent in the affairs of the Massachusetts Colony. He became a Magistrate, Selectman and Rep-

resentative. He was known as Major Eells from the fact that he commanded a garrison at Ponagansett (Dartmouth) during King Philip's War. Major Eells' portrait, painted by an unknown artist, in the dress in which he was presented at Court in London, where he was sent by the Massachusetts Colony, is in the possession of the Alpha Delta Phi Society of Hamilton College, which society was founded by one of his descendants. Each generation proved their loyalty to their church and country, and Waterman Eells, father of those who came to Peru, was killed in the Battle of Bennington. This family consisted of Simeon, John, Waterman, Sarah, wife of Joseph Everest and the wife of Josiah Terry. Mr. Terry had four sons, and at the time of his death Samuel remained on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Terry had no children, but their home was ever a favorite gathering place of a large circle of relatives and especially of young people. Many a story of their generous hospitality and eccentric ways has come down to the present time. On one occasion, becoming suspicious of the banks, Mr. Terry buried a large amount of gold and silver at the roots of an elm tree at the northeast corner of the house, the stump of which is still standing. He afterwards dug, as he supposed, the whole of it up. Of course there was a good deal of speculation as to who would have their property when they were gone, for they were well-to-do. When it was known that Mr. Terry could not last long, Mrs. Terry confided to a favorite nephew of her husband the fact

that there was a large sum of money in the house and proposed that they hide it and afterwards divide it between themselves. Accordingly, a large stone in the cellar was lifted and the money placed beneath it. Upon the reading of the will, however, this nephew found himself one of the executors of the estate and so the hiding place of the money was disclosed. For this his aunt never forgave him and, even after her death, was said to be in the habit of wandering about the cellar and trying to lift the flagging in a vain search for the hidden treasure. At Mr. Terry's death Ephriam Terrry came into possession of the home and he afterwards dug up a large sum of money from the roots of the tree where his uncle had buried it so many years before.

Joseph Everest's farm joined Mr. Terry's on the west. His house did not stand on the road as it now runs, but on a knoll to the south, near the brook. Mr. Everest's son, Josiah, built the large stone house now on the farm in 1837. Josiah Everest married Sarah Sibley, a daughter of John Sibley. While quite young he held several minor offices of the town of Peru, and for sixteen consecutive years he was Justice of the Peace. For many years he was Supervisor of Peru and for several years he was one of the three County Judges. At that time (1843) and previously, three County Judges instead of one were elected. The ability which distinguished his judgeship no doubt prepared the way to his election to the Legislature of

the State in 1855. He was elected Inspector of State Prisons in 1859, being the first man from Clinton County to receive a nomination and election on the State ticket. He moved to the village of Schuyler Falls in 1860 and died there in 1873.

John Eells, son of Waterman Eells, died December 25, 1904, having celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of his birth the previous April. It is difficult to picture the changes which took place during the century which he spent on the same farm and but a short distance from his birth-place. At his birth this Union consisted of only seventeen States, while at his death the number was forty-five, and he might have seen every President of the United States except Washington. Steam railroads, steamers, telegraph, telephone, electric lights, gas and automobiles, all came into use during his lifetime, and the Wright Brothers made their first successful public flight in the air at Dayton, O., in September of the year of his death. On his own farm primitive hand methods had given way to modern machinery and methods, while bountiful orchards and cultivated fields replaced the wilderness of his earlier days. One of the things which pleased him most was rural free delivery, for he said that as a boy he had to ride horseback to Plattsburgh through woods and unbroken territory for the mail, but now it was brought to his door.

John Sibley and family came to Peru from Charles-

town, N. H., about 1808, and we can imagine the hardships which they endured when we learn that they lost a valuable team of horses and came near being drowned themselves in crossing Lake Champlain on the ice. Mrs. Sibley was Sarah Carril and a lineal descendant of Roger Conant, the first Govnor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, and also of John Woodbury, both of whom were two of the five Old Planters of Salem, Mass.

They are all gone, these old people, and hardly a memory of them remains.

"They died—aye ! they died ; and we things that are now
Who walk on the turf that lies over their brow,
Who make in their dwelling a transient abode,
Meet the things that they met on their pilgrimage road."

Will the next century bring changes as wonderful to our country ? It will surely bring oblivion as complete to us as has the last century to them.

HELEN EELLS FALLON.

The worldly hope men set their hearts upon
Turns ashes—or it prospers; and anon,
Like snow upon the desert's dusty face,
Lighting a little hour or two—is gone.

—*Rubaiyat.*

THE TOWN OF AUSABLE

When the first white settlers of Ausable came to this locality in 1786 it was not to Ausable, or to Peru, or even to Clinton county that they came, for there were no such towns or county then, but they came to Plattsburgh, in the County of Washington, and built their log cabin at the foot of what is now known as Hallock Hill, on land now owned by Percy Keese. It may be proper to say in this connection that this County of Washington to which our first settlers came was about the size of the present State of Vermont, and that Clinton County when first taken from Washington was at least six if not eight times as large as it is today, for it comprised not only the present territory but all of what is now Essex County, over half of Franklin, all of Lake Champlain that lies north of the south line of Ticonderoga, and the northwestern one-fourth of what is now the State of Vermont. Vermont had not then been admitted to the Union and its terri-

tory was claimed by both New York and New Hampshire, but the former held possession, at least of its western part. Now I will return to our first settlers and devote a few lines to their history.

Their name was Everett and they came from the central part of New Hampshire where they had lived about seventeen years, though the parents were born at Dedham and Milton, near Boston. Edward Everett, the father, had been a member of the New Hampshire Legislature and captain of a company of New Hampshire troops in the Revolution. His brother, David Everett, was a soldier in a company that fought the British at Bunker Hill, and he died nine days after that battle, leaving a son, David, who in his day was quite famous as a poet, but is now best known as the author of the juvenile recitation :

> "You'd scarce expect one of my age
> To speak in public on the stage."

Captain Edward Everett's first cousin, Judge Oliver Everett, was the father of the celebrated orator and statesman, Hon. Edward Everett of Boston, and grandfather of Dr. Edward Everett Hale, the famous author. Judge Oliver Everett's brother, Andrew, was the great-great grandfather of Helen Keller, whose achievements, considering her limitations, have caused her to be called "the most wonderful woman on earth." During the first six and

one-half years that our first settlers lived in their new home they were in Plattsburgh, for Peru was not made a town till the last days of 1792. Captain Everett served three years as Commissioner of Highways of Plattsburgh, and as such helped to lay out the first road in what is now Ausable, the road that we call Arthur street. After 1792 he held the office of Supervisor of Peru four terms of one year each, spent the remainder of his days as a resident of Peru, and not only he but most of his family of ten members died in Peru without knowing that there was or would be such a town as Ausable. The youngest member of that family, David Allen Everett, lived till 1861, and has two sons still living, George and Harvey Everett, aged 84 and 80 years, respectively, the latter being the father of William E. Everett, Worthy Treasurer of Peru Grange. When Peru was first taken from Plattsburgh it was half as large as the present County of Clinton, but it was gradually reduced by taking other towns and parts of towns from it till 1808, after which year it contained 257 square miles till 1839, when it was divided into three towns containing 38, 81 and 138 square miles, respectively. Why they put 100 square miles more into Black Brook than they gave to Ausable is hard to explain, but it is a fact that one is the largest and the other one of the two smallest towns in the county, exceeding only the town of Schuyler Falls by one and one-half square miles. The little town of Ausable thus created is bounded on the north by Peru, on the east by Lake Cham-

plain and Chesterfield, on the south by Chesterfield and Jay, and on the west by Black Brook. Its principal streams are the Great and Little Ausable rivers, both of which flow into Lake Champlain. It has no city of village wholly within its borders, but contains parts of three villages—Keeseville, Clintonville and Ausable Chasm.

The chasm through which the Great Ausable flows is one of the most remarkable in the State, and attracts large numbers of visitors from all parts of the United States and some from foreign countries. There are several high points in the town from which beautiful and extensive views can be obtained, one of the most accessible being the top of Hallock Hill, from which it is said that the Battle of Plattsburgh was watched by many of the Quaker settlers who felt an interest in the fight, even if their principles forbade them to take part in it. No history of the town would be complete that did not mention the Quaker Union that lay on the northern border. The town line that was established in 1839 passed through the center of that village, but left the two meeting-houses and the burying-ground on the Ausable side. Both of the meeting-houses have since been moved into Peru, one being now a horse-barn and the other a dwelling, and our last living Quaker has lately moved into Peru also, but we still have most of the Quakers on our side of the town line, for as the poet Gray, in his famous Elegy, said:

"Each in his narrow cell forever laid
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep."

Across the road from the "meeting-house and burying-ground lot" stands the oldest house in Ausable, a much older house than any now standing in Peru, for it was one of the few framed houses that stood in Peru in 1798, or 114 years ago. If that house could talk and tell what has passed before it the history would be interesting and important. It might tell how a committee of Quakers from the log meeting-house at the next four corners farther north came and looked over the land across the road and decided to purchase it of its owner, Henry Green, paying him 30 pounds, or about $75, for three acres. Then it might tell how Peter Hallock, great grandfather of the Will Hallock whom we know, built the first framed meeting-house in the fall and winter of 1802, and how Samuel Peasley brought on his back from the William Keese farm, now owned by Timothy Davern, the Lombardy poplar trees that he and other Quakers planted and which stood there more than a century. It might tell of scores of Quaker marriages, hundreds of Quaker funerals and thousands of Quaker meetings held there on Sundays and Thursdays in the next three score years; how harmoniously they met in the one meeting-house about twenty-five years till the preaching of Elias Hicks caused more than half of the members to believe in his doctrines and become Hicksites; how the orthodox Quakers thus left in the minority de-

serted the old meeting-house and built one of their own in 1828, and how these two societies, so strong while united, gradually dwindled away till there were none left to occupy the high seats, the gallery or even the common pews; how most of the Quakers who had not moved to Ohio were brought one at a time and deposited in the burying-ground; how the meeting houses were sold and moved away, the long horse shed fell down and was removed, the old Lombardy poplars were burned by careless Methodists, the meeting-house yard grew up to bushes, the burying-ground gates rusted from disuse and many of the headstones fell down and no one seemed to care to set them up again. I have not meant to insinuate that the Methodists are as a rule careless people, or that those who permitted the old trees to burn are habitually careless men, but I mean to say that they did not care for those trees as the Quakers had cared for them; that they did not respect them for their great age, and could see no beauy in their ancient forms pointing so straight up toward the heavens. Since the foregoing pages were written the bushes have been cut and piled and the yard is no longer the "neglected spot" that it has been for years.

The little town of Ausable cannot boast of being a great agricultural section, for at least one-half of its 38 square miles is unfit for cultivation and would need more dynamite than the Du Pont Powder Co. can furnish to make good, mellow soil. But

for nearly or quite three-quarters of a century Ausable took the lead among the mining and iron making towns of Clinton county. The first ore bed in Northern New York was discovered in 1800 by George Shaffer, commonly called Shaver, on land of Elisha J. Winter, about one mile north of the present location o Clintonville. That Winter ore bed was worked nearly 60 years, but has been abandoned about 50 years now, having been unprofitable on account of the depth and the difficulty of working. About the year 1809 two men from Jay by name of Stickney and Southmayd found an ore bed on Lot No. 200 of Maule's Patent. The land was owned by a New York City man, and they knew that if their discovery became known the price of the lot would go above their reach, so they decided to reveal their secret to Hon. Elisha Arnold, who was then Member of Assembly, and who afterwards served four years as State Senator. They showed him specimens of the ore and offered to guide him to the place where they obtained it, but he preferred not to go. He consented to undertake the job of buying the land providing that he should be the owner of one third of the mine if one was opened upon it. When he called upon the old gentleman in New York he was careful to tell him the truth, but not the whole truth. He said that he owned a large farm and much live stock, and that he needed more pasture for his sheep and would like to buy Lot No. 200. The man looked at his map of Manlis Patent and noticed that the

surveyor who had run the lines had written the words "strong attraction," indicating that his compass needle had been drawn to one side by magnetic iron ore in that vicinity. "Mr. Arnold," said he, "there may be a valuable ore bed on Lot No. 200." "I hope there is," replied Arnold, "but I never saw any ore on that lot," which was the truth, for he had never been on it. "I will sell you the land but reserve the minerals," said the New Yorker. "I shall buy no land unless I get it all from the center of the earth as far up into the sky as I can see," replied the Peruvian. "I have the money to pay down for a lot, and if you don't sell me No. 200 I can buy one from some one else." That threat brought the old fellow to time. So the astute Mr. Arnold, who, by the way, was great-uncle to our Worthy Lecturer, came home with his deed, and very soon the three partners, Arnold, Stickney and Southmayd, began working the Arnold ore bed. This discovery and purchase gave a great impetus to the iron making industry throughout the whole town of Peru, though the Winter and Arnold mines were in the part that is now Ausable. Ore separators, forges and furnaces were built on every stream that could furnish any water power, the Little Ausable being almost bordered with them from the upper end of Cooksockie to the lower dam at Bartonville, except where there was too little fall to turn a water-wheel. Goshen and Peasleyville each had its forge, but the largest works of the kind were at Clintonville, New Sweden and Cooksockie, all of those locations being then in Peru but now in Ausable.

The mines of Palmer Hill and Jackson Hill in the Black Brook part of old Peru were discovered as late as 1825 and started the iron making industry of Ausable Forks and Black Brook, but while those places are not in the town of Ausable much of the ore was brought into this town and made into iron at Clintonville.

The Peru Iron Co. incorporated in 1824, took its name from the town in which it was located, and for many years did an immense amount of iron making, having one of the largest forges in the world, besides separators, foundry, rolling mill and a large number of coal kilns. It continued to do business more than 45 years after the division of the town took it out of Peru and left it in Ausable, but it retained its old name, with but slight change, till its failure in 1886. The new company organized soon after took the name Peru Steel Ore Company, Limited, though there was then no good reason why "Peru" should be a part of its name, as Clintonville had been out of Peru for over 50 years. Clintonville was incorporated as a village in 1825, and for about 50 years that and Plattsburgh were the only incorporated villages in Clinton county. Keeseville was incorporated in 1878 and is so still, but the in corporation of Clintonville has been abandoned. Though much of the ore used in Clintonville and at other places came from the Winter and Arnold ore beds, those were not the only ones in Ausable.

The Fisk and Barton ore beds were both upon Arnold Hill, though not upon Lot 200, while the Cook, the Battey and the Mace mines were all located on the mountains east of the Little Ausable, on which the place which has been at different periods been known as Cooksockie, Ferrona and Arnold is situated. The first of those three names was derived from Calvin Cook, who owned the separator, forges and saw-mill at that place, and also operated one of the above mentioned mines in the forties of the last century, if not earlier. The last part of the name Cooksockie is said to be derived in a roundabout way from the Indian word "auke," meaning earth, so the whole name meant Cook's earth, or Cook's land, though it is doubtful about Calvin Cook having known that fact. When the railroad was built up that valley in 1868 the station then established was named Ferrona, after an iron making district in Sweden. About ten or twelve years ago the Arnold Mining Co. that was then working the Arnold ore bed changed the name of the station to Arnold, and so it remains to this day.

The relative importance of the Methodist churches in the three villages, Clintonville, Keeseville and Peru three score years ago is indicated by the annual report of the Missionary Board for the year 1851, The M. E. Church of Clintonville gave to the cause of missions that year $120.91. The M. E. Church of Keeseville gave $72.00, and the one at Peru gave $12.62. These figures showed a great

increase of interest in the cause of missions, for only five years before, in 1846, the minutes of Troy Conference showed that Clintonville gave $47.00, Keeseville $2.25, and Peru nothing. Evidently the good people of Peru wanted to keep the ministers as well as their money at home. When the conductor of the train on the Ausable branch sings out, "All aboard for Ausable!" he does not refer to our town, even if he is soon to pass through it, but to the village of Ausable Forks, which is located in the towns of Jay and Black Brook, about three miles beyond Ausable's southwest corner.

Now permit me in closing to say a few words about the pronunciation of the name. The French word sable means sand, and the discoverer of our largest stream called it the Ausable (Osable) because of the sandy point which runs out from its mouth into the lake. But I agree with the Hon. Job Hedges, who spoke at the dedication of the Champlain Monument. He said: "I don't care how the great explorer pronounced his name or how it was pronounced by his countrymen three hundred years ago. His name is now, in this country, Champlain, and that is the way I shall pronounce it." Now I don't care what the Frenchmen who first saw our river called it, or what other Frenchmen have called it since. We speak English, not French, and this name in English is Ausable, whether applied to the river or to the town about which I have told you. Doubtless some of you will

say "that is not according to Webster, for the Dictionary says it should be pronounced Au Sahble," giving the second a the sound it has in far. Yes, and the same Dictionary says that the name of another town of Clinton County is pronounced Shaze, giving a its short sound, as in at, but we all know better. The people of the towns of Ausable and Chazy pronounce those names as I pronounce them, and there is no higher authority for the pronunciation of the name of a place than the people who live in the place and have been familiar with the name during their whole lives. The compiler of the Pronouncing Gazateer in Webster's Dictionary was probably not a resident of Clinton County, New York.

I am aware that a complete history of the town of Ausable should give an account of the swing bridge disaster of 1842, the great freshet of 1856, the Keeseville bank robbery about 1877, the caving in of an Arnold Hill mine in 1892, and some other events of more or less importance. But this article is already too long, and I owe my listeners an apology for occupying so much time, as well as thanks for the kind attention that has been given me.

J. W. HARKNESS.

There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet,
As that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet;
Oh! the last rays of feeling and life must depart,
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart.

—*Moore.*

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

In the summer of 1608 Samuel de Champlain, a French explorer, sailed up the St. Lawrence and founded Quebec, and on July 4th of the following year he discovered the beautiful lake which has ever since borne his name—a name which was destined to become famous in history and renowned in commerce as well as war. He proceeded up the lake as far as what is now known as Fort Frederic.

It is a strange coincidence in the same year, 1609, Henry Hudson, an English navigator in the employ of Holland, entered what is now New York harbor, discovered and sailed up the Hudson river to a point near where Albany now stands.

From its location Lake Champlain was to become a great highway for the armies of the two powerful nations, France and England, which so long contended for the supremacy of the newly discovered

country, and later to be brought into greater prominence for the means it afforded the struggling colonies in the Revolutionary War to gain their freedom from the English rule.

No description of Lake Champlain would be complete without a brief reference to some of the more important events connected with its history in the early wars of the different nations which were striving to assert their claim to this region.

The Champlain Valley has been famous as a battle ground. From the numerous conflicts of historic times on Lake Champlain three stand out with marked distinction. I will briefly refer to them. The first of these conflicts is not generally known by the average student of history, as it stands on the outer verge of historic times. This battle was waged by Champlain against the Iroquois Indians. His army was composed of himself and two other Frenchmen and sixty savages. With a fleet of 24 birch bark canoes they started on their journey up the lake July 12, 1609, and proceeded to a point near what is now Fort Frederic, which they reached on the 29th of July at 10 o'clock in the evening, where they met the Iroquois Indians who were ready for battle, but by request of the Iroquois whose army was three times larger than Champlain's, action was postponed until morning in order that they could better see each other. The brave Iroquois expected to win the battle, as they were

strongly fortified with barracks and well protected with heavy armor, but to their great dismay Champlain was well supplied with firearms, and three of the enemy's chiefs were killed by the first volley of shot, which caused great alarm among the Indians who lost courage and took flight in the woods. They were pursued by Champlain, who killed more of them and took about a dozen as prisoners.

This was the first battle in what is now New York State in which firearms were used.

The battle of Valcour, which was fought October 11th, 1776, was the first naval engagement between the Colonies and the Mother Country, and the first ever fought in the New World. The American forces were under command of General Benedict Arnold, with a fleet of 15 vessels and 800 men, while the British were commanded by Sir Guy Carlton, who had 29 vessels and 700 men. The engagement commenced at 11 o'clock in the morning and continued until nearly sundown. The Americans were defeated with a loss of 60 killed, while the British loss was about 40. During the engagement the Royal Savage was grounded near the southwest corner of Valcour Island, and at night the British boarded the schooner and burned her to the water's edge.

Palmer, in his History of Lake Champlain, says: "The Battle of Valcour has not occupied the place

in the history of the Revolution which it deserves. Arnold, it is true, was defeated, but he escaped when almost every other commander would have surrendered. His gallantry and the courage of his officers and men inspired unusual confidence among the American troops at that gloomy and important crisis of the war. His gallant conduct at Quebec and Valcour had not then been tarnished by his treason at West Point."

The narrow strait between Valcour Island and the main land is historic. Over its waters have floated the white banner of France, the red cross of England, and the Stars and Stripes of our own country. Deeply imbedded in its sands are the hulls of five vessels over whose blood-stained decks the waves have rolled for over a century and a quarter. The position of but one of these wrecks, the schooner Royal Savage, is known, and the portion of it that remains can be seen in low water.

The Battle of Plattsburgh occurred Sept. 11, 1814. It will be needless for me to give an account of this engagement, as all are familiar with its history. It is a fact worth noting, however, that the Battle of Valcour was the *first* and the Battle of Plattsburgh the *last* naval engagement fought between the United States and England. Both occurred on Lake Champlain within a distance of five miles of each other.

There are other important events connected with the early history of our country that took place on Lake Champlain of which I will make no mention, but will briefly refer to what is now known as Fort Frederic. This place in history was known as Crown Point. In 1731 Louis XV of France caused Fort Frederic to be erected. The first church of the Champlain Valley was built here at this time, and a town of 1,500 inhabitants was near the fort, with gardens and vineyards, stores and paved streets.

The great British fortress of Crown Point was further from the lake than Fort Frederic and was built by Lord Amherst by order of William Pitt, afterwards known as Lord Chatham, at a cost of $10,000,000, which I think is about three times the cost of all the buildings now located at Fort Ethan Allen. Certainly it was a stupendous undertaking for those early times.

The first inland water navigated by civilized man on the American continent was Lake Champlain, eleven years before the landing of the historic "Mayflower."

The commerce carried on on Lake Champlain has always been an important factor in the development of the region adjacent to its shores, and it was given a great impetus when the Champlain Canal was completed, as it afforded the only communication between New York and Canada. The period

of its greatest industrial importance extended from 1860 to 1890. Since then, by reason of railroad competition and the closing of many industries, its commercial position has steadily declined.

The first steamboat on Lake Champlain was built in Burlington under an oak tree near the shore end of the present wharf of the Champlain Transportation Co., and launched in the year 1808, a year after Fulton had made his first trip on the Hudson with his "Clermont," and commenced navigating the lake in 1809, just two hundred years after Champlain had entered its waters in a birch bark canoe. This boat was called the "Vermont," and was equipped with a 20 horse-power engine and made four or five miles an hour, and was often passed by the fleet-winged sail boats. The boat made trips between Whitehall and St. Johns, and could be relied upon to make a round trip in about a week. Six years after her birth she was wrecked, having been "Queen of the Lake" during her existence. What a contrast between the "Vermont" of 1809 and the floating palace "Vermont" of today.

The present Champlain Transportation Co. is the oldest organized steamboat company in the world.

In 1842 Charles Dickens was a passenger on the steamer "Burlington" from St. Johns to Whitehall. In his "American Notes" he describes the boat as superior to any other in the world.

Lake Champlain is sure to become a great health and pleasure seeking resort; in fact it is already one. With the population of our country doubling once in twenty-five years, and with the great increase of wealth and the rapid growth of the cities and towns its future cannot be otherwise.

In conclusion, let me repeat what W. H. H. Murray in his book, "Lake Champlain and Its Shores." says: "Lake Champlain has lost none of its pristine beauty since its discovery July 4th, 1609, by that world-wide traveler, with his rage for knowledge, Samuel de Champlain, who never before had looked upon a scene of such picturesque beauty and such varied loveliness as this body of water presented to his appreciative eyes, as it lay revealed in the dewey light of this warm July morning. To the yachtsmen it affords opportunities for pleasure, navigation and amateur seamanship, as ample as sound or ocean coast supply; while to the canoeist and camper it extends in its bays and rivers, its islands and shores, its golden beaches and bold promontories, ideal conditions of recreation and enjoyment, and the health which comes to those who love outdoor life. Its shores and bays are alive with historic memories. Here are ruins of ancient forts; here the lines of old earthworks still stand; here nature has accumulated chasm, gorge and mountains for the lover of the grand and picturesque to admire, and he who sails its blue waters recalls that in days that are past the two most

martial races of all the world, stood for a hundred years in arms and contended fiercely for no less a prize than the possession of the American continent."

Murray further says: "Having seen most of the continent noted for its beauty, I can but declare that I know of no other spot, which for loveliness of appearance, majesty of scenery, and varied resources of entertainment, can compare with Lake Champlain. Nature has signalized, and history has emphasized it with such charms and attractions that it challenges the attention and invites the presence of all who love the one or are impressed with the other."

EZRA J. DAY.