

hundred dollars. The church was organized in May, 1870, with fifty members. Rev. C. Pierpont Colt, then a student in the Auburn Theological Seminary, officiated as its first pastor, and continued as such until July, 1874. Rev. John McVey was called as pastor in 1875, and is the present officiating clergyman. The church has a membership of about one hundred and fifty.

CONGREGATIONAL.

The first Congregational Church in Binghamton was organized by Rev. John Starkweather, in the old court-house, September 25, 1836, at which time nineteen persons entered into the covenant. On the second Sabbath of November following, the Lord's Supper was administered for the first time, when there was an accession of ten persons. Meetings were subsequently held in the court-house until December 22, 1837, when the building now known as the Academy of Music was dedicated and occupied, being subsequently enlarged. In 1863 this building was disposed of, and the proceeds absorbed by paying debts. The continued existence of the church seemed to most people impossible, but a few resolute and devoted spirits held bravely together, and, without any minister, held services for several weeks in an upper room of Mr. Job Congdon's marble-shop, which stood on the site now occupied by the Hagaman Block. A chapel was erected and dedicated on the lots owned by the church in 1863. While it was being built, Rev. Horace Winslow was called and preached in Freeman's Hall, and his installation took place in the chapel December 1, 1863. The present church edifice was completed in 1869, and cost, together with furniture, about fifty-seven thousand dollars. The present valuation of church property is eighty thousand dollars. The church united with the Presbytery of Tioga on the so-called "Plan of Union," in April, 1839, and in September, 1851, withdrew from that body and joined the Susquehanna Association, with which it is still connected. The following are the names of pastors who have served the church for more than one year: John Starkweather, Arthur Burtis, Samuel W. Bush, Samuel W. Brace, Dennis Platt, Chester Fitch, J. D. Mitchell, Arthur I. Pierson, and Horace Winslow. Of these Mr. Platt continued the longest, officiating for a period of more than six years. The present pastor, Edward Taylor, was called April 29, 1867. The church has received repeated tokens of Divine favor, and has now a roll of three hundred and seventy-one members. The present church edifice is located on the northwest corner of Front and Main Streets, and is a neat and substantial structure.

METHODIST.

The first Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1817, by Rev. Ebenezer Doolittle. Binghamton was made a separate charge in 1832. In 1851 the second Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Binghamton was organized. It was an offshoot from the First, or Henry Street, Church. In 1865, the centenary year of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, the Henry Street and Court Street Churches were consolidated, and the Rev. D. W. Bristol, D.D., was called as pastor. The present church edifice was completed in 1868, at a cost of sixty-five thousand dollars; the church property is valued at seventy-five thousand dollars. The following are the names of the pastors who have served the church since this consolidation: Revs. D. W. Bristol, D.D., J. W. Adams, William H. Olin, and L. C. Floyd.

EPISCOPAL.

In 1810, services of the Protestant Episcopal Church were held in Binghamton,—on two occasions by the Rev. Daniel Nash, a missionary. In 1813, he again conducted services here, and urged the organization of a church. In 1815, steps were taken for the organization of a church, and on the 19th of January, 1816, wardens and vestrymen were chosen. Some informality in the proceedings rendered another election necessary, and on Monday of Easter week wardens and vestrymen were duly chosen. The first church building was donated to the Society by Joshua Whitney. It was originally designed for an academy. In 1818 the parish was visited by the Right Rev. Bishop Hobart, and duly consecrated to the service of God. In 1821, at a meeting of the vestry, it was resolved that a new church be erected. The old structure was sold, and a new one erected, with a seating capacity of six hundred persons. In December, 1852, the wardens and vestry resolved upon the erection of a new church, and the result of their action is the present elegant and substantial church edifice, constructed of heavy stone. The following are the names of those who have served the church as rectors: Rev. Mr. Keeler, Rev. Francis H. Cummings, Rev. Mr. Gear, Rev. Nathaniel Huse, Rev. Hiram Adams, Rev. Mr. Shimeall, Rev. Edward Andrews, Rev. Dr. Robertson, Rev. Amos B. Beach, D.D., Rev. M. C. Lightner, Rev. Charles H. Platt, Rev. William A. Hitchcock, Rev. Robert N. Parke, present rector.

ZION CHURCH was organized by the colored people in 1836, and Rev. Henry Johnson was first pastor.

BETHEL CHURCH was organized by the colored people in 1838, and Rev. Charles Spicer was first pastor.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH of Binghamton was organized by Rev. B. T. Roberts in 1862. The interest manifested by the citizens of Binghamton in the system of free schools is truly commendable. The educational interests have kept pace with the city's rapid stride of progress in other directions, and to-day the youth of Binghamton have the privilege of attending school within the shadow of their own homes, in the finest school structures of their class in the State outside of New York City.

From the incorporation of Binghamton as a village, in 1834, down to the present time, 1876, spans an era of progress in the history of the place to which her citizens may justly point with pride. It has a population of fifteen thousand five hundred and fifty, is beautifully located at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango, and is one of the healthiest and most thriving cities within the boundaries of the "Empire State."

CHENANGO TOWNSHIP.

This town was erected in 1791, fifteen years before the organization of Broome County. Windsor was taken off March 27, 1807; Conklin, March 29, 1824, and Binghamton and Port Crane (now Fenton), December 3, 1855. A portion of the town of Union was annexed February 26, 1808, and a part of Maine, November 27, 1856.

It lies upon the west bank of the Chenango, and is bounded as follows: on the north by Barker, on the east by Fenton, on the south by Fenton and Binghamton, and on the west by Union and Maine.

Chenango has an area of 21,154 acres. It is watered by the Chenango River and its tributaries. The soil is productive. Stock-raising and dairying form the chief agricultural pursuits.

THE FIRST SETTLER.

was Thomas Gallop, in 1787. Colored William Eose and John Nimmons settled in the south part. Other early settlers were John Jewell, William Hall, Jedediah Seward, Stephen and Henry Palmer, Jared Page, Jonah Whitney, Nathaniel Bishop, James Temple, and Foster Lilly.

The first saw-mill in the County was erected in 1788, in this town at Glen Castle. In the treaty held with the Indians by the commissioners of the Boston Company, the Indians reserved the right of hunting upon the lands they had sold, and also reserved one-half mile square to their own use. This little tract was located near the mouth of Castle Creek, and was called the "Castle Farm." It is said that twenty Indian families resided on this reserve.

Although surrounded by white settlers, where daily the red man saw the symbols of civilization, still he never for a moment relaxed his grasp on the customs and dress of the savage. As long as they remained at the farm their peculiar mode of dress was kept up. Among the Indians at "Castle Farm" was one elderly man who was possessed of all their customs and manners, yet was unmistakably no Indian. He was of a light complexion and had fine blue eyes. He was quite a mystery among the whites; the supposition with regard to him, however, was that he had been captured when a child, and trained up to their savage customs. He had an Indian wife and several children.

Castle Creek is located near the north line; Kattelville is in the eastern part; Glen Castle about two miles above the mouth of Castle Creek. West Chenango is a post-office in the S. B. & N. Y. R. R. crosses the river. A portion of Chenango Forks is located in this town. Nimmonsburg is a hamlet in the south part. The first birth in this township was that of Sally Smith, in 1791.

THE CHURCHES.

Chenango has five churches, with an estimated valuation of property amounting to the sum of \$21,860, and divided as follows: Castle Creek M. E. Church, \$8500; Castle Creek Baptist Church, \$3000; Glen Castle M. E. Church, \$2600; Kattelville M. E. Church, \$1300; Chenango Forks M. E. Church, \$2600.

POPULATION.

The population of Chenango in 1840 was 5465; in 1845, 6002; in 1850, 6734; in 1855, 13,128; in 1860, 1841; 1865, 1671; in 1870, 1681; in 1875, 1630.

COLESVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Colesville was erected from Windsor April 2, 1821. It lies in the northeastern part of the County, and is bounded as follows: on the north by Fenton Township and Chenango County,

on the east by Sanford Township and Chenango County, on the south by Sanford and Windsor, on the west by Fenton and Kirkwood. It was named in honor of Nathaniel Cole, one of the pioneers of the town. It has an area of 47,283 3/4 acres.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

was made by John Lamphere, who came in from Connecticut, and located in the year 1785. Nathaniel Cole was the first settler at Colesville. Judge Harpur was an early settler.

Other pioneers of Colesville were Lemuel and Nathaniel Badger and Casper Spring, who settled in 1786. Nathaniel and Vena Cole, Jedediah Merchant, Daniel Pickett, Batemen S. Dickinson, a Mr. Wilmot, Daniel Crofut, and Titus Hummiston located in 1795.

Among the settlers who selected locations in 1796 were John Ruggles and Isaac Tyrell; Eli Osborn and Peter Warn settled in 1800.

Secretary Harpur was an early settler. He was Secretary of State in 1791, when George Clinton was Governor. Putnam Catlin was an early settler at Oquago.

Many of the pioneers of Broome were sufferers directly or indirectly in that terrible massacre at Wyoming, and they have related numerous tales of that fiendish butchery. The following incident is given by J. B. Wilkison, in his Annals:

"Philip Weeks, who lives four miles below the bridge, on the river road, was, when four years old, brought by his grandfather and grandmother from Wyoming, immediately after the great massacre. He remembers the catastrophe distinctly. His grandfather, then an old man, the day after the battle, was seated in a chair without the door of his son's house. "A fierce-looking Indian came up and told the old man he must leave or his house would be burned down in fifteen minutes over his head.

"The Indian, with some others, were driving away about forty head of cattle, and had just ordered one to go and bring a yoke of cattle belonging to his son. The old man told him he could not move without a yoke of oxen to move away with. The Indian bid the old man to go in and bring out a table and a bottle of whisky, which old Mr. Weeks did.

"The Indian refused the old gentleman his own oxen, but allowed him an inferior pair out of the drove. The old man immediately set about loading up the cart with the few goods they were allowed to take away. Upon the top of these he set his daughter-in-law, who the day before had been made a widow, and with her, eleven grandchildren, and drove the cart himself.

"With these relics of a numerous family and comfortable fortune he made his way slowly and painfully into Orange County. Philip Weeks was one of these children. He remembers that Wilkesbarre was burning as they passed. He remembers seeing his mother crying in the morning of the day they started, after the news of his father's death had reached her.

"His father had likewise two brothers killed, and his mother one."

Colesville has eleven small towns, viz.: Oquago, situated in the southern part on the Susquehanna; Doraville, Centre Village, Harpersville, Nineveh, Yallonia Springs, in the eastern part; North Colesville and New Ohio, in the northern part; West Colesville and Osborn Hollow in the southwestern part; and Colesville, southwest of the centre.

THE FIRST TOWN MEETING.

was held at the house of Nathaniel Cole, on Cole's Hill, in 1822, and the following named officers were chosen: John W. Harper, Supervisor; Daniel Sanford, Town Clerk; Ozias Marsh, Harvey Bishop, and Gervase Blakeslee, Assessors; Nathaniel Cole, Jr., and Elisha Humarton, Overseers of the Poor; Amos Smith, Alpheus Goodenough, and Daniel Sanford, Commissioners of Highways; John Wasson and George Wilcox, Constables; John Wasson, Collector; John W. Harper, Jeremiah Rogers, and Harvey Bishop, Commissioners of Common Schools; Harvey Martin, Garry Ruggles, and Joel K. Noble, Inspectors of Common Schools; George Wilcox, Samuel Badger, and Samuel Martin, Trustees of Gospel and School Lands; Ira Bunnell, Sealer of Weights and Measures.

The first marriage was that of Benjamin Bird and Mrs. John Lamphere, in 1794. Benjamin Bird kept the first inn, in 1794, and Bateman S. Dickinson the first store, in 1805. The first birth was that of Louisa Badger, and the first death that of John Lamphere; both occurred in 1788.

There are ten churches in this township, with an estimated valuation, as exhibited by the last census, amounting to the sum of \$39,200; and divided as follows: Oquago Methodist, \$3000; Nineveh Presbyterian, \$8060; Nineveh Methodist, \$2000; Harpersville Methodist, \$4000; New Ohio Union, \$3000; Colesville Union, \$2500; Colesville Baptist, \$4000; St. Luke's Episcopal of Harpersville, \$8500; Osborn Hollow Methodist, \$3200; West Colesville Baptist, \$1000.

POPULATION.

The population in 1840 was 2528; in 1845, 2829; in 1850, 3061; in 1855, 3135; in 1860, 3250; in 1865, 3202; in 1870, 3400; and in 1875, 3327.

CONKLIN TOWNSHIP.

Conklin was formed from Chenango March 29, 1824. A portion of Windsor was set off in 1831, and a portion annexed from the same town in 1851. Kirkwood was set off November 23, 1853. It is one of the southern tier of towns, and is bounded as follows:

On the north and east by the Susquehanna River, which separates it from Kirkwood, on the south by the Pennsylvania line, and west by Binghamton.

The town is the smallest in the County, and covers an area of 14,858 acres. Its name was derived from Judge John Conklin, one of the early settlers.

The surface consists of high broken uplands. Many of the hills rise from four hundred to six hundred feet above the valleys. The principal streams are Big and Little Snake Creeks. The former flows through the southeast corner of the township, and the latter passes through in an easterly direction a little south of the centre.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

was made in 1788, by Jonathan Bennett, Waples Hance, and Ralph Lathrop, who located at the mouth of Snake Creek. Among other early settlers were Daniel Chapman, Garret Sneider, Peter Wentz, Asa Rood, Nathaniel Tagot, Asa Squiers, John Bell, Silas Bowker, Abraham Snelten, Joel Lamereaux, David and Joseph Compton, Ebenezer Park, Abraham Miller, Noel Carr, and Thomas Cooper. David Bound came in the town from New Jersey, and located near the mouth of Snake Creek, in 1795.

David Baylis came from Princeton, New Jersey, in 1810, and settled near Conklin Station. Edmund Lawrence settled on the river road, in the northern part of the town, in 1813. He was followed, in 1820, by Felix McBride, a native of Ireland, who settled on the river road about four miles from Binghamton. His son Michael came four years later.

THE FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

were conducted in an early day by Revs. John Leach and David Dunham, Methodist missionaries. The pioneers of Conklin were in a marked degree religiously disposed. The music, Divine spirit, and "it is said that in all the families from the mouth of Snake Creek to Harpury beyond the Bend morning and evening prayers were offered."

THE FIRST DEATH.

was that of Silas Bowker; and the first birth that of William Wentz, February 18, 1795. The first marriage was that of Noel Carr and Sally Tonsler. George Land taught the first school, in 1801.

Conklin has three small hamlets, viz: Corlettaville, located in the southeast part; Conklin Station—formerly Milburn—near the Susquehanna; and Conklin Centre, located at about the centre of the east border.

THE CHURCHES.

There are three churches in the township, with an estimated valuation of church property amounting to the sum of \$16,100, divided as follows: First Baptist Church, of Conklin, \$4500; Methodist Episcopal, of Little Snake Creek, \$2500; and Presbyterian Church, \$8000.

POPULATION.

The population of Conklin in 1840 was 1475; in 1845 it had increased to 1866; in 1850 to 2232; in 1855 to 2539; in 1860, after the erection of Kirkwood, it had 1146; in 1865, 1282; in 1870, 1440; and in 1875, 1290.

FENTON TOWNSHIP.

This township was formed from Chenango December 3, 1855, and named "Port Crane" in honor of Jason Crane, one of the engineers on the Chenango Canal. It was changed to Fenton, March 26, 1867. It is very irregular in outline, and lies upon the east bank of the Chenango River, extend-

ing from the central portion of the County north to the borders of Chenango County. It has the following boundaries: on the north by Chenango Township and Chenango County, on the east by Colesville, on the south by Colesville, Kirkwood, and Binghamton, and on the west by Chenango River, which separates it from Chenango and Barker.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

was made in 1788, by Elisha Pease, Jared Page, and a Mr. Vining. Other early settlers were Isaac Page, Garry Williamson, John F. Miller, and Elias Miller.

Port Crane Village is a thriving town of over four hundred inhabitants, situated upon the Chenango Canal, fourteen miles from the County seat. It is a station on the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad, one hundred and thirty-six miles distant from Albany. The first religious services were conducted by the Rev. John Camp, in 1798.

THE FIRST MARRIAGE.

was that of Gardner Wilson to Polly Rugg, in the year 1800. The first birth was that of Chester Pease, in 1793. The first death that of Mrs. Pease, in 1789. Elisha Pease erected the first saw-mill, in 1797, and Thomas Cooper opened the first store, in 1813. Ozias Masch taught the first school, in 1800.

SURFACE AND SOIL.

The surface of Fenton consists chiefly of a high and rolling upland. The Chenango River Valley is very narrow, and the hills rise to an elevation of five hundred to seven hundred feet above the river. The uplands are divided into two distinct ridges by Page Brook, which flows in a southerly direction through the centre of the town.

The soil along the river is very fertile, consisting of a rich gravelly loam. The upland soil is principally a slaty loam underlain by hardpan.

THE CHURCHES.

Fenton has three churches, with a total valuation of church property amounting to the sum of \$17,000, divided as follows: two Methodist Churches with an estimated valuation of \$5000 each, and one Baptist Church with a valuation of \$7000.

POPULATION.

The population of Fenton in 1860 was 1345; in 1865 it had increased to 1503; in 1870 it had a population of 1499, and in 1875, 1562.

KIRKWOOD TOWNSHIP.

This township was formed from Conklin November 23, 1853. It lies near the centre of the southern tier of towns, and is bounded as follows: on the north by Fenton, east by Colesville and Windsor, south by the Pennsylvania line and the Susquehanna, which separates it from Conklin, and west by Binghamton and Conklin.

The surface consists chiefly of a broken upland, though along the river extends a broad interval. The soil on the uplands is chiefly clay and gravel, intermixed with fragments of slate. In the valley the soil is very fertile, consisting of a deep, rich alluvium and gravelly loam.

Kirkwood covers an area of eighteen thousand four hundred and thirty seven acres.

EARLY SETTLERS.

Among the pioneers of Kirkwood were John and William Jones, who came from Trenton, New Jersey, in 1802, and settled on the river, about two miles below Kirkwood; Henry C. Bayles, who, with his father, came from Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, in 1808, and located near Conklin Bridge; Ely Osborne came from Windsor, Connecticut, in about the year 1812, and located at South Osborne Hollow, now known as "Standley Hollow." Ezra Carrier, from Liberty, Sullivan County, settled, in 1814, about five miles from Binghamton. Moses Stanley came from Bennington, Vermont, in 1820, and settled near Osborne Hollow. Arthur Attridge settled in the north part of the town in 1824. Thomas M. Carroll settled in an early day at Standley Hollow.

The first grist-mill in the County was erected in this township. Kirkwood has three small hamlets. Kirkwood Centre, near the centre of the west border, is a station on the N. Y. and E. R. R. Riverside is a station on the N. Y. and E. R. R. in the extreme south part. Kirkwood is located in the southwestern part, and is also a station on the N. Y. and E. R. R.

There are two churches in Kirkwood: a Christian Church, with an estimated value of property amounting to \$1900, and a Methodist Church with property estimated at \$5000.

POPULATION.

The population of Kirkwood in 1860 was 1389; in 1865 it had increased to 1440; in 1870 it had decreased to 1402, and the census of 1875 exhibits a still further decrease to 1379.

LISLE TOWNSHIP.

The territory embraced within the present boundaries of this township originally comprised part of the town of Union, and was formed April 7, 1801.

Its size was diminished in 1831, when Nanticoke, Barker, and Triangle were taken off. It is the northwest corner town of the County, and is bounded as follows: On the north by Cortland County, on the east by Triangle Township, on the south by Nanticoke Township, and on the west by Tioga County.

Lisle has an area of 25,083 1/2 acres.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

was made in 1791, by emigrants from New England. Among these sturdy sons of the East who sought a home in the wilds of Broome were Ebenezer Tracy, Josiah Patterson, Edward Edwards, David Manning, Eliphalet Parsons, and Whittlesley Gleason.

Mr. Edwards, whose name is mentioned above, was a grandson of President Edwards, one of the early presidents of the celebrated Princeton College. He was a member of the Legislature in the time of Governor Jay's administration. He was a cousin of Colonel Aaron Burr, and was brought up in the same family with him. Colonel Burr, when quite young, had the misfortune to lose both father and mother, who died with the smallpox. Soon after, he and his sister were taken into the family of Mr. Edwards's father, then residing in Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Colonel Burr remained in this family, when not at college, until he became a man grown, when he stepped out into the broad arena of active life, and soon rose rapidly in his chosen profession of the law, and for a long time took the cream of the legal practice in New York City. That fatal duel, when the brilliant Hamilton was stricken down, together with other incidents in his career, beclouded the fame of Colonel Burr; still, he was one of the republic's most talented personages, in whom much was found worthy of imitation. Young Burr was mischievous, and Mr. Edwards is remembered to have said that his father on one occasion chastised him severely for some of his tricks. Hon. William B. Edwards, the present County Judge of Broome, is a descendant of Edward Edwards mentioned above.

ANECDOTE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

During the time Mr. Edwards was in the Legislature, Alexander Hamilton was also a member of that body. At a reception given by Governor Jay to the members of the Legislature, the Governor asked Mr. Hamilton to give a toast, and he somewhat startled the company when, filling his glass, he said:—"May our government not fall a victim to the visionary dreams of a Vandeweyer, nor to the crimes of a Ottiline." The significance of the above toast is better understood when we remember that at this particular time Jefferson and Burr were rival candidates for the presidency.

THE OLD CATSKILL AND ITHACA TURNPIKE.

which was built in 1796, and was one of the most important thoroughfares in this section of country, passed through this township, crossing the Tioughnioga at Lisle Village. Lisle is a thriving village, and the largest in the township. Yorkshire or Centre, Lisle, Killawog, and Manningville are hamlets.

STREAMS, SURFACE, AND SOIL.

The principal streams of Lisle are the Tioughnioga River and its tributaries, Yorkshire Creek, which enters the river at Lisle, and a small stream at Kirkwood. The surface is a broken upland. The hills attain an elevation of four hundred to seven hundred feet above the river. The soil is a clay loam, better adapted to grazing than the raising of grain.

The first birth was that of Henry Patterson. The first marriage that of Solomon Owen to Sylvia Cook; and the first death that of Wright Dudley.