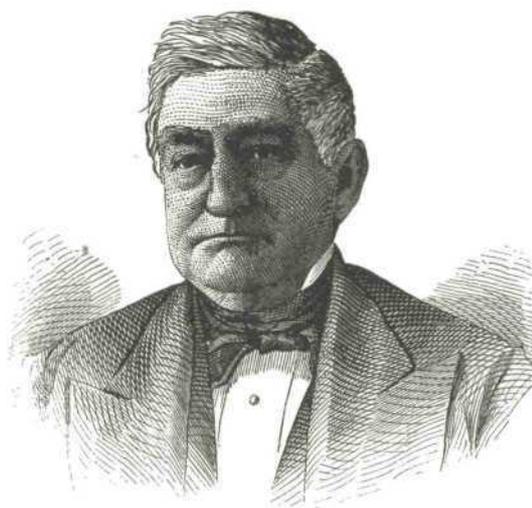




JACOB DIEVENDORFF.

Jacob Dievendorff, the pioneer settler, was born in Corry's Town, (Currytown), town of Root, county of Montgomery, September 23d, 1769. He was of German descent, his grand parents having emigrated from Germany early in the eighteenth century. His father, Jacob Dievendorff, with his family, was living in Corry's Town at the time of the invasion of this place, July 9th, 1781, by a party of tories and Indians under the command of Captain John Dockstader. Jacob with others was captured by this party, and taken south into the town of Sharon, where on the following day, Dockstader's force having been overtaken by Colonel Willett and his men, they prepared for battle by killing and scalping their prisoners. Jacob was seated on a horse; looking back and seeing them kill and scalp his fellow prisoners, he placed his hands on the forehead of the horse, and leaped, striking on his feet on the ground. He ran a short distance, but was overtaken and knocked down by a blow from a tomahawk upon his right shoulder. Jumping upon him with his knees, the Indian who had struck him cut off his scalp and he was left for dead. When he returned to consciousness, bleeding, weak and trembling, he arose and tried to walk; but finding his strength insufficient, he again lay down and partially covered himself with leaves, expecting to die. Colonel Veeder and his men passing that way on the day after the battle, found Jacob lying across a tree, insensible, and took him to Fort Plain. There his wounds were dressed, and he was placed under the care of Doctor Faught of Stone Arabia, where he remained about five years, but the scalp never permanently healed over. He lived to a ripe old age, and toiled excessively in clearing up and preparing the virgin soil for the growth of the life sustaining cereals. Jacob Dievendorff was married to Margaret Bellinger May 12th, 1801, by whom he had six children, three of whom are now living, the only ones who separated from the parental home and had families—William B. the only surviving son, Mrs. Hannah Dockstader and Mrs. Margaret Snow. Jacob Dievendorff, with his denuded scalp, was a living monument of the atrocious cruelty practiced by the Indians upon the early white settlers, with and by the aid of the British and tories, as those of this country were called who espoused the cause of Great Britain during the Revolutionary war. He lived and amassed a large fortune, including many hundred acres of land; died October 8th, 1859, being 85 years old, and was buried in the family burying-ground. Thus passed away from earth an honest, upright and just man.



WILLIAM B. DIEVENDORFF.

William B. Dievendorff, son of Jacob Dievendorff of Revolutionary memory, was born in Corry's Town, town of Root, Montgomery county, August 30th, 1805. Of German descent, he truly inherited the traits of that most honest, upright and industrious people. The son of a wealthy agriculturist and large land owner, he naturally enough took to an agricultural occupation; and in addition to his raising the cereals, became a manufacturer of cheese—one of the first to engage in cheese-making in this country. He has continued to follow the occupation of a dairyman-farmer in connection with his other business, to the present day, and having kept pace with the onward movements of the science of cheese-making, he now stands at the head of one of the largest associations for the manufacturing of cheese in this county. Mr. Dievendorff, by his personal position and standing in society, in connection with his large wealth, has often been called to occupy positions of trust and honor among his fellow townsmen. During the war of the great Rebellion, when such a multitude of bonds and securities were afloat, there was a seeming security in those to which his name could be found attached; and the positions of trust and the amount of stock which he held in two banks in the county, namely, the Spraker Bank at Canajoharie, and the Mohawk River Bank at Fonda, lend their aid in giving the people a confidence in those institutions. Mr. Dievendorff is the owner of a very large landed estate, second in extent to none in the county, which he so manages as to make it a source of aid and assistance (and not of depression) to those depending upon him. Taught by his long life of practical financial business, he foresaw the evils that would arise from our inflated currency, and the fictitious values placed on everything, and now, when many are sinking from their imaginary height of wealth, even to want, he passes along comparatively unharmed by the financial crisis.