

# TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF FULTON COUNTY.

## JOHNSTOWN VILLAGE.

The great name in the early annals of this village is that of its founder, Sir William Johnson. After a residence of twenty-four years in the eastern part of the present county of Montgomery, during which he had gained an immense estate by the profits of trade and the generosity of his Indian neighbors, and had won a baronetcy by his successful campaign against the French and their savage allies in 1755, Sir William removed to a stately mansion finished by him in the spring of 1763, and still standing in good preservation on the northwestern border of the village, the chief historic landmark of the surrounding region. The motive assigned for the Baronet's removal to this neighborhood is the promotion of settlements on his large domains hereabouts, on which he had already settled over one hundred families, generally leasing but sometimes selling the land. Among those to whom he leased land, with the supposed purpose of establishing a baronial estate for his descendants, were Dr. William Adams; Gilbert Tice, innkeeper; Peter Young, miller; William Phillips, wagon-maker; James Davis, hatter; Peter Yost, tanner; Adrian Van Sickler, Maj. John Little and Zephaniah Bachelor.

Johnson Hall, as Sir William named his new residence, was for many years the center of events for the new settlement. During its eleven years' occupancy by the Baronet, it was, like his former home on the Mohawk, a place of frequent resort of his Indian friends for grave consultation and less serious intercourse, the proprietor, among other things, having them hold annually at the Hall a tournament of their national games. "It was from this spot," says Ex-Gov. Seymour, "that the agents went forth to treat with the Indians of the West, and keep the chain of friendship bright. Here came the scout from the forests and lakes of the North to tell of any dangerous movement of the enemy. Here were written the reports to the Crown which were to shape the policy of nations; and to this place were sent the orders that called upon the settlers and savages to go out upon the war-path." Among the more illustrious guests who divided with the Iroquois braves the hospitalities of Johnson Hall, were Lady O'Brian, daughter of the Earl of Ilchester; Lord Gordon, whom Sir William's son, John, accompanied to England, where he was knighted; Sir Henry Moore, Governor of New York; Gov. Franklin, of New Jersey, and other colonial dignitaries.



JOHNSON HALL.

The engraving of this famous and interesting mansion, and the portrait of its illustrious builder, presented herewith are taken from Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution, by permission of the publishers, Harper Brothers, of New York.

The Hall, which was the scene of so many stirring events, was a wooden building, sixty feet in length by forty in width and two stories high, facing southeastwardly across lands sloping to the neighboring creek, on the higher ground beyond which the village stands. A spacious hall fifteen feet wide crossed it in the center, into which on each floor opened large and lofty rooms wainscotted with pine panels and heavy carved work. At either end of the northwestern wall, a little apart from the house, stood a square stone structure, loop-holed to serve as block-houses for the defence of the Hall, but used, the one as the business office of the estate, and the other as the proprietor's study. They were part of the fortifications, including a stockade, thrown around the Hall in 1763, in apprehension of an attack by the western tribes under Pontiac.

Whatever time Sir William's official duties left him was actively employed in the improvement of his estate and of the condition of agriculture in the settlement. We find him obtaining superior seed oats from Saybrook, Conn.; scions for grafting from Philadelphia; fruit trees from New London, and choice seed from England. He delighted in horticulture, and had a famous garden and nursery to the south of the Hall. He was the first to introduce sheep and blooded horses in the Mohawk valley. Fairs were held under his supervision at Johnstown, the Baronet paying the premiums. His own farming was done by ten or fifteen slaves under an overseer named Flood. They and their families lived in cabins built for them across Cayadutta creek from the Hall. They dressed very much like the Indians, but wore coats made from blankets on the place. Sir William's legal affairs were conducted by a secretary learned in the law, named Leferty, who it seems was the surrogate of the county at the time of his employer's death. A family physician, named Daly, was retained by the Baronet, serving also as his social companion in numerous pleasure excursions; and a butler, a gardener, a tailor and a blacksmith were among the employees at the Hall, across the road from which the last two had shops.



SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Sir William took a constant and lively interest in the welfare of his tenants, not only extending his bounty to their material needs, but providing for their spiritual and intellectual wants in ways mentioned hereafter under the appropriate heads. One of his devices for their entertainment was the institution of "sport days" at the Hall, at which the yeomanry of the neighborhood competed in the field sports of England, especially boxing and foot racing. In the latter the contestants sometimes ran with their feet in bags, and more amusement was afforded by horse races in which the riders faced backward; by the chase of the greased pig and the climbing of the greased pole; and by the efforts of another class of competitors to make the wryest face and sing the worst song, the winner being rewarded with a bearskin jacket or a few pounds of tobacco.

The Baronet's death occurred on the 11th of July, 1774, in his sixtieth year. He had long been liable to attacks of dysentery. In combating his disease he had, in 1767, visited and drunk of the spring now famous as the High Rock of Saratoga. He is believed to have been the first white man to visit this spring, whose medicinal virtues had been reported to him by the Mohawks, a band of whom accompanied him to the spot, bearing him part of the way through the wilderness on a litter. His cure was only partial, but even that becoming known was the foundation of the popularity of the Saratoga springs. At the time of Sir William's death, the Indians were exasperated over the outrages committed upon them by the Ohio frontiersmen, including the butchery of the famous Logan's kindred. The Iroquois had come with an indignant complaint to Johnson Hall. On the day that the Baronet died, he addressed them for over two hours under a burning sun. Immediately after, he was taken with an acute attack of his malady and shortly died. The suddenness of his death, together with his prophecies that he should not live to see the anticipated war between the colonies and the home government, in which he must have been arrayed against his adopted countrymen and lost his property, or against the power that had bestowed on him wealth and position, led to the suspicion of suicide. Sir William's biographer, Mr. Stone, however, gives strong reasons for believing the suspicion groundless.

The Baronet's funeral took place on the Wednesday following his death. The pall bearers included Gov. Franklin of New Jersey and the judges of the New York Supreme Court. Among the cortege of about two thousand persons that followed the remains to their burial, under the chancel of the stone church which Sir William had erected in the village, were the six hundred Indians who had gathered at the Hall. These, on the next day, performed their own ceremony of condolence before the friends of the deceased, presenting symbolic belts of wampum with an appropriate address. On the rebuilding of the church in which the Baronet was buried, after its destruction by fire in 1836, its location was slightly changed so as to leave the tomb without the walls, and its precise location was lost. It was discovered, however, in 1862, by Mr. Kellogg, then rector, and found in good condition, except that a few bricks of the roof had fallen in. A plain gold ring bearing the date "June 1739. 16," and supposed to have been Lady Johnson's wedding ring, worn by the baronet after her death, was found in the vault; also the bullet which he received in the battle of Lake George. Portions of the skeleton remaining were sealed in a granite sarcophagus, and restored to the tomb June 7, 1862, with appropriate services, conducted by the Right Rev. Bishop Potter, of the State of New York. One authority says that Sir William's mahogany coffin was enclosed in one of lead, which was made into bullets by the patriots during the Revolution, and that the lid of the coffin proper, marked with the Baronet's name in silver nails, was removed and suspended in the church.

Sir William's title and most of his estate passed to his son, Sir John Johnson, whose connection with the history of the county is elsewhere traced. The property having been confiscated by the Revolutionary authorities, under the act of attainder passed by the Legislature in 1779, covering Sir John and about sixty others, the Hall and seven hundred acres of land were sold by the commissioners, Henry Oothout and Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, to James Caldwell of Albany, in 1778 or 1779, for £6,600, in worthless colonial securities. He subsequently sold the property for £1,400. Shortly before being carried captive into Canada by Sir John Johnson in 1780, Jacob Sammons was working the farm, which he had leased from the committee of sequestrations for £300 per annum most of the time since the Baronet's flight in 1776. Benjamin De Line and Joseph Scott, who were living in the Hall, were captured and taken to Canada at the same time with the Sammonses. This was their second experience of the kind during the war. Sammons, while at the Hall, made considerable money by furnishing hotel accommodations and selling refreshments to the throngs that attended various gatherings, at this, the usual place of public assembling. This is stated in his memorial to Congress, asking that he be reimbursed for repairing army muskets at his own expense, which the Johnstown gunsmith, being "a rank tory," would not do for the colonial government. In 1796 the Hall, with 740 acres of land, came into the possession of Edward Aiken, grandfather of the present proprietor, Mr. J. E. Wells. One of the stone towers was destroyed by fire in 1866, and the addition of a cupola, bay windows and a wing has modified the simple outlines of the Hall, but the interior is substantially unchanged. The visitor is shown a series of notches on the balustrade of the wide

stairway, and told they were made by the hatchet of Brant, as a sign, that would be respected by the savages, not to destroy the building during the absence of Sir John. It is more probably, as suggested by Mr. Stone, the vandal work of a colonial soldier disappointed at not being allowed by his superior to destroy the whole structure.

#### GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE VILLAGE.

Sir William deserved the title of founder of Johnstown, not only by attracting to the new settlement its first inhabitants, but also by the care which he continued to bestow upon the growing village. During the winter and spring of 1760 he was busily engaged in establishing the settlement. Soon after locating at the Hall he built six houses near where the court-house now stands. They were about thirty feet in front by eighteen or twenty deep, and one and a half stories high, with two square rooms on the floor, and were painted yellow. During 1770 the village was reinforced by eighty families, and received its present name in honor of the Baronet. In the spring of 1771 several new streets were laid out and the signs of numerous business places swung conspicuously over their doors. The inhabitants obtained lumber from the Baronet's saw-mills, and pearl ashes from a factory on his estate, built to furnish them. In this year also Sir William built the first Episcopal church, on the lot where the present building stands.

The Revolutionary period wrought a revolution, indeed, in Johnstown. The numerous tenants of Sir John and many of their neighbors, adhering to his fortunes and the royal cause, left the country, and but few ever returned. Little inducement to return was left, to be sure, for the lands of Sir John and other tory proprietors had been divided into small lots, and sold by the commissioners of forfeitures, and were occupied by a new population from abroad. Among those residing in the village at the commencement of the war were Daniel Claus, John Butler, Gilbert Tice, Robert Adams, Hugh Fraser, Bryan Lefferty, Hugh McMons and William Crowley, the last two of whom were killed at the battle near the Hall, and the first two were attainted with Sir John. After the close of the war the population of the village included Zephaniah Bachelor, Amaziah Rust, John Little, Thomas Read, John B. Wemple, John McCarthy, Garret Stadts and John Egan. The scanty narrative of those times is adorned by a romantic episode, whose hero and heroine were residents of Johnstown. A paper published in London in 1785 thus relates it:

"Died at Hammersmith, Mrs. Ross, celebrated for her beauty and her constancy. Having met with opposition in her engagement with Captain Charles Ross, she followed him in men's clothes to America, where after such a research and fatigue as scarce any of her sex could have undergone, she found him in the woods, lying for dead after a skirmish with the Indians, and with a poisoned wound. Having previously studied surgery in England, she, with an ardor and vigilance which only such a passion could inspire, saved his life by sucking his wound. During this time she remained unsuspected by him until his recovery, when, as soon as she found a clergyman to join him to her forever, she appeared as herself, the priest accompanying her. They lived for a space of four years in a fondness almost ideal to the present age of corruption, and that could only be interrupted by her declining health in consequence of the poison not being expelled which she had imbibed from his wound. The knowledge he had of it, and piercing regret at having been the occasion, affecting him still more sensibly, he died of a broken heart at Johnstown, in New York. She lived to return and obtain forgiveness of her family, and died in consequence of her grief and affliction at the age of twenty-six."

In March 1778, Johnstown was honored by no less a presence than that of the Marquis de Lafayette, who wrote from here to Colonel Gansevoort, urging him to take every possible measure for the capture of Colonel Carleton, who was supposed to be in this part of the country as a spy.

Among the replies to invitations sent out by the committee in charge of the centennial celebration of the building of the court-house, which was held in 1872, was a letter from the venerable Ex-Gov. Enos T. Throop, who was once a student in the Johnstown Academy, and whose boyhood was passed in the neighborhood of Kingsboro. In that letter the following interesting statement is made in regard to the condition of Johnstown in 1790:

"The year 1772 was but twelve years before my birth. At six years of age I had a perfect knowledge of the town and the people, and my mem-

ory retains it, with the incidents of that day. Johnstown at that day, besides what was then considered the palatial edifice erected by Sir William Johnson as his residence, consisted of the Adams house, the Read house, the Rawlins [Rollins?] house (the tavern), the court-house, the jail, the stone church, and a few small dwellings which it was understood were erected by Sir William Johnson, and a few additions to them to accommodate the business and domestic comforts of the residents who had pitched their tents there."

The brick building on the southeast corner of Main and William streets was put up during the war of 1812 by Dr. "Billy" Reid, who was then a prominent physician in the village. "Hemlock Jim" Stewart, father of Judge Stewart, was the boss mason, and his work is still sound and firm. The erection of so costly and large a structure (36 feet by 56, and two stories high) at that time was generally regarded as rash and foolish.

The Rev. John Taylor, who made a missionary tour through the Mohawk and Black river country in July, 1802, kept a journal in which he made the following entry, illustrative of the condition of the village at that time:

"JOHNSTOWN, west of Amsterdam on the Mohawk—extent 11 by 8 miles. It contains one Scotch Presbyterian congregation, who have an elegant meeting house. Simon Hosack Pastor of the Chh, a gent. of learning and piety, educated at Edinburgh. This is a very respectable congregation. The town contains an Episcopal congregation, who have an elegant stone church with organs. John Urquhart curate. Congregation not numerous. There is also in this town one reformed Dutch chh. M' Van Horn, an excellent character, pastor. A respectable congregation. Further, there is one large Presbyterian congregation—vacant—the people principally from New England."

Under the head of "General Remarks," Mr. Taylor elaborates some parts of his diary, making further reference to Johnstown as follows:

"27th—Left Amsterdam and traveled 5 miles to Johnstown—a very pleasant village—containing one Dutch presbyterian chh and an Episcopalian. The village is tolerably well built. It is a county town—lies about 4 miles from the River and contains about 600 inhabitants. In this town there is a jail, court house and an academy. About 3-4ths of a mile from the center of the town we find the buildings erected by Sir William Johnson."

Interesting evidence of the growth of the village in population and wealth is afforded by its first tax lists. The earliest, dated December 19, 1808, included 95 persons, whose taxable property was assessed at \$80,000. The tax and collection fees aggregated \$157.50. In 1810, \$85.26 was collected on \$103,740 from 116 proprietors. In the next list the valuation was \$112,720; the tax, \$150. In 1814, valuation \$134,550; tax, \$256.60; payers, 139. The tax list of 1877 named 1,110 persons, 530 of them paying only the poll tax of \$1. The taxable property was assessed at \$586,797, including \$40,500 personal property, and \$21,512 owned by three corporations—the Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad; the Johnstown and Kingsboro Horse Railroad, and the Cayadutta Plank Road. The amount of taxes was \$7,129.98, as follows: General fund, \$2,932.49; streets, \$3,033.49; poll tax, \$1,033; dogs, \$131.

William street, at the point opposite the Episcopal church, was paved in 1815. The street now known as Church street was laid out and the adjacent land divided into building lots in 1826.

The *Rural Repository* of April 20, 1844, described the village as containing "a bank, an academy, 4 churches—1 Presbyterian, 1 Episcopalian, 1 Dutch Reformed, and 1 Methodist—and about 250 dwellings," and said that it was "regularly laid out by Henry Outhoudt, Jeremiah Van Rensselaer and Christopher P. Yates, State Commissioners, in 1784."

The rectangular plan of streets which would seem to have been adopted near a century ago, when the village had but a few hundred inhabitants, has been generally adhered to during its growth to a town of nearly five thousand people. Along its broad highways, as they have been laid out from time to time, trees have been planted, which have grown to the noble ranks of elms and maples that now line the streets, casting their shadows upon the picturesque houses of former generations, as well as on the stylish mansions of more recent comers.

In 1810, the Legislature passed an act incorporating a company to supply the village with water. Pump logs were laid in the streets for that purpose, but the attempt was a failure. In October, 1877, a similar enterprise, but on a far more liberal scale and with more flattering prospects, was authorized by a vote of the taxpayers of the corporation, including

six ladies, of whom Mrs. John R. Stewart was the first woman who ever voted at an authorized election in Johnstown.

#### INTERESTING OLD HOUSES.

The village of Johnstown, as might be expected of so old a place contains many houses interesting from their age and associations. Common among these old fashioned dwellings, are the long double house standing side to the street and close to the walk, with the doors of the respective ends adjoining each other in the center. These buildings seem to have been deprived of front yards by the choice of the builders as those in crowded cities are by sad necessity; the effect is injurious to the appearance of the village. Some of the oldest and most interesting houses in this ancient town are about the intersection of William and Clinton streets. No. 46 William street is pointed out as having been built pretty well toward a century ago, by Richard Dodge, a surveyor and merchant, a Brigadier-General in the war of 1812, and also remembered as the husband of Anna, a sister of Washington Irving. The illustrious author visited here in the years 1800 (when he was seventeen), 1802, 1803 and 1808, the last time on the occasion of his sister's death. On his way from New York to Johnstown, he sailed up the Hudson, whose impressions on his youthful mind he has described with characteristic grace. The northern rooms on the second floor are said to have been occupied by Irving. The northeast room on the ground floor was Dr. Miller's office during his occupancy of the place. The next house to the south we are informed was once a part of this one.

It has often been asserted that Mrs. James McIntyre brought from Scotland the first piano seen in this town. It is believed, however, that one which Mr. Amaziah Rust bought for his daughter, afterwards Mrs. Dr. James Miller, preceded it. There was a spinet, a very old instrument, in the Sadler family, and it is believed to be still extant. It was nearly triangular in form, with key board across the end, and was altogether a curiosity, being a half-sister or so of the harpsichord.

#### EARLY VILLAGE ORDINANCES.

The village was incorporated April 1, 1808. December 6, of that year, was held the first meeting of freeholders and inhabitants to choose trustees. The five elected were, Daniel Cady, Daniel Paris, Daniel Holden, Caleb Johnson and Caleb Grinnel. One hundred and fifty dollars was voted for purposes contemplated by the act of incorporation. Joseph Cuyler was appointed clerk. A resolution was adopted to meet next day to appoint firemen, and at that time twenty-four were appointed. The villagers were resolutely determined not to be burned out if it could be prevented by the faithful use of even the most primitive means; as witness the following "rules, orders and regulations," "ordained, constituted and established," "at a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of Johnstown, on the 15th day of December, 1808."

"First, That every house keeper, shop keeper, and store keeper in said village shall once in two months hereafter clean each chimney and stove-pipe in his or her house, shop or store, either by having them swept or burned, and each offender against this rule shall forfeit fifty cents for each offense; provided that this rule shall extend only to such stoves and chimneys in which fire is usually kept.

"Second, That any house keeper, shop keeper or store keeper, who shall permit any one of his or her chimneys or stove pipes to be so foul that they shall take fire in the night time, so as to blaze out of the top of the chimney, shall forfeit and pay five dollars.

"Third, That the owner of every dwelling house in said village shall within twenty days after passing this rule, provide and keep as many pails or leathern buckets as there are fireplaces or stoves in said house; on which pails and buckets the initial letters of the name of the owner shall be marked, and every such owner who shall neglect to procure and keep such pails or buckets shall forfeit and pay twenty-five cents for each week which he or she shall be guilty of such neglect, provided no owner shall be compelled to provide and keep more than six pails or buckets for each dwelling house.

"Fourth, That every owner of a dwelling house in the village of Johnstown shall within six months furnish their respective dwelling houses with

good and sufficient leathern fire buckets, containing ten quarts each, in the following proportion, to wit: each house having not to exceed three fireplaces shall be provided with two buckets; for houses having four or five fireplaces, three buckets; for those having six fireplaces, four buckets, and one additional bucket for every two fireplaces which such house may contain over the number six. And that every owner of such dwelling house shall forfeit and pay five dollars for every neglect to procure and keep such buckets as aforesaid, on which said buckets shall be marked the initial letters of the name of such owner, they hanging up in a convenient place near the front door of such house. That each owner of such dwelling house shall forfeit and pay after the recovery of such penalty, the further penalty of twenty-five cents for each week's neglect to furnish and keep such buckets."

At a meeting of the trustees, March 21, 1809, Caleb Johnson was authorized to make a seal for the village, with the device JVCS. Two hundred dollars was voted for the purposes of the incorporation. Caleb Grinnel and Daniel Holden were appointed a committee to contract for building an engine-house. Amaziah Rust and John Yost were elected trustees in place of the first two of the former board.

May 28 the trustees ordered a suit against Daniel Bedford "for his chimney blazing out in the night time," and fined each of their number who did not attend the meeting 12 1-2 cents.

At the next meeting, which was at the house of Phineas Leach, Daniel Holden was authorized "to put up hooks or pins in the avenue of P. A. Vosburgh, under the second loft of his store, sufficient to hang up the hooks, spuds and three ladders." "Also Uziah Crosby, Michael R. Morgan, Rufus Mason and Henry F. Yates, and any four (4) others to associate with them to form a fire-hook company, and they be ready at cry of fire to attend at the place with hooks, spuds and ladders." The treasurer was ordered to proceed against the collector if he did not settle his account.

August 5, two wells were ordered to be sunk; one on the southeast corner of the court-house lot, the other on the southeast corner of John Yost's, 10 feet deep and wide.

At a meeting of freeholders, September 9, it was resolved that a fine of 50 cents be imposed upon all housekeepers who failed to place lights in their windows in the night-time when a fire occurred. Also, that people should form themselves in ranks to carry water to the engine in case of fire.

May 15, 1810, H. F. Yates, William A. Reid, H. B. Henry, U. Crosby and William Middleton were appointed trustees.

Clement Sadleir is the first justice mentioned, May 21, 1810.

August 27, the office of superintendent of streets and walks was created; Daniel Holden was the first incumbent.

September 24, 1814, a market-house was ordered to be built on Johnson street. It was also voted that 2, 3, 6, 12 1-2 and 25 cent bills be emitted to the amount of \$300; said bills to be signed by William A. Reid, and countersigned by the treasurer, at whose office they were payable. It was ordered that St. John's church bell be rung at such times as directed by the board.

May 15, 1815, the stalls in the market-house were ordered sold; the house itself was ordered sold in 1818, and in 1820 removed and made into an ordnance house.

May 22, the size of a loaf of bread was regulated as follows: Weight of a barrel of flour, 4,032 ounces; price, 72 shillings; making up, 28 shillings; total, 100 shillings, or \$12.50. "Divide 4,032 by 100, the quotient will be 40 ounces and  $\frac{32}{100}$ oz., being the ounces the shilling loaf must weigh when a barrel of flour costs 72 shillings or 9 dollars; and when the fractional parts are less than half an ounce in the above calculation, such parts shall be rejected; and when half an ounce or more, then one ounce shall be added to the loaf on account of such fractional part; and the above calculation, and the same proportion, should be observed in all cases, as well for the sixpenny as for the shilling loaf, always allowing 28 shillings for baking one barrel of flour into bread."

The village was divided into three wards.

June 8, 1816, the treasurer reported that the amount of bills issued by the corporation was \$3,365.

In February, 1818, a shilling loaf from superior flour was made to weigh 2 lbs. 2 oz.; from common flour, 2 lbs. 6 oz.

March 25, 1822, the Legislature was petitioned to license grocers and victuallers, the proceeds to support the fire department. The first charge for a grocer's license was \$10; afterward \$5, and still later \$12.50. A new engine was ordered in 1824 at a cost of \$500.

## THE COUNTY BUILDINGS.

The court-house and jail, which have served the purposes of justice for three counties and more than a century of time, have an interesting history of their own. On the formation of Tryon county from Albany, in 1772, a measure which Sir William Johnson was very prominent in promoting, Gov. Tryon naturally named Johnstown as the county seat. The act creating the new county authorized its justices and supervisors "to raise a sum not exceeding £1,000, for the purpose of erecting a jail, and court-house." They were begun toward the end of May, 1772, which was a season of great activity in building and road-making in the village and neighborhood. The bricks for the court-house were brought from England, reaching Albany by boat, and being carried the rest of the way in wagons. The neat building which was made from them, although the oldest court-house in the State, is still perfectly sound and well preserved, showing hardly a sign of its venerable age except in its quaint outlines, especially its low walls and steep roof. In the tower surmounting the latter a great iron bar, bent into a triangle, has for more than a hundred years served the purpose of a bell.

The centennial anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of the building was made the occasion of a most interesting celebration, June 26, 1872, at which the Hon. Horatio Seymour delivered one of his valuable historical addresses, to a multitude gathered in and about the court-house green. Many of his auditors were from abroad, including delegations of Knight Templars from Utica and Gloversville. In pointing out the significance of the occasion celebrated, Mr. Seymour said:

"The edifice and its objects were in strange contrast with the aspect of the country. It was pushing the forms and rules of English jurisprudence far into the territories of the Indian tribes, and it was one of the first steps taken in that march of civilization which has now forced its way across the continent. There is a historic interest attached to all the classes of men who met at that time. There was the German from the Palatinate, who had been driven from his home by the invasion of the French, and who had been sent to this country by the Ministry of Queen Anne; the Hollander, who could look with pride upon the struggles of his country against the powers of Spain and in defence of civil and religious liberty; the stern Iroquois warriors, the conquerors of one half the original territories of our Union, who looked upon the ceremonies in their quiet, watchful way. There was also a band of Catholic Scotch Highlanders, who had been driven away from their native hills by the harsh policy of the British government, which sought by such rigor to force the rule of law upon the wild clansmen. There were to be seen Brant and Butler, and others whose names to this day recall in this valley scenes of cruelty, rapine and bloodshed. The presence of Sir William Johnson, with an attendance of British officers and soldiers, gave dignity and brilliancy to the event, while over all the group, asserting the power of the Crown, waved the broad folds of the British flag. The aspects of those who then met at this place not only made a clear picture of the state of our country, but it came at a point of time in our history of intense interest. \* \* \* All in that mingled crowd of soldiers, settlers and savages felt that the future was dark and dangerous. They had fought side by side in the deep forests, against the French and their Indian allies; now they did not know how soon they would meet as foes, in deadly conflict."

A portrait of Sir William Johnson was hung outside the front wall of the court-house, and over it was suspended the British flag with the inscription: "One Hundred Years Ago." Resting upon the railing near the entrance was a massive iron casting of the English coat of arms, imported by Sir William. The celebration ended with the re-laying of the corner stone of the court-house with appropriate ceremonies.

The committee having charge of the celebration received a number of highly interesting letters from eminent gentlemen in different parts of the State, whom they had invited to be present on the occasion. In his response to the committee's invitation, Mr. John Frey wrote as follows:

"The eminent jurists—Kent, Platt, Spencer, Van Ness and their competitors, who adorned the bench of the State in an early period of our history and whose names will ever be identified with legal science and jurisprudence, have all presided in this ancient temple of justice; and the eloquence of all the great lawyers of the State—Emmett, Burr, Hamilton, Henry, Van Vechten, Cady and others who were their contemporaries, has resounded within its walls. To myself there are many pleasant memories

associated with that relic of a past age. I shall be excused for alluding to a single one: The first Court of General Sessions of the peace—in the first court—was held in the new court-house on the 8th day of September, 1772, a few months after its completion. It was presided over by Guy Johnson as chief judge, by eight assistant judges and six justices. Among the latter was my esteemed and venerable ancestor, John Frey, who subsequently became identified as a brigade major with our Revolutionary struggle, and was wounded and taken prisoner at the battle of Oriskany."

Mr. E. C. Benedict of New York wrote:

"It would give me great pleasure to re-visit the scenes and recall the pleasant memories of my earliest professional studies and experience fifty years ago, when I derived pleasure and profit from the learning and ability of such lawyers as Daniel Cady, Marcus T. Reynolds, John W. Cady, Wm. I. Dodge, Henry Cunningham and others, who were the leaders of the distinguished bar of Montgomery half a century ago, and to whom from term to term I had the opportunity to listen in the 'old court-house.'"

The most noted case tried in this court-house, in recent years, was that of the people against Frederick Smith, charged with the murder of Edward Yost. The latter kept a meat market adjoining Hays and Wells' bank, and slept in a bedroom occupying a corner of the bank building. In the morning of March 6, 1875, the bank was discovered on fire, and a number of men who entered and extinguished the flames found the corpse of Yost lying on the floor of the bedroom, charred and disfigured by the fire, which had burned through beneath it, and having in the head two bullet wounds, one of which might have caused instant death. The gold watch of the murdered man, worth \$190, a diamond pin worn by him, and several hundred dollars he had taken from the market, had been stolen, and the building fired to obliterate the evidence of the crime. Suspicion fell upon a young man, named Frederick Smith, who had been in partnership with Yost, but had separated from him on unfriendly terms. While in business with the deceased Smith had slept with him in the bank, and occasionally afterward, once two weeks before the murder. He was familiar with the interior and fastenings of the building, and with Mr. Yost's dog, an animal fierce and dangerous to strangers, kept in the bank by night. He admitted having been about town until between one and two o'clock on the fatal morning, but denied all knowledge of the crime. He was arrested, however, and after lying in jail nearly a year was brought to trial. He was acquitted by the efforts of able counsel, and subsequently went to California. Rewards amounting to \$6,000 were offered by the sheriff of the county, the friends of the deceased and Governor Tilden, for the detection of the murderer, but no conviction for the horrible crime was ever reached.

One of the first murder trials in the court-house—perhaps the first—was that of John Adam Hartman, a Revolutionary veteran of the Mohawk valley, for killing an Indian, in 1783, in the present town and county of Herkimer. They had met at a tavern, and the savage had excited Hartman's abhorrence by boasting of murders and scalplings performed by him during the war, and particularly by displaying, as the white man alleged, a tobacco pouch made from the skin of the hand and part of the arm of a white child, with the finger nails remaining attached. Hartman concealed his feelings at the moment, and the two left the tavern to traverse together a forest, from which the red man never returned, and in which his body, his rifle, and some baggage he was carrying were found a year later. Hartman was acquitted for lack of legal evidence.

"Among the interesting trials that have taken place in this county, was one that occurred in 1828. Henry Garlock brought an action for trespass against Henry J. Failing to recover the value of his negro slave, Jack, whom, it was alleged, the defendant had wrongfully and maliciously killed. Garlock had a deed of the negro, the consideration being \$350. Failing admitted killing the negro, but said it was through a mistake. The circumstances as they were proved in court were as follows: On the night of the homicide the negroes had a gathering near the river below Dutchtown, became intoxicated and broke up at a late hour. Jack and one of his companions started for home, on the road passing defendant's house. During the night a black man called at Failing's house saying that he had seen a bear a short distance from the house. Failing took his rifle, and, accompanied by his dog, started in search of the bear, which he soon discovered sitting upon his haunches about ten rods distant. The dog refused to advance, and Failing could see by the dim starlight the eyes of the bear. Taking good aim between the eyes he fired. A terrible groan, a struggle and all was still. A light was procured, and on proceeding to

the spot there lay Jack, stone dead. It appeared that the negro had taken a keg from a trough where it had been placed to soak, and seated himself upon it in the middle of the road, with his back towards Failing, who mistook the bright buttons upon his coat for the eyes of the bear. Eminent counsel were employed on both sides, and the result was a verdict for the plaintiff for \$250."

Among the Johnstown lawyers to whom the old court-house was a forensic arena in the closing years of the last century, was George J. Eacker, son of Judge Eacker, of Palatine, and nephew of Gen. Herkimer. At the opening of the present century he went to New York, where he became associated in a law firm with Brockholst Livingston, and took a high rank at the metropolitan bar. He became a friend and admirer of Aaron Burr, and was a Jeffersonian in politics. Party feeling ran very high, and Eacker soon began to quarrel with the Federalists, who called him "the Mohawk Dutchman." On leaving a theatre in John street, one evening in 1802, some of the latter party, including Philip, son of Alexander Hamilton, encountered him and addressed to him offensive words, which led to a bloodless duel at Weehawken between Eacker and one Priest. Young Hamilton thereupon challenged the former. They met the next day on the same ground, and Hamilton fell, mortally wounded, on the spot where his illustrious father was destined, two years later, to perish in the same ignoble way at the hand of Eacker's patron, Aaron Burr. Eacker fell into a decline, and died about two years after the duel. He never married, but the descendants of his kindred still live in the region of his native place.

The jail was begun at the same time with the court-house. An appropriation of £1,600 was obtained from the Legislature in 1774 for the completion of both buildings. The jail, like the court-house, has served its original purpose from that day to this. The walls were built four feet thick, of stone. Under date of October 26, 1775, the Tryon County Revolutionary Committee inquired of Sir John Johnson whether he pretended a prerogative to the court-house and jail, "and would hinder or interrupt the committee to make use of the same public houses to our want and service in the common cause." Sir John, in reply, claimed the buildings as his property until he should be refunded £700 which Sir William had advanced toward their construction. The committee, at the time respecting this claim, fitted up a private house as a prison, and sent some convicts to Albany and Hartford for safe-keeping. Congress, however, was informed that Sir William had conveyed the buildings to the county, and the jail was used as a fort by the patriots during the Revolution, being fortified with palisades and block-houses. In 1849 the wood-work was burned out, and one of the walls so much injured as to need rebuilding.

The present county clerk's office was built in 1867. The one used up to 1815 was a little building near the Academy. In that year the second was built, in the southeast corner of the court-house lot, which served until replaced by the present structure.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS.

The multiplication of business places in a town in its maturer years calls for only a passing notice in its annals. Not so with the earliest steps of trade and manufacture in a community, when the opening of a new mill, store or shop cuts off miles from the distance the pioneer must go for the necessities of life; or breaks up a previously existing monopoly; or introduces a new industry destined to become the absorbing interest of the town. The beginnings of things are the subject of the historian's keenest study, and the first ventures of business in its various channels in the village of Johnstown now claim our attention.

Sir William's provision for the earliest wants of the village in the items of lumber and pearl ashes has already been noted. To the north of the Hall, on the neighboring stream, stood also the first grist-mill in the new settlement, erected by the Baronet in 1766. An old road and Indian trail passed by the building. "Peter Young, miller," mentioned among Sir William's tenants, probably managed the concern.

The first carding-mill was put up by Edward Aiken, and was a great convenience to the settlers, who universally made their own cloth.

The first merchants doubtless sold a greater variety of articles than is to be found in the same store at present in our larger towns. One Robert Adams was on hand in the first days of Johnstown, and the following

extract from his day-book shows some of his dealings with the gentleman who must have been his best customer:

		Johnstown, 4 July 1771.	
87	SIR WILLIAM JOHNSON Bt.	Dr.	
	To White Breeches patterns,	20s.	£2 0 0
	1½ yds. White Linen,	4s.	6
	1-16 White Broadcloth,	44s.	2 9
	2 Pairs Knie Garters,	3s.	6
	2 Skains White Silk,	1s.	2
	2 Sticks do Mohair,	9d.	1 6
	2 doz. Small Buttons,	9d.	1 6
	½ doz. large do.		9
			£3 0 6

Mr. Adams is said to have built a house on the present site of the Sir William Johnson Hotel, moving into it November 23, 1769. Sir William's will contains the following item: "To my faithful friend Robert Adams, Esq., of Johnstown, the dwelling house, other buildings and the lot and one acre whereon he now lives, the potash laboratory and one acre of land with it; also the farm which he holds by deed from me; all free from rent during his natural life except the quit-rent." L. J. Smith began business as a merchant in Johnstown in 1818, and was in trade in the village for over fifty-eight years. He was born in Rutland county, Vermont.

"William Phillips, wagon-maker," whose name occurs among the first Baronet's tenants, must be supposed to have been the first in his line, but one of the pioneer wagon-builders in the country was William Chauncey Hutchinson, originally from Sharon, Litchfield county, Connecticut, who came to the village about 1780, and carried on his business first on Perry street, and afterward on Market street, near the corner of Green, and still later at Garoga in the town of Ephratah. His son William followed the same business at Garoga, and later at Lasselsville in the same town. His wagons and sleighs, though less stylish than those now made, were more serviceable, and gained a wide reputation for their durability, selling in Jefferson county and even in Canada. Some of his carriages made for old residents about Johnstown, as the Yosts, McEwens, Cases and Hildreths, over forty years ago, are still intact. C. N. Stewart, born in Johnstown in 1810, commenced the manufacture of wagons in 1827, in the building now standing at the corner of Market and Green streets.

One Van Sickler is thought to have been the first blacksmith in the settlement, probably Sir William's tenant of that name, as the Baronet is said to have employed a blacksmith. Nicholas Stoner used traps made by a Johnstown blacksmith named Mann.

A tanner named Peter Yost is also mentioned among Sir William's tenantry. Uziel Crosby started a tannery about 1810 and operated it until 1826.

The Montgomery County Bank was chartered in 1831, and located at Johnstown through the influence of State senator Wm. I. Dodge, a resident of the village, and against the wishes of the Mohawk river villages. The bank began business with a capital of \$100,000. The first officers were: President, Daniel Potter; vice-president, Daniel Cady; cashier, Nathan P. Wells. On the death of Mr. Potter, Mr. Cady succeeded him, Dr. J. W. Miller taking Mr. Cady's place. Mr. N. P. Wells was next president, and his son Edward, cashier. Dr. Miller afterwards succeeded to the presidency, but Mr. Edward Wells subsequently became sole manager. Losses, incurred in speculation, broke down at once his bank and his mind, and he died in the Utica asylum. The river villages patronized the bank for a number of years. Mr. N. P. Wells is remembered as a shrewd, careful and obliging bank officer. The bank building was, in its early days, nicknamed the "smoke house." In this building Edward Yost, a business man of the village, was robbed and murdered. In 1867 the institution was changed into the private banking house of N. P. Wells & Co., who carried on the business until 1876, when it passed into the hands of Hays & Wells, the present firm.

The first lawyers admitted to the bar in Fulton county were John W. Cady, James T. Hildreth, Aaron Herring, Thos. Frothingham, Clark S. Grinnel, James McNice, John Wells, George Yost, Abraham Monell, Phineas Randall, Wm. Kennedy, T. B. Mitchel, A. McFarlan, R. H. Courtney, Benjamin Chamberlain and John Frothingham.

#### THE EARLY TAVERNS.

"Gilbert Tice, inn-keeper," was an inhabitant of Johnstown in the founder's time, and was, doubtless, the first of his calling in the infant

village. If there were other taverns than his and Pickens's, hereafter referred to, before the Revolution, it is impossible to learn anything about them. But a number are known to have been in existence in the later years of the last century, and tradition has preserved some of the many stirring incidents of which they must have been the scene, in the rude times when Johnstown, as an outpost of civilization and a depot for the fur trade, was the resort of hunters and trappers, Indian and paleface; where the settler was liable to meet the savage who had wronged him or his in the border wars, or beside the lonely waters where each strove to ply exclusively the trapper's art.

One of the first tavern keepers was the genial and attentive Jean Baptiste Vaumane de Fonclaiere, who lived in New England for some time on his arrival from France, but shortly after the Revolution opened a public house in Johnstown, and continued in the business for many years. His first stand, on William street, a little south of Main, was still a tavern thirty years ago. Here one day, soon after the war, half a dozen Indians gathered in the kitchen and barroom to feast and drink deep on the proceeds of a stock of furs, which they had gathered in the northern forests and sold to John Grant, then a trader in the village. And here they met the famous trapper Nicholas Stoner, who hated the redskinned race with a fervency to be expected in a man whose father was tomahawked and scalped. The inevitable quarrel was hastened by libations of firewater, and precipitated by one of the Indians resenting a question put to another by Stoner. Instantly the trapper grappled the savage and threw him upon a table, sending it with a load of bottles to destruction. The Indian sprang up and rushed upon Stoner, when the latter, making a desperate attempt to throw his antagonist into the yawning fireplace, only succeeded in laying him in a great platter of hot lard and fried pork sizzling before the fire. The Indian was badly burned and willing to give in; but Stoner's blood was up and he marched into the barroom, only pausing by the way to tear a large ring from the ear of another Indian, who lay drunk in the hall. As the trapper entered the barroom, a third half drunken savage was exhibiting his scalping knife, which bore upon the handle nine notches, for as many scalps taken by its owner in the recent war, one of them, as he boasted, being the scalp of "old Stoner." Young Stoner heard the speech and, vowing that the murderer should never take another scalp, snatched an andiron from the fireplace by the ring at the top, and hurled it at the Indian's head, striking him across the neck with the red-hot bar, and felling him to the floor more dead than alive.

For this feat the venturesome frontiersman was lodged in the Johnstown jail, but his numerous friends, including the Sammonses, Putnams, Wemples, Fondas, Vroomans, Veeders, Gardiniers, and Quackenbosses, could not tolerate the idea of his being imprisoned for merely assaulting an Indian who was boasting of the butchery of the trapper's father, and proceeding in a crowd to the jail, they battered down the door and liberated their hero. This was considered eminently the occasion for a drink, and the party, including the jailer, repaired to a tavern in the center of the village, kept by a man named Throop. Here Stoner consented to return with the turnkey to the jail, but being missed by his rescuers, they went in pursuit, again took him in charge, and saw him safely home, where he was not disturbed.

The following less sanguinary tale, related by Mr. Simms, from whose book "Trappers of New York," written in 1846, our anecdotes of Stoner are taken, is at least entertaining:

"There stands in Johnstown, on the east side of the street [William], a few rods to the southward of the first inn, kept by De Fonclaiere, an antiquated building with a gambrel roof, owned and occupied before the Revolution by Maj. Gilbert Tice. The latter building, after the war, was occupied as a tavern stand, by Michael Rollins, a son of the emerald isle. De Fonclaiere kept a span of mettlesome horses, and when a deep snow had spread her white mantle over the bosom of the earth, and the bells and belles began to jingle and smile, the restless steeds, harnessed to a sleigh, to give his ladies an airing, were brought before the door, with their nostrils snuffing up the wind in the direction of the Mohawk.

"Left only *un leetle moment* to their own wills, the gay animals of Mons. De Fonclaiere, either of which would have served a Ringgold or a May for a charger, abused the confidence of their master and dashed off at the top of their speed. In front of the rival inn stood a cow directly in the beaten path, which belonged on the premises. Strange as it may seem, as the sleigh passed the cow she was thrown upon her haunches and, as chance would have it, rolled on her back plump into it. The party intend-

ing to occupy the seat instead of the kine came to the door in time to see the latter drive off in triumph, urging on the horses by a most doleful bellowing. The horses started in William street and ran south to Clinton street, thence east through Clinton to Johnson (now Market) street, south up Market to Montgomery street, west through Montgomery to William, and down the latter to the place of starting. The best part of the joke was that on turning into William street from Montgomery, at the next corner above and only a few rods from where the cow was taken in, she was, *sans* ceremony, thrown out again. A war of words instantly followed this adventure, between the rival landlords. Said De Fonclaire, greatly excited: "Keep you tam Irish cow out von my sleigh!" "You French booger," retorted Rollins, with an oath, "do you kape the like of yeer fancy horses away from me cow!"

De Fonclaire spent his later years in managing a tavern built by him in 1796, in the angle of the Tribes Hill and Fonda's Bush roads in Johnstown. This place, which was long known as Union Hall, was bought by Mr. Vestus Balch about 1837, and ceased to be kept as a public house.

The earliest occurrence mentioned in detail in connection with any of the village hotels, is Sheriff White's defense of himself in the Pickens tavern, which stood on the lot between the houses now numbered 37 and 39 William street. Alexander White was the King's sheriff of Tryon county, and as such committed to the Johnstown jail John Fonda, one of the men who were coming into prominence as the people's champions and leaders in the Mohawk valley. Mr. Simms says the trouble between White and Fonda was "their hogs and cattle breaking in upon each other's premises, which resulted in a quarrel, in which White called Fonda a d—d rebel, and the latter, provoked to anger, did not scruple to give his Majesty's peace officer a severe caning." Maj. Giles Fonda, a brother of the incarcerated patriot, immediately gathered some fifty of his neighbors, including Sampson Sammons and his sons Jacob and Frederick, who proceeded under arms to the jail, and without violence procured the prisoner's release. Not satisfied with this, the party repaired to the Pickens tavern, where Sheriff White was staying, and Sampson Sammons having stepped to the door and called out Mr. Pickens, demanded the sheriff. Pickens went to call him, and returning reported that White was dressing, and would be down immediately to speak with the company. Instead of coming down, however, the sheriff at this moment opened a window over the door where Sammons was standing, and inquired: "Is that you, Sammons?" "Yes," said the patriot leader, whereupon White fired a pistol at him, the ball lodging in the door sill. This shot, the first fired in the Revolutionary struggle west of the Hudson, was answered by a volley from the party in the street; but the sheriff escaped with a slight wound in the breast. Sir John Johnson having hastily assembled two or three hundred of his tory neighbors by the firing of a signal cannon (twice as many could be summoned by the same signal), the patriots dispersed. Sheriff White and one Peter Bowen left Johnstown for Canada with some Mohawk guides, but they were captured at the house of a Mr. Jesup, in Saratoga county, and sent to Albany, where they were put in jail.

Another of the early hotels was the Holland tavern, which stood on the southeast corner of Main and Market streets, across Main street from the Cady mansion. It is said to have been kept by Joseph Balch, a soldier in the Revolution (grandfather of Mr. Chester H. Case), and later by Allen Case.

## CHURCHES.

### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL.

Services of the English church are believed to have been held in Johnstown from the time of Sir William's removal to the place. There is known to have been a church edifice prior to 1771, on the ground which is now the old graveyard on Green street. There the earlier missionaries must have officiated. The Baronet wrote of this first church in 1771, that it was "small and very ill built," and that he was "preparing stone and materials for erecting one much stronger and larger, that would accommodate near one thousand souls."

The church which took shape from the Baronet's "stone and materials" in 1771, stood on the site of the present St. John's, but with its side to the street and fronting northward. This was the building referred to by the Rev. John Taylor in the journal of his missionary tour as "an elegant stone church with organs."

The original organ in this church, though youthful compared with its elder sister in the little chapel at Fort Hunter (erected in 1710), must have been among the very earliest, probably, in the State west of Albany. It was imposing in size; the case of handsome mahogany had by time become beautifully dark and rich in color, and its clusters of finely gilt front pipes added the beauty of contrast, and the harmony of color. It had but one *manuale*, with perhaps ten registers, but its full, sweet, solemn tones, its mellow waves of harmony, its jubilant swell of flute like notes, made all the air tremulous and vocal with solemn praise. It had the reputation among judges in such matters of being a fine instrument. The bellows were external, filling a large space at one end of the organ loft; they were perhaps three by nine feet each, and their levers stout joists extending some feet beyond, upon which the blower sat down; the supreme delight of budding boyhood was to be permitted to throw its small weight upon those rising and falling beams. The old organ's "*Gloria*" and "*Benedic Anima*," are stilled; "Devises" and "York" and "Bridgewater" and "St Ann's" have nearly passed to the oblivion of the old organ. Bits of opera and sonata have now their places, themselves, it is hoped, soon to yield to some other phase of the music of the future.

Under date of May 18, 1772, Mr. John Cottgrave, of Johnstown, wrote to Sir William suggesting several steps that, in his opinion, should be taken for the improvement of affairs in the village, since it had just become a county seat. "The first of which is, for the immediate finishing of the church; for as the church now remains, your Honour and family can not have the satisfaction which you otherwise would have, if the church was finished, the children for instance, mix with the aged, for the want of a Gallery;—and for the want of seats, many of the Grown people are very troublesome—The next thing I consider of the utmost importance to the General welfare of this Patent, is the Clothing of the Poor Children, with something low priced for a suitable uniform, to be worn at no other Time but on the Sabbath—this would encourage and Command the Childrens attendance, and engage their parents: and when Care is taken of the Childrens Cloathes, the expense of Clothing them will be inconsiderable. what a pity is it therefore, to see, so great, and so good a thing as this is not to take place; when a Boy, to ride post from the Hall (who perhaps like too many others live in idleness) would more than pay the sum which the before recommended Charity will require." Mr. Collgrave closes with an offer of £10 for "Cloathes."

In November, 1772, Rev. Richard Mosely arrived in Johnstown, and took the pastoral charge of the church. He came from Litchfield, Conn., leaving that place because he had been fined £20 for marrying a couple, when he had no other license to act as a clergyman "than what he had received from the Bishop of London, whose authority the Court determined did not extend to Connecticut, which was a chartered government." Thirty families of dissenters emigrated at the same time with Mr. Mosely, and settled within fifteen miles of him.

In a letter reporting the arrival of Mr. Mosely, Sir William says: "Upon this occasion I ought to observe that the Missions established at £40 Ster. p Ann., are found by Experience inadequate to the present age, Some of these in the old Settlements, near the Sea, where the Circumstances and Inclinations of the People are more favorable, may enable a Missionary to live tolerably well, but here where the People who are not of the Low Dutch Communion are New Settlers, & poor, the contributions are as trifling as they are uncertain; This has occasioned the Revd. Mr. Andrews at Schenectady, to have recourse to the keeping a school, with which addition to his income, as he writes me he is not able to take care of his Family. In short the state of this part of the Country is not thoroughly known in Europe. It is an Extensive and most valuable Tract in which the majority of the Settlements and the Church of England are in their Infancy, but such an Infancy as affords the most flattering hopes If properly nourished and improved for a little time."

Ill health obliged Mr. Mosely to resign in 1774. For some years before and after this date, Rev. John Stewart, missionary at Fort Hunter, occasionally officiated at Johnstown.

In erecting the new church, Sir William gave the two-acre lot on which it stood, and also a glebe of forty acres on the southeast side of the village. He seems, however, never to have conveyed the title to the property; and at his sudden death, in 1774, it reverted to his son Sir John. In the confusion of the Revolutionary period, after the confiscation of the Johnson estate, including this property, the Presbyterians occupied both the church and the glebe. The Episcopalians obtained possession of the

church years after with difficulty, but the Presbyterians were confirmed by the Legislature in the possession of the glebe. That body, however, so far respected the claim of St. John's Church as to vote it a little over \$2,000 indemnity for its loss. When the church was recovered, by the exertions of the rector, Rev. John Urquhart, who at times read the service from the desk while the Presbyterian minister was trying to preach from the pulpit, there remained with it but one acre of land. The society had an interest in a body of land at Fort Hunter, which had been conveyed by the Mohawks to Dr. Barclay; but, like the real estate at Johnstown, it seems to have been captured by other parties, and was only recovered, in 1797 and 1799, by the aid of Trinity Church, New York, which ten years later also advanced \$400 for repairs to St. John's Church. For many years the business transactions of the vestry related chiefly to this Fort Hunter land, including a petition, in 1815, to Trinity Church for permission to sell it and invest the proceeds otherwise. The amount realized was about \$1,500.

What clergyman, if any, was rector of St. John's in the closing years of the last century, cannot be ascertained. In 1802, Rev. John Urquhart held the position. His congregation was small. He was followed in 1806 by Rev. Jonathan Judd, and he in 1815 by Rev. Eli Wheeler. He resigned in Feb. 1818, on account of ill health, and in the following November, Rev. Alexis P. Proal was called to the rectorship, which he resigned in May, 1821, and removed to Schenectady. It was part of the contract between rector and people that either might dissolve the connection at six months notice. In June, 1821, Rev. Parker Adams was invited to become rector, and held the position until January, 1829. From July in that year, until November, 1832, the Rev. Mr. Treadway was rector, and from May, 1833, to October, 1835, Rev. U. M. Wheeler, who was succeeded in July, 1836, by Rev. Joseph Ransom.

During 1836 the church was burned, but with the insurance and funds collected in the parish and in New York, the present building was erected in its place, being consecrated by Bishop Onderdonk, Oct. 15, 1837. In April, 1839, Mr. Ransom resigned the rectorship, and in that year, or the next, the Rev. Dr. Wheaton assumed it, holding the position until April, 1844. In June of that year, Rev. Chas. Jones became rector, and remained such for seven years, being succeeded in July, 1851, by Rev. Geo. Slight, who held the place for two years. Rev. Louis P. Clover was the next incumbent, holding the rectorship with acceptability from Sept., 1853, to Oct., 1857. From November, 1858, to April, 1860, Rev. Wm. H. Williams was rector, and from March, 1861, to October, 1864, Rev. Chas. H. Kellogg. His successor, Rev. James Byron Murray, was called to the rectorship in February, 1865. During his incumbency, which extended to July, 1870, the church was attached to the Diocese of Albany at its formation from the Diocese of New York. After Mr. Murray's resignation, the church was thoroughly repaired and some alterations made, including the removal of the old-fashioned pews, and of the clock from the tower. From May, 1872, to July, 1875, Rev. Jas. W. Stewart had charge of the parish. He was succeeded in September, 1875, by the present rector, Rev. Chas. C. Edmunds. For the first half of the present century, the parish did little more than hold its own, but since 1853 it has been developing in strength and self-reliance.

#### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN.

The earliest population of Johnstown included a good number of Lutherans, subscribers to the creed called the Augsburg Confession. Some of them may have come direct from Germany, but the majority were from Schoharie and the settlements along the Hudson. Sir William Johnson, with wise liberality, gave his Lutheran neighbors fifty acres of land. This property has always been known as the "glebe lot." Upon it formerly stood an old church and a school-house, and part of it is still occupied by an ancient burial-ground. The church sold its land in 1857 to Mr. John N. Gross, and from his hands it passed into those of the present owner, Mr. Henry Gross.

It is not definitely known when this church was organized. The first instrument of incorporation is dated February 4, 1801. The name therein given to the society was "The Reformed Protestant German Lutheran Church, or Congregation of the Western Allotment of Kingsborough." The first trustees were Jacob Hillebrandt, Adam Plank, and Charles Roth. The congregation was then without a pastor.

The church has been three times re-incorporated since 1801. The first

of these occasions was Dec. 16, 1810, when the name was changed to "The German Lutheran Church of Johnstown." Michael Moore, Peter Plantz, and Christian Wert were at this time elected trustees. Rev. Peter Wilhelm Domier, a learned divine, had pastoral charge of this congregation, together with those of Minden, Palatine, and Stone Arabia. Services were held by him in the Episcopal church, which his congregation was permitted to occupy four Sundays in a year until they erected a building of their own.

The narrative of the building and management of the first church edifice of the society has the smack of primitive times. On the 21st of October, 1815, Michael Moore, Michael Swobe, Christian Wert, David Algyre, and Adam Plank, trustees, entered into a contract with builders for the erection of a church. The builders were required, among other things, to copy the Presbyterian church in the item of "Venetian windows," while the steeple was to be like that of the Episcopal church. The superstructure was to cost \$3,000, and be completed during the year 1816. When the church was finished services were held in it once a month. The members of the congregation lived in the two settlements of Albany Bush and Johnson's Bush, and each section had its own part of the church in which to worship, the people entering by the eastern or western door, according to which Bush they hailed from. They were equally particular in apportioning the expenses of the church, the Albany Bush people, as the more numerous wing, paying three-fifths, and the other end of the church two-fifths.

On Christmas day, 1821, the society was again reincorporated under the title of "The Dutch Lutheran Church of Johnstown." The trustees at that time were Michael Moore, David Algyre and Christian Wert. The final reincorporation, conferring the present name of "St. Paul's Church of Johnstown," occurred on Dec. 11, 1826. Rev. John Peter Goertner was the pastor, and the following officers were chosen: Trustees—Frederick Plank, Michael Hallenbeck and Michael B. Heagle; elders—Michael Moore, Frederick Plank, David Algyre and Michael Swobe; deacons—Baltus Hallenbeck, Frederick M. Moore, John Argersinger and Abram Neifer. At a meeting of the congregation May 10, 1827, the committee on a constitution reported, and the constitution by which the church had been governed for half a century was then formally adopted.

The Rev. Mr. Goertner's health failing, he resigned, to the great regret of his people. He was the first pastor to conduct the service in the English tongue. Rev. Thomas Lape was called to supply the place of the retiring minister, and on the death of the latter became pastor, in which relation he served the church faithfully for six years. His successor was the Rev. David Eyster, who began a successful pastorate of twenty-one years in 1834. After his retirement, the church was without a pastor for a year, when Rev. J. B. Senderling assumed the charge in May, 1856. In that year the Sunday-school was organized. Previously most of the congregation lived in the country, where they had Sunday-schools in their own districts. The original number of scholars was twenty-one; the membership is now 264. John Plantz was the first superintendent; B. Vosburgh now holds that office. The library contains about four hundred volumes.

Dr. Senderling's pastorate continued for about eleven years, and he was followed in 1867 by Rev. Marcus Kling. His successor was the present pastor, Rev. P. Felts, who was called to the charge in March, 1870, but not installed until May 30, 1872, the day of the consecration of the present church, which is 56 by 96 feet, with a spire 146 feet high, and 645 sittings, and cost \$33,000. It is furnished with a \$3,000 organ.

The present membership of the church is 273. From its fold five worthy laborers have gone forth to preach the gospel, viz.: David Swobe, John Selmsler, James Lefler, Nicholas Wert and Joseph Wert.

#### PRESBYTERIAN.

The Presbyterian church of Johnstown was formally chartered in 1785, having probably been in existence for the previous twenty years. This church was one of two to which Sir William Johnson gave fifty acres of land apiece. In 1787 it was received under the care of the Presbytery of New York, and for some time thereafter Rev. James Thompson occupied the pulpit. In 1790 Rev. Simon Hosack became pastor, and continued in that relation until his death in 1833. In 1799 the old church was built, the communicants at that time numbering 180. In 1790 the Presbytery of Albany was formed, and this church was attached to it. In 1826 the

pastor was given the Rev. Gilbert Morgan as colleague. During his two years' connection with the church the "old session house" was built, and Watts' version of the Psalms was substituted for the old version of Mr. Rouse, which had previously been "lined out," as was customary in those days. Rev. Hugh Mair was called as a colleague to the pastor in 1831, and succeeded to the pastorate on the death of Dr. Hosack in 1833. Rev. Hugh N. McLaren supplied the pulpit somewhat less than two years before November, 1845, from which time to June, 1852, it was occupied by Rev. James Otterson. Rev. James P. Fisher was the preacher for seven years from July, 1853; Rev. Daniel Stewart, D. D., stated supply from April, 1861, to April, 1869; and Rev. Charles H. Baldwin pastor from July, 1869, to April, 1873. Rev. M. E. Dunham, the present pastor, began his pastorate in August, 1873.

The church edifice of the society was built in 1865, at a cost of \$33,000. It is a fine brick structure, 60 by 110 feet, and 133 to the top of the spire, and contains an excellent organ. The present membership is about 425. The Sunday-school was organized in 1828.

#### BAPTIST.

About 1795, a few Baptists, some of them from England, held prayer-meetings at the house of a Mr. Hardy from London, on William street, and at the house of a Methodist gentleman, named Brewster, opposite the Dutch Reformed church. From about 1803, Elders Finch, Troop and Lathrop occasionally preached in the Methodist church, Dr. Reed's barn, and elsewhere. Most of their hearers, however, removed to Kingsboro, and in 1819 Mrs. Lydia Wells was the only Baptist in Johnstown. Others came about this time, and from 1821 to 1835 occasional meetings were held by traveling preachers.

In April, 1834, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Leaton came to Johnstown from New York, and Mr. Leaton worked zealously for Baptist interests. In the fall of 1836, Elders J. I. Whitman, Hutchins and W. Groome were appointed by the State Baptist Convention to work as missionaries in Gloversville, Johnstown, Amsterdam, Fort Plain, and the neighboring villages. Several conversions resulted from a four days' meeting held at Johnstown by Elder Whitman. Prayer-meetings were maintained until 1841, in which year and the next Rev. David Corwin, of Gloversville, preached occasionally in the court-house and Methodist church, holding in 1841 a ten weeks' protracted meeting, from which several conversions resulted.

Sept. 11, 1842, Rev. Lewis Raymond, of Cooperstown, arrived in response to repeated calls, and numbers were converted under his preaching. On Nov. 3, 1842, a council of delegates from the Baptist churches of Amsterdam, Gloversville, Pleasant Valley and Broadalbin, met at Johnstown and established a church with appropriate religious services. The number of members was about 60, and eleven more were baptized and received two days later. J. H. Murray was chosen church clerk, and Abel L. Leaton treasurer. Two weeks after, the Sunday-school was opened.

The Rev. Mr. Joslyn preached during the last two months in 1842. The church was received into the Baptist body at the semi-annual sitting of the Saratoga Association at Gloversville, Jan. 4, 1843. Rev. John Duncan was settled as pastor Jan. 25. Under his labors the church grew and prospered spiritually. Feb. 21, the first deacons were elected—Williams, Potter, Hedden and Leaton. Elder Duncan resigned in June, and the church was without a pastor, except for two or three periods of a few weeks, until Feb., 1854, when it was disbanded, and the church edifice, which had been built in 1851 (meetings having previously been held in the court-house), was put into the hands of the Saratoga Association. In Oct., 1864, the Rev. Mr. Fisher went to work at Johnstown and gathered a good congregation, from which the church was reorganized in June, 1865. Mr. Fisher continued a successful pastorate until 1870, when he was succeeded by Rev. W. H. Hawley, whose three years' ministrations added some seventy members to the church. The present pastor, Rev. Roland D. Grant, took charge of the society in October, 1876. Twenty-seven persons joined at the last communion.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

The exact date of the organization of the first Methodist Episcopal society in Johnstown cannot be determined, but as early as 1814 it formed a part of what was known as Montgomery Circuit, comprising fourteen towns lying between the Mohawk and Sacondaga rivers.

The first church edifice stood on the north side of Main street, between Market and Perry, but it was sold, and the society soon after disbanded. The present church organization was formed August 31, 1829, and the original of the present church edifice was built during the same year. It has since been rebuilt four times, and now furnishes about 400 sittings.

The following clergymen have served the society in the order named: John D. Moriarty, Merrit Bates, J. B. Houghtaling, Samuel Covell, Wm. D. Stead, James Quinlan, John Haslam, Elias Crawford, Albert Champ- lin, Henry L. Starks, Dillan Stevens, — Smith, — Radley, James H. Taylor, Thomas B. Piersons, Wm. Griffin, Richard T. Wade, Stephen Parks, Albert R. Spear, Myron White, Peter M. Hitchcock, Benjamin Pomeroy, Hiram Chase, Wm. F. Hurd, Wm. R. Brown Robert R. Thomp- son, H. C. H. Dudley, Tobias Spicer, Wm. Tisdale, Merrit B. Meade, Henry T. Johns, Robert Patterson, Wm. H. Maker, Lorenzo Marshall, N. G. Spaulding, James G. Perkins, Isaac C. Fenton, Aaron D. Heaxt, Wm. Clark, L. S. Walker and T. C. Potter, the last the present pastor.

Unlike other churches in the village, that were old and strong when the Methodist Episcopal church was planted, and not aided as they were by grants of land from Sir William Johnson, this church has been supported solely by its members, few of whom have been men of large means. It is, however, unencumbered and has a membership of 292.

#### ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC.

This society worshiped for many years in an old frame building, the services being conducted by various priests from neighboring towns. The first resident pastor was Rev. Bernard McManus, under whom the present brick edifice at the corner of Clinton and Glebe streets was built in 1869. Rev. J. F. Lowery succeeded to the pastorate in March, 1875, and now holds that relation.

The membership includes one hundred families, and the Sunday-school is attended by about 100 children. Wm. Holwell is the superintendent.

The church seats comfortably 500 persons. The first mass in Johnstown was performed at the house of Mr. John O'Neil, now a resident of the village.

#### UNITED PRESBYTERIAN.

The United Presbyterian church of Johnstown was organized in March, 1828, with twenty-three members. Public worship was at first held in the court-house or academy. In 1830, a frame building was put up in Market street. The second edifice was built in 1869.

The pastors have been: Revs. J. G. Swart, from 1830 to 1837; Alexander Gordon, 1844 to 1845; Andrew Thomas, 1858 to 1863; and J. A. Williamson, from 1864 to the present.

#### SCHOOLS.

Sir William Johnson's well known interest in the cause of education was one of the most conspicuous elements in the statesmanlike character of that eminent man. It could not be expected that he, who interested himself so strongly in the mental wants of his Mohawk wards, should be indifferent to the educational facilities of his tenants and neighbors at Johnstown, and, accordingly, we find him the patron of learning, as well as of industry, in the new village. In 1767 he endeavored, unsuccessfully, to procure the removal of the Moor Charity School from Lebanon, Conn., to his vicinity. In 1771 he advertised in the newspapers of New York and Philadelphia for a person "proficient in reading, writing and arithmetic," to teach a free school he was about opening in the village. The teacher engaged was an Irishman, named Wall.

"He spared not the rod, and he kept the old rule," except with the Baronet's children, who were greatly favored and indulged. Simms relates that this original pedagogue exacted the utmost deference from his unhappy pupils. Any of them wishing to leave the house, must come before the master and execute an obsequious bow, accompanied by a backward wave of the right hand and a backward scrape of the right foot on the floor, saying at the same time, "Please, master, may I go out?" On returning, the child had to repeat the bowing and scraping, and say, "Thank you, sir."

The school-house was an oblong yellow wooden building, standing on the south-east corner of Main and William streets. In the street before it

stood the public stocks and whipping-post, in the former of which the delinquent scholars sometimes figured.

Among the forty or fifty children who attended Sir William's school were three of his own by Molly Brant and those of Mr. Godfrey Shew, who lived for some time a mile west of the Hall. Some of Mr. Shew's neighbors also sent to this school. The children were sometimes frightened by the Indians, who were commonly lounging about the Hall; but Sir William stopped this by reporting it to a chief.

The following "list of scholars at the free school, Johnstown," is given in the fourth volume of the Documentary History of the State of New York, with nothing to show its date:

"Richard Young, Peter Young, Hendrick Young, Richard Cotter, Hendrick Rynnion, James Mordon, Daniel Cammel, Samuel Davis, Reneir Vansiclan, Jacob Veder, Randel McDonald, John Foilyard, Peter Rynnion, Peter Potman, Jacob Doran, David Doran, Jeromy Doran, Adam McDonald, Abraham Boice, Caleb McCarty, Hendrick Colinger, Jacob Servos, John Servos, John Miller, James McGregar, George Binder, Christian Rider, Bernard Rider, Simeon Scouten, Francis Bradthau, John Everot, Sarah Connor, Leny Rynnion, Betsey Garlick, Baby Garlick, Rebecca Vansiclan, Caty Cammel, Caty Garlick, Mary McIntyre, Peggy Potman, Eve Waldroff, Leny Waldroff, Margaret Servos, Catherine Servos."—45.

The following commendable suggestions are part of a memorial to Sir Wm. Johnson by one of his townsmen, John Cottgrave, written immediately after Tryon county had been formed and Johnstown declared the county seat:

"The next thing I mean to refer to, is the Building of a new Free School-house nearly in the centre of the Free School-House Lot, in the form of an academy; with a conveniency at the top, for the little Bell of the Hall; if this was to be done, the present School-House might be removed upon one of the vacant Lots in Town, and answer the End of a dwelling house—as it would not be proper for to have the New Free School in the least incumbered, but to have the whole Lott fenced in neatly, and Suitable Trees planted round the whole square. If these things was done (which is of far greater Consequence than the Building of Blockhouses in Town) your Honour would then engage the attention of people, and perhaps them who live in the remotest parts of his present Majesty's Dominions."

#### THE ACADEMY.

It would seem that the Baronet's school did not meet the growing wants of the community, for, ere long, an academy sprung up, which for many years enjoyed a wide reputation, and gathered students from all over the State. In January, 1794, the Regents of the University received it under their visitation, in compliance with an application signed by the following trustees: Amaziah Rust, Simon Hosack, Dederick C. R. Peck, — Cruts, Frederick Fisher, Silas Talbot, Thos. Read, Richmond Dodge, Daniel Miles, Daniel McIntyre, Geo. Metcalfe, Lewis Dubois, David Cady, H. Beach, John C. Van Epps, John McCarthy and Matthew Fairchilds. The Regents, in their circular approving the incorporation of these gentlemen as "the trustees of Johnstown Academy," mention that they are "founders and benefactors" of the academy, having contributed more than half its property. The Regents' circular is signed by George Clinton, chancellor, and DeWitt Clinton, secretary.

In 1795 the Legislature granted the land on which the building stands, and shortly after its erection in 1796, the trustees procured for it the old bell of Queen Anne's Chapel, at Fort Hunter, which the Queen had sent over to call the Mohawk heathen to worship at that place. In the earliest days of the academy, when Johnstown, as the county seat of Montgomery county, was the most important place in the State west of Albany, it had more than its present local reputation, and was a place of resort from all the inhabited parts of the State to students preparing for college, or finishing their education.

In September, 1869, the trustees declared their office vacant, the academy having been adopted as the academic department of the Union school. Since 1859 the following persons have taught in the academy: Rev. P. Smeallie, Miss M. A. Davidson, Miss H. Candee, Julia Harmon, Miss Foster, Mrs. J. Smeallie, Mr. Peck, Miss Leavenworth, Mr. Whigam, Mrs. Whigam, the Misses Freeman, Louise Larcher, Miss Wentworth, Anna McLeish and Nettie C. Smith.

#### THE PRESENT SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The first division of the village into school districts made it consist of

two, Market street being the dividing line. The district west of that street was numbered 4, and the other 23. The school building on Main street was erected in 1856, at a cost of \$2,500. The teachers since 1857 have been: J. Ripley, Wm. S. Snyder, Hannah Fitch, Miss Maloney, Alice W. Card, Mr. Abrams, Mr. Wilson, Eliza Yost, L. P. Burr, Maggie McQueen, Elizabeth A. McDermid, Ada A. Card, Mary J. Evans, and Jennie Calderwood.

The Montgomery street school-house was built in 1860, and cost \$3,000. The teachers at this building have been: Asa Baker, Gertrude McEwen, John M. Dougall, Miss Manchester, Maggie Grey, Amanda Pierson, Maggie Evans, Libbie Scovill, Jane Walker, Miss Hudson, Emma Bennett, Elizabeth A. McDermid, Jennie Sutcliffe, and Mary B. Stewart.

The village schools were organized under the general act of 1869 into a Union school, though they were not graded and put under one head until 1873, when Wm. S. Snyder became principal and superintendent, which position he still holds, after a connection of seventeen years with the village schools.

Thirteen teachers are employed beside Mr. Snyder, namely: Mrs. G. McKelley, and Misses S. K. Baker, Lou. F. Blampied, N. L. Collins, Alice W. Card, Ada A. Card, Jennie Calderwood, Maggie Evans, Mary Evans, Elizabeth A. McDermid, Ella McDermid, N. C. Smith, and Mary B. Stewart.

The number of pupils at present is 1,000, being double the number attending in 1860. The number of grades is seven; of departments, fourteen. A library of some 1,500 volumes, and apparatus illustrative of the natural sciences, are connected with the school. The Board of Education annually expends about \$7,500. The teachers' salaries average \$436, against \$670 in 1869.

#### LODGES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

##### MASONIC.

The Masonic fraternity in Johnstown was another of its early institutions that profited by the patronage of Sir William Johnson. Having taken the past master's degree in 1766, he fitted up a lodge-room at his own expense at Johnson Hall, and St. Patrick's Lodge, No. 4, was constituted by warrant from the Provincial Grand Master of New York, dated May 23 of that year, with Sir William as master; Guy Johnson, senior warden, and Daniel Claus, junior warden. The lodge assembled at the Hall Saturday, August 23, when the gentlemen named were invested with the badges of their respective offices, and duly acknowledged, and the warrant was read. The records of the lodge from that time are quite complete.

Sir William presented to the lodge a set of silver jewels, which Sir John Johnson, who was the last Provincial Grand Master of the province of New York, took with him in his flight to Canada at the opening of the Revolution. These jewels were subsequently sent to the Grand Lodge of New York, and by it returned to their rightful owner, St. Patrick's Lodge, by which they are highly prized and venerated.

The last meeting of the lodge before the Revolution was held on May 5, 1774. The books were then taken to Canada and there kept until the close of the war, when they were returned and the lodge was reopened July 30, 1785. The original number enrolled was 42; at the first meeting after the Revolution there were but 16 persons present.

The present officers are as follows: W.M., W. F. Pierson; S.W., J. W. Uhlinger; J.W., Philip Keck; Treasurer, E. W. Edwards; Secretary, B. E. White; Senior Deacon, T. E. Ricketts; Junior Deacon, Wm. Simmons; Chaplain, Rev. P. Felts; Senior Warden of Ceremonies, Eugene Moore; Junior, C. H. Argersinger; Organist, W. H. Raymond; Tyler, L. G. Hill; Trustees, S. Hopgood, P. G. Ferris and J. P. Argersinger.

Johnstown Chapter of Knights Templar was organized in 1823. The present officers are: H.P., S. Hopgood; King, J. H. Pike; Scribe, T. E. Ricketts; Captain of the Host, J. P. Argersinger; Principal Sojourner, W. C. Case; R.A. Capt., J. W. Uhlinger; Master 3d Vail, Levi Lefler; Master 2d Vail, Eugene Moore; Master 1st Vail, W. E. Simmons; Treasurer, E. W. Edwards; Secretary, B. E. White; Chaplain, Rev. P. Felts; Organist, W. H. Raymond; Tyler, L. G. Hill.

##### ODD FELLOWS.

Cayadutta Lodge, No. 218, was instituted by D.D.G.M. David De

Forest, July 28, 1869, by special dispensation from G.M., G. J. Gardner, July 21. The lodge was chartered Aug. 19, having as charter members: Wm. G. Miller, A. Thompson, F. Wilbur D. C. Livingston, Wm. Russ, David Smith, A. M. Stewart and D. H. Heagle.

The first officers were: N.G., David Smith; V.G., Truman Wilbur; R.S., R. Van Nostrand; P.S., D. H. Heagle; Treasurer, W. G. Miller.

The present officers are: N.G., Godfrey Moore; V.G., W. H. Colgrove; R.S., Chas. Frost; P.S., A. M. Young; Treasurer, Morris Baumgartle; D.D.G.M. for Fulton and Hamilton counties, Sidney Argersinger.

Cayadutta Encampment, No. 55, was chartered Aug. 23, 1871, and instituted in the following month by D. D. G. P. David De Forest. The charter members were: D. H. Heagle, M. R. Van Sickler, Thos. Farl, Henry Stoller, Sidney Argersinger, A. M. Young, Wm. A. McLane, and Lot Ostrom.

The first officers were: C. P., W. A. McLane; H. P., D. H. Heagle; S. W., Lot Ostrom; J. W., Sidney Argersinger; S., A. M. Young; Treasurer, M. A. Van Sickler.

Present officers: C. P., B. F. Jeffers; H. P., W. H. Doubleday; S. W., Chas. F. Ehle; J. W., W. J. Reid; S., A. M. Young; Treasurer, Morris Baumgartle.

#### JOHNSTOWN CORNET BAND.

The organization occurred in February, 1870. The band consists of fifteen pieces. G. L. Stevens was the leader until 1876, when he resigned, and was succeeded by J. L. Gartland, the present leader.

#### YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The association in Johnstown was organized Oct. 14, 1873. Its first president was D. H. Van Heusen; vice-president, C. H. Mills; and treasurer, J. M. Dougall. The present officers are: President, A. B. Pomeroy; vice-president, John Selmsler; secretary, Albert Penny; treasurer, J. M. Dougall. The rooms of the association, including a reading room, with a library of 200 volumes attached, are at 60 Main street. Prayer, praise or promise meetings are held Monday evenings and Sabbath afternoons. A service of song is held on the first Sabbath of each month at one of the churches. During the summer months Sabbath-school work in the surrounding country takes the place of association work in the village. The membership is about 100.

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Sir William Johnson Lodge, No. 136, Knights of Pythias, was instituted July 2, 1875, with a charter membership of fourteen persons. The first four principal officers were: L. E. Trumbull, C. C.; L. F. Northrup, V. C.; C. C. Henry, P. C.; W. P. Vrooman, P. The lodge is slowly increasing its membership, which now includes some of the best young men of the village. Its present officers are: F. B. Wade, C. C.; Philip Keck, V. C.; W. P. Vrooman, P. C.; E. B. Thayer, P. Meetings are now held Monday evenings, in the lodge room, at 113 Main street, third floor.

#### GAME PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

The Johnstown Game Protection Association adopted on April 10, 1877, a constitution reported by a committee appointed at a preliminary informal meeting, held March 31. The charter members were: J. M. Pierson, Rev. J. A. Williamson, A. George, Hiram Argersinger, Rev. P. Felts, W. F. Young, Max Maylender, A. J. Cook, J. P. Argersinger, T. E. Ricketts, J. H. Pike, C. E. Argersinger, A. Livingston, M. S. Northrup, L. F. Northrup, D. Fraser, D. C. McMartin, W. Potter, M. Bearcraft, J. J. Yost, H. W. Potter, J. A. Dennison, W. L. Johnson, and C. H. Wiggins.

At a subsequent meeting the following officers were elected: President, Archie George; vice-president, M. S. Northrup; secretary, J. H. Pike; treasurer, Hiram Argersinger; counsel, J. A. Dennison; executive committee N. P. Wells and D. Fraser.

Article 2 of the constitution states the object of the association, as follows:

"This society has for its object the propagation and protection of game and game fish, and the enforcement of all laws against the unlawful taking,

killing or selling of the same, and to confer and co-operate with kindred associations of this and other States."

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The history of journalism in the village of Johnstown covers the ups and downs of more than a dozen newspaper enterprises and a period of over eighty years. The early journals would be considered sad affairs in these days, with their antiquated typography, meagre news, heterogeneous arrangement and scanty editorials; but they were more faithfully perused than even the artistic and admirable productions of the press to-day; to which result, indeed, their very meagreness contributed.

Johnstown's first paper was the *Gazette*, started in 1796.

In that year, also, was published *The Montgomery Advertiser*, by Jacob Dockstader, who soon sold it to James Smith, and he to Romeyn & Clark. It was subsequently published, for several years, by Daniel Holden.

*The Montgomery Republican*, an organ of the Federal party, was started in 1806 by William Child, whose brother Asa soon after became editor. William Holland came into possession of the establishment in 1823, and published the paper two years, when it passed into the hands of Peter Mix. Mr. Mix conducted the paper for nine years, until, in 1834, the concern was burned out. The paper survived this disaster; but a second conflagration in November, 1836, finished it.

*The Montgomery Intelligencer* was commenced in 1806, but discontinued in the next year.

In 1808 Robbins & Andrews began the publication of *The Montgomery Monitor*, but sold it shortly to Russell Prentice, and he, in 1824, to Duncan and Daniel McDonald; who, in 1828, removed it to Fonda, and afterward to Canajoharie and Schoharie.

In 1824 *The Montgomery Herald* was removed from Amsterdam to Johnstown, taking the name of *The Johnstown Herald*. In 1834 it was removed to Fonda, where it was known as *The Fonda Herald*.

*The Montgomery Freeman* was published for a time by Yates & Co.

*The Fulton County Democrat* is the outcome of three previous publications, the first of which was *The Northern Banner*, a paper started at Union Mills, in the town of Broadalbin, by John Clark; but removed in a few months to Johnstown, where it took the name of *The Northern Banner and Montgomery Democrat*. In 1837 this name was changed to *The Montgomery Republican*, and soon after the concern was sold to William S. Hawley. He, in 1838, named the paper *The Fulton County Democrat*, under which name it has been published from that time. For a time it was in the possession of A. T. Norton; but, in 1842, passed into the hands of Walter N. Clark, who conducted it until his death in October, 1877, when his son, Walter N., assumed the proprietorship. The paper has long been edited by William H. Doubleday.

To the foregoing series of weeklies was added, in 1836, a semi-monthly, called *The Christian Palladium*. It was removed to Albany about 1840. Another semi-monthly, *The Garland*, was issued a short time at Johnstown, having been previously published at Union Mills.

One of the next weekly enterprises was *The Johnstown American*, commenced in January, 1856, by N. J. Johnson. A year later it was sold to J. D. Houghtaling, and its name was subsequently changed to *The Independent*. In 1865 it was bought by George W. Heaton, proprietor of *The Gloversville Standard*, and conducted by him until 1875, when it was discontinued.

*The Fulton County Republican* was started in 1870 by George M. Thompson, who then owned *The Gloversville Intelligencer* and the *Hamilton County Journal*. A paper of the same name had been started by Darius Wells in 1838, sold to A. U. Wells in 1840, by him to George Henry in 1842, and discontinued in 1860. Mr. Thompson brought the first power-press into the county, setting it up at his Johnstown office, and printing on it the three journals conducted by him. Early in 1877 Mr. E. W. Capron, a gentleman of wide journalistic experience, bought a share in Mr. Thompson's publications, and shortly after Mr. Hiram L. Ward took the remainder from the assignees of Mr. Thompson, who had failed. By these gentlemen the three papers are now ably conducted. *The Johnstown Journal*, started by W. M. Ireland in December, 1873, was consolidated with the *Republican* in the spring of 1877.

#### CEMETERIES

The burial grounds of Johnstown combine evidences of the taste and

care which have been lavished on the cities of the dead by the present generation with the charm that attaches to an ancient graveyard, where, after founding and long sustaining the community in which they dwelt, the "forefathers of the hamlet sleep." The old burying ground on Green street, with its border of tall elms and its pleasant outlook northward across the valley to the historic Hall and the highlands beyond, is one of the most interesting localities in the village. The dates of its monumental slabs are scattered through almost a century, and their styles correspondingly differ, from the leaning and moldering stone whereon the conventional weeping willow, accommodating itself neatly to the rounding projection of the top, droops all but one of its boughs over a classic urn; to the well-planted and fresh looking memorials erected within two or three years, with their brief and simple inscriptions. On the former may be read several names that have occurred in these pages in prominent connections, and some of immigrants whose arrival was an important accession to the village in its day of small things.

The association managing the present village cemetery was organized in 1849, and two purchases of land, of seven and eight acres respectively, were made in that year, as was also the first burial, that of Mr. Peter McKee. The laying out of the grounds began in the following season. Subsequent purchases of one and one-half acres in 1852; five and a fraction in 1860; one and a fourth in the next year; eight in 1873, and a plot of some six hundred feet in 1876, have increased the area of the cemetery to between thirty and thirty-one acres. Its favorable natural features have been so treated by the landscape gardener's art as to render it a lovely and attractive spot. The Cayadutta, curving symmetrically just within the gates, gives opportunity for a handsome bridge; and its placid current mirrors its grassy and wooded banks, and the clouds floating above it; while throughout the portions of the ground appropriated to burials, covered with a pleasant grove or smooth sod, many striking and costly monuments manifest the praiseworthy care for the abodes of the dead that is everywhere an accompaniment of civilization.

#### BUSINESS MEN OF TO-DAY.

The glove manufacture is the leading business interest of Johnstown, though it does not so overtop all other branches of trade and industry as at Gloversville. The principal manufacturers of gloves and mittens in the village, with the number of dozen pairs annually made by them, respectively, are as follows: M. S. Northrup began the business in 1869 and continued it until 1872, when W. S. Northrup joined him, forming the firm of W. S. & M. S. Northrup, to which M. B. Northrup was added in 1875, the firm taking the style of W. S. & M. S. Northrup & Co. They employ about ninety hands, and produce some 12,500 pairs of gloves annually, making a specialty of fine goods. They took a first premium at the Centennial Exhibition. In their works every part of the operation is performed, the skins being dressed at their mill on Mill street run, which is operated by a ten-horse-power Baxter engine. The firm sell to jobbers and wholesale dealers only. L. Bertrand & Co., 34 Market street, commenced the business as E. Bertrand & Co. about 1846, and made the first kid gloves manufactured in Johnstown. They make a specialty of light goods: annual product 3,000 dozen; John H. Decker, 27 Market street, 2,000 dozen; S. G. Hutchinson & Co, 27 Market street, 3,000 dozen; L. Jeannison & Son, 2 McMartin street, who took the highest medal for fine goods at the Centennial Exhibition, 5,000 dozen; Henry Knoff, Market street, 1,000 dozen; Henry Moore, 48 Perry street, 1,140 dozen; J. D. Parrish, 14 State street, 3,500 dozen; T. H. Rowles, 59 Market street, 3,000 dozen; W. H. Rowles, 145 Main, 3,500 dozen; M. B. Vosburgh, 24 Melcher street, 800 dozen; William Mister, 59 Market street, 1,000 dozen; R. Pommer, 52 Market street, 1,200 dozen; Wm. J. Pyne, and V. A. Ritton, 122 Main street, 600 dozen. Some fifty other manufacturers might be named, producing about 106,000 dozen pairs annually.

There are three paper box factories in the village, which furnish boxes for packing the glove product. Much skill and taste is bestowed upon them. Among them is that of Z. Gilbert, 100 Main street. There are also two or three establishments devoted to glove-finishing, as many furnishing glovers' materials, and a factory of glove-cutting machines.

The principal leather dressers, manufacturers and dealers, are: Ferdinand Ackernecht, dresser of and jobber in kid, 20 State street; J. Q. Adams, manufacturer of and dealer in Indian-dressed leather, skins

colored, split, &c., rear of No. 4 Green street; Mark Hull, Main street; W. H. Van Sickler, kid leather dresser and jobber, 4 State street; John E. Wells, Water street, and Argersinger and Miller. More than a dozen others are in the same line.

The leading members of the bar are Martin McMartin, 100 Main street; William Waite, 40 William street; Dudley, Dennison & Dudley, 15 and 17 William street; John Wells, same address, and J. Keck & Bro., on Main street. As many more have offices in the village.

The grocery trade is represented by Argersinger & Fraser, wholesale and retail dealers, Main street, corner of Perry; W. F. Young, 69 Main street, and some fifteen other firms and individuals.

The hardware stores are those of Ferres & Dewey, dealers in hardware, iron and steel, agricultural implements, &c., 88 Main street; Martin Kennedy, dealer in stoves, crockery, tin ware, &c., 110 Main street, and two or three others.

Among the half dozen hotels in the village, Scott's, Rosa's and the Sir Wm. Johnson are prominent.

Frederick Meyer and half a dozen other parties represent the boot and shoe trade.

Wm. P. Vrooman has an insurance and real estate agency at 47 Market street; Walter N. Clark was conducting one at the time of his death at 108 Main street; it is still maintained. There are two or three others in the village.

Seven or eight physicians represent their profession in Johnstown, among them Dr. W. L. Johnson, whose office is at 55 Main street, and Dr. Chauncey C. Joslyn, who has an office on Market street.

The Johnstown Gas Light Company was organized March 10, 1867, with a capital stock of \$18,000 in 360 shares. The directors are Edward Wells, M. Gilbert, J. Clemens, P. W. Case, B. G. Shults, J. I. McMartin, J. M. Dudley, Geo. P. Davis, and D. Stewart. President, J. M. Dudley; secretary, J. J. Davidson; superintendent and treasurer, J. W. Case.

Dain & Wagner, 51 Perry street, and D. Smith, are carriage makers and blacksmiths. There are two or three other similar establishments.

Hess & Moyer, carpenters, contractors and builders, have a shop on Perry street, in the rear of Dain & Wagner's blacksmith shop. Three other parties carry on the same business.

The drug trade has four representatives in Johnstown, including Wiggins & Cahill, 119 Main street.

Barney Vosburgh & Co., 58 Main street, and another firm are furniture dealers and undertakers.

A. A. Burnett, 81 Main street, manufactures and sells Havana cigars, tobacco and smokers' supplies generally.

Henry Stollers keeps a livery stable at 33 Market street, open at all hours.

In 1855 Levi Stephenson opened a manufactory of carpenters' tools, the first of the kind in the county. It was closed in 1861, and Mr. Stephenson in 1871 opened his lumber-yard on Mill street. In 1873 he built the planing mill and box factory now operated by him at 4 State street.

Marble and granite works are carried on at 45 Perry street, by Jas. Y. Fulton, and two stone yards elsewhere.

The jewelry store of Geo. E. Camm is at 103 Main street.

E. C. Norton is a dealer in wall paper and window shades at 125 Main street.

Hats, caps and gents' furnishing goods are sold by Wm. Argersinger at 77 Main street, and by four or five others.

Chester H. Case, residing at the corner of the Tribes Hill and Fonda's Bush roads, is a dealer in milk, selling 36,000 quarts yearly in Johnstown. His farm is that known as the old Snow farm. The original part of the house is said to have been built by Sir William Johnson. Mr. Case is a grandson of Joseph Balch, a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

John H. Hale began business at his skin mill in 1873. Its capacity is 35,000 skins per annum. Max Maylender's kid factory, started in 1868, has a capacity of 72,000 skins.

The business concerns of Johnstown not already mentioned include a grist-mill with three run of stone, and a capacity of about 1,000 bushels per day; three bakeries, two banks, the history of the oldest of which has been given; three book stores, three dentist offices, five dry-goods stores, a gun shop, four hair dressers and dealers establishments, three harness shops, five millinery shops, five meat markets, two flour and feed stores, and six paint shops, including that of J. E. Bruce.

## JUDGE DANIEL CADY.

Second to no name in the history of Johnstown, if we except that of its titled founder, is the name of the eminent jurist and admirable citizen Daniel Cady. He was born in Canaan, Columbia county, in April, 1773. Going forth at an early age to carve out his fortune, he turned toward that land of promise, the Mohawk valley. Accident, it would seem, possibly only sameness of name, brought him to Judge David Cady's, in the town of Florida, where he found a hospitable home, taught a school, studied hard, and earned the lasting friendship of the gentleman at whose house he lived. It is said that the latter once asked him how he happened to come to his house in seeking a home, and that the younger man replied, "I didn't know that I should be able to earn my board, and I felt you could afford to lose it." After studying law in Albany during 1794, and being admitted to the bar in the following year, he began his practice in Florida, but soon removed to Johnstown, of which village he was for the remainder of his life the most illustrious and useful citizen. By industry, ability and integrity he rapidly gained professional reputation, and in 1798 managed his first Supreme Court case. In 1812 he was associated with Aaron Burr and Ebenezer Foote in the defence of Solomon Southwick, charged with attempting to bribe Alexander Sheldon, member of the Assembly, to vote for the incorporation of the Bank of America. Chief Justice Kent presided, and the prosecution was conducted by Thomas Addis Emmet. The accused was acquitted. Mr. Cady was an old-fashioned Federalist in politics. Though not a politician in the uncomplimentary sense of the term, and no office-seeker, he repeatedly represented his district in the national and State Legislatures. What was, perhaps, still more honorable and grateful to him was his promotion in his profession. He was elected a judge of the Supreme Court in 1847, reversing the usual Democratic majority of from 1,800 to 2,000 in the district, being supported by the bar generally; and again in 1849, beating the same opponent, the popular Judge Fine. As judge he rode the western district of the State, including Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Monroe counties. He held the judgeship until Jan. 1, 1855, when he resigned and retired from the duties of the profession with an exalted reputation and the highest testimonials of esteem from his brethren of the bar.

Judge Cady was far from being entirely absorbed in his professional labors, arduous as they were. He owned much land about Johnstown, and took great pleasure in agricultural operations, especially the reclaiming of waste lands. His mansion at Johnstown was a common resort of the elite of society, and his daughters formed matrimonial connections in the prominent walks of life. As force of mind and character ever wins the most solid distinction, the most famous of Judge Cady's family is the illustrious advocate of woman's right to vote, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

## NICHOLAS H. DECKER.

The gentleman whose name heads this sketch is an illustrious example of the class whom the world honors as self-made men, and is also one of the smaller number, who, in making their own fortunes, have contributed greatly to the material prosperity of their country.

Mr. Decker's great-grandfather emigrated from Holland to Ulster county, New York, in 1760. His mother was a member of the famous Hoffman family, from whom was descended the eminent counsellor Ogden Hoffman of New York, whose sister was the affianced of Washington Irving, but died during their engagement, leaving the great author to mourn her

loss throughout a celibate life. The grandfather of Mr. Decker, on his father's side, fought in the patriot army through the Revolutionary war with the rank of captain. Mr. Decker's mother died a few years since, aged seventy-eight; but his father was killed by a horse running away, when the son was but five years old.

The lad worked until he was sixteen on his father's farm, which remained in the possession of the widow. During the winters of these years he obtained his only school education. On leaving the farm he learned the trade of a tanner and currier, and followed it until becoming of age, when he abandoned it for more promising enterprises which suggested themselves to his active and energetic mind.

He spent a year in the service of the engineers engaged in constructing the Chenango Canal, learning what he could of engineering, and displaying an executive talent which obtained for him the management of some 300 men, and later the post of general superintendent for a very extensive contractor.

After a time he took a contract of his own, and made a successful entry upon the business in which he has been winning fame and fortune ever since. He began his career by building a part of the Erie railroad, near Sherbank, on the Delaware River, and subsequently constructed the Worcester and Springfield; the Albany and Stockbridge; the Providence and Worcester; the road from Worcester to Burlington, Vt.; portions of the Hudson River line; the Albany and Eagle Bridge; the Union Railroad of Troy; several western roads, including the Michigan Southern and seventy miles of the Peoria and Hannibal line; the Staten Island road; the North Shore road from Flushing to Manhasset, L. I.; and the Spuyten Duyvil and Port Morris road, finishing the last in November, 1871. Beside these railroads, Mr. Decker built the railroad bridge over the Connecticut at Willimantic, and others, including the bridges and bulkheads of the Worcester and Hudson River railroads at Albany, all characterized by a strength and solidity which leave them still firm and in good condition. His later enterprises include the construction of the third and fourth (through freight) tracks of the New York Central Railroad between Schenectady and Fort Plain in 1873-4, and, on the completion of this important work, of the horse railroads between Johnstown and Gloversville and Fonda and Fultonville; the building of the immense "sheep-house" of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, at Fifty-ninth street and North River, New York city, and some four hundred thousand yards of filling and four or five acres of paving, in connection with it—this latter contract involving about half a million dollars. He is at present engaged in the construction of Riverside avenue, from Seventy-second to One hundred and thirtieth street, New York, part of an extensive system of works for the improvement of the Hudson River front of the up-town portion of the metropolis. His well nigh infallible judgment of the cost of a proposed work has made his labors as profitable to himself as they are satisfactory to the capitalists who have availed themselves of his services.

Mr. Decker married, in 1845, a daughter of Mr. J. B. Mathews of Johnstown, where he has built a splendid country seat, at which, and at Saratoga, he spends his summers, living the rest of the year at his house in Fifth avenue, New York. Two children have been born to him, neither of whom is now living.

Mr. Decker is characterized in person by a muscular form of medium height, excellently preserved in advanced years; in the expression of his countenance, by intelligence and firmness; in his manner, by cordial courtesy; in his tastes, by simplicity and refinement, and in his character, by uprightness and benevolence.