

A
HISTORY OF THE
TOWN OF CAROLINE
TOMPKINS COUNTY, NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

* * * * *

Information for this

BICENTENNIAL BOOK

has been collected by

RESEARCH of History Books, Personal Diaries and Journals, Scrap Books,
Newspapers, Early Magazines, Old-time Pictures, Church Records,
Genealogies, State and Federal Government Records;

INTERVIEWS with many residents of the Town or near-by areas;

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION with former residents and descendants of Early
Settlers living at a distance from the Town of Caroline.

DEDICATED TO EUNICE D. WEBER

AND MEMBERS OF THE FORMER

CAROLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REVISED AND COMPILED BY

Barbara B. M. Kone, Town of Caroline Historian

and

Members of the Caroline Bicentennial Committee 1994

FUNDED BY

THE RICHARD SNOW MEMORIAL FUND

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TOWN OF CAROLINE CITIZENS AND FRIENDS

TOWN OF CAROLINE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

INDEX LINKS

- [Preface](#)
- [In Appreciation](#)
- [Bibliography](#)
- [Five Periods of Recorded History](#)
- [Pioneers - 1794 to 1811](#)
- [Before The White Man Came](#)
- [Before There Was A Town of Caroline](#)
- [Chronology of the Town of Caroline](#)
- [Caroline Communities](#)
 - [Bald Hill--Few Elevations...](#)
 - [Canaan In The Hills](#)
 - [The Story of Blackman Hill](#)
 - [Speedsville Pretty and Busy](#)
- [Churches and Religion](#)
- [Caroline Cemeteries](#)
- [The Brooktondale Community Center](#)
- [Weather in Caroline](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Women in Caroline](#)
- [The Political Scene](#)
- [Leisure Time Activities](#)
- [Music, Art, and Literature](#)
- [The Medical Profession](#)
- [Education and Schooling](#)
- [The Local Store](#)
- [Modern Conveniences](#)
- [F I R E !](#)
- [Hotels, Taverns and Inns](#)
- [Water Ambered Glass](#)
- [The Poor Master](#)
- [Slavery in Caroline](#)
- [Minorities and Aliens](#)
- [Architecture in Caroline](#)
- [The Old Mill](#)
- [The Family Farm](#)
- [Home Front and Those Who Served](#)
- [Caroline Animals](#)
- [Industries and Businesses](#)
- [Home Sweet Home](#)
- [Biographical Notes](#)

PREFACE

In preparing for the Bicentennial of the Settlement of the Town of Caroline, a number of projects were advanced. One of these undertakings was the reorganizing of the "History of Caroline Township of Tompkins County of New York State" that had been compiled for the 1976 Bicentennial.

As more and more information, stories and pictures have come to light, it was decided to add this information to the "History..." reorganize, index, and re-type it. This is the outcome.

We regret the omission of some information, pictures and stories due to our human frailties, time and space limitations. We tried to be as accurate as possible with the information we had available.

MY TOWN IS A CATHEDRAL

by The Reverend Edgar G. Frank

The walks are its aisles,
The trees are its pillars,
Their branches its arches and ribs.
The homes are family-pews,
The gardens altar-flowers,
The sunsets colored glass.
The lights in good men's eyes.
Are living candle-flames,
Their cheery words are hymns.
Their dreams of better things
Are incense and prayers,
Their kindly deeds the Sacrament.

IN APPRECIATION

For loaning materials for research use; Talking about events that happened; Sharing photography and maps; So that future residents of the Town of Caroline will have A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CAROLINE to read and enjoy:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Albertson Mr. &
Mrs. Norman Mix

Mrs. Mary Alexander Mr. & Mrs.
William Mix

Mrs. Charles Bailor Mr. Kenneth
Mulnix

Miss Winifred Bailor Mrs. Lillian
Mulnix

Mrs. Grace Munch Mr. Ernest Bevis

Mr. William Osburn Mr. & Mrs. George
Overbaugh

Mr. Victor Borst Mr. & Mrs. John
Paterson

Mr. & Mrs. Harland Crispell Mr.
James Pickens

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Crispell Mr. &
Mrs. Norris Crispell

Mr. & Mrs. Harland Carpenter Mrs.
Ethel DeLong

Mrs. Mary DeLong Mrs. Louise
Lounsbery DeLong

Mrs. Rhoda Durkan Mrs. Silas N.
Ferguson

Mr. & Mrs. Carl English Mrs. Betty
Goodrich

Mr. Raymond Ink Mr. Michael Jursick

Miss Susie Jones Mrs. Bertha Kester

Mr. Raymond Lattin Mrs. Anna
Liddington

Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Lockwood
Mrs. Annette Maynard

Mr. Egbert McMaster Miss Elizabeth
Meddaugh

Mrs. Florence Poolvoerde Mrs.
Violet Rich

Mr. J. Lawrence Smith Mr. & Mrs.
Richard Snow

Mrs. Florence Starr Mr. Clarence
Stephens

Mr. Raymond Stevens Dr. Mary
Ridgway Tinker

Mr. & Mrs. Ben VanDeMark Mr. Frank
Vorhis

Miss Dorothy Ward Mrs. Edna
Westbrook

Mr. Herbert Westfall Mr. & Mrs.
Joseph White, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Percy Yapple Mrs. Marilyn
Sale

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Mandeville Mrs.
Bernice Hall

Mr. Richard Crispell Mrs. Hazel
Steve

Mrs. Mary Fudger Mrs. Marilyn Shaw

New York State Electric & Gas
American Community Cablevision

Mr. Art Volbrecht Ann Marie Doyle

Mrs. Gertrude Conant Mrs. Alice
Terwilliger

Mrs. Angie Stearns Mr. Leslie
Crispell, Jr.

Mr. Onnie Ekroos Mrs. Leona Tharp

Mr. Bruce Bard Mr. John Cleveland

and others unmentioned

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archives of the Town of Caroline Historical Room

Archives of DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County

Archives of Olin Library, Cornell University

History of Caroline Center Church

History of Caroline Valley Federated Church

Historical writings of Barbara Bell

Historical writings of Lois O'Connor

History of Seneca Baptist Association - Halsey, 1879

Tompkins County Directory 1868-1869 - Child

Brief History of the Empire State - Hendrick, 1890

Centennial History of the Town of Dryden - Goodrich, 1797-1897

Landmarks of Tompkins County, New York - Selkreg, 1894

History of Tompkins, Tioga, Chemung and Schuyler Counties, 1879 (Evert & Ensigns)

Report of the Half-Century Club, 1881 - Day

Charles F. Mulk's Journals and recorded interviews

David S. Thomas Journal

History of Blackman Hill - Deland & Merriman, 1946

Scrapbooks--Florence Snow Poolvoerde, Elizabeth Potter, Clara Potter DeHaas, William Osburn, Richard Snow, Beatrice Rapponi, Town of Danby Historian, William Bickal, Harry Vandemark, Bertha Kester

The Great Tree and the Longhouse, The Culture of the Iroquois - Hertzvert, 1966

Grove's History of American Music

The Mind of America, 1820-1860 - Welter, 1975

Oxford History of the American People -
Morison, 1972

America at 1750, A Social Portrait -
Hofstadter, 1974

Spaffords Gazetteer of New York State

Two Pioneers of Tompkins County, New York -
Genung

Forest to Farms in Caroline - Heidt, 1965

Echoes of Lansing Yesteryears - Conlon, 1970

The Golden Age of Homespun - Van Wagenen, 1953

Old Indian Trails in Tompkins County - Norris,
1969

The Origin of Place Names in Tompkins County -
Norris, 1951

Brooktondale Community Center Newsletter

The Ithaca Journal

Compton's Encyclopedia

The World Book Encyclopedia

Tompkins County Health Department

Caroline Town Planning Committee Report, 1990

A Short History of Tompkins County - Dieckman,
1986

A Short History of New York State - Ellis, 1957

Finger Lakes Region: Its Origin and Nature -
Von Engelin, 1961

A History of Caroline Township - Weber, 1976

The World Almanac --1989

The Catskill Turnpike: a Wilderness Path -
Morgan, 1971

The Catskill Turnpike: Particularly Its Passage
Through Tompkins County Together With Some of
Its Tributary Roads - Morgan, 1929

The Mill at Philipsburg Manor Upper Mills and a
Brief History of Milling - Howell and Keller,
1977

A Museum of Early American Tools - Sloane

People, Places and Events of Speedsville--
Speedsville Skyskippers 4-H club.

Bibliography of The Story of Blackman Hill:

Letters of Mr. Herman L. Blackman, Sayre, Pa.

Adams: Album of American History, V. 1, 2.

Higgins: Expansion in New York.

Morison and Commager: Growth of American
Republic.

History of Tioga, Chemung, Broome and Schuyler
Counties.

Compiled by Helen P. Deland and Marjorie S.
Merriman, Fairport, New York, summer of 1946.

Re-typed by Dorothy E. Needham, Newark Valley,
New York, February, 1958.

History of the Speedsville Hotel--Anna VanGhone
Liddington

History of the Congregational Church,
Brooktondale, New York

Benoni Mulks family, Charles Freer Mulks, 1892.

Cantine Genealogy, Alice Cantine Huntington,
1957

People, Places & Events of Speedsville -
"Speedsville Superspeeders" 4-H Club, 1979

The RECORDED HISTORY of New York can be divided into five periods.

1. The Rule of the Dutch - 1609 to 1664

2. The Rule of the English - 1664 to 1775

3. New York as a Sovereign State - 1775 to 1789

In this period the state joined with twelve other states in a War of Independence.

4. The Development of the State - 1789 to the completion of the Erie Canal. 1830 is usually considered the end of the Pioneer or Homespun Era.

5. The Era of Progress or Industrialization - From the completion of the Erie Canal (1825 - 1830) to the latter part of the 19th century.

The New York of 1760 and 1770 was no longer a collection of settlements; it was taking the form of a State. The shape of its peopled territory was that of a letter "Z"--the Mohawk Valley and Long Island were the upper and lower lines of the letter, the Hudson Valley was the connecting bar.

In the 2nd period "there were but two Dutch towns of any importance-- Exopus (now Kingston) and Albany. New York City had less than 400 houses. A line of Post Messengers was established between New York and Boston along paths marked by blazed trees."

The 20th Century adds a sixth period to the history of New York, which might be called the age of invention, political and economic struggle, and war.

What will the 21st century bring?

PIONEERS - 1794 TO 1814

1794 Widow Maria Johnson Earsley
New Jersey

1795 Capt. David Rich Vt, Mass, NJ

1797 Thomas Tracy Mass, Apalachin

Benjamin Tracy (son of Thomas)

Prince Tracy (bro of Thomas)

1798 General John Cantine Ulster
Co. NY

John Cantine, Jr. Ulster Co. NY

Moses Reed Rhode Island

1800 Benoni Mulks (millwright)

William Roe Long Island, NY

Richard Bush Ulster Co. NY

Joseph Chambers Ulster Co. NY

Hartmore Ennist Ulster Co. NY

Labin Jenks Worcester, Mass

Elisha Jenks (bro. of Labin)

Michael Jenks (cou. of Labin)

Benjamin Genung New Jersey

1801 John Rounsevell Mass, NH

Joel Rich Mass, NH

C. H. Deuel

Lemuel Yates

John Robison Ulster Co. NY

Levi Slater Ulster Co. NY

Charles Mulks

James Bishop

Robert Freeland (carpenter)

1802 Matthew Jansen (blacksmith)

1803 Rev. Garret Mandeville Ulster
Co. NY

Daniel Newkirk (tailor)

Augustine Boyer Kent Co. MD

John Doty

1804 George Vickery

Deacon Booth

Jonathan Norwood

Henry Quick Ulster Co. NY

Edward Paine

Thomas Paine

Simeon Ashley

Abiatha G. Rounsvell Bristol
Co. MA

Samuel Rounsvell Bristol Co. MA

William Rounsvell Bristol Co.
MA

Sylvester Rounsvell Bristol Co.
MA

Bradford Rounsvell Bristol Co.
MA

1805 John J. Speed Meck.Co VA

William Speed VA

Robert Harper Hyde VA or MD

Aaron Bull

Dr. Joseph Speed VA

1806 Matthew Krum

Aaron Bull Conn., Ulster

1807 Matthew Krum's father

John & William Patillo VA or MD

1808 John Higgins Ulster Co. NY

James Personius

1809 George Blair Worcester, Mass

Sabin Mann Worcester, Mass

Nathan Gasper

Joseph Smith

Marcus Bremerton

John Doty

Capt. Alexander Stowell

Timothy Tyler

Reuben Legg Mass

Lyman Rawson Vermont

1810 Nathaniel Tobey Mass

Samuel Tobey (bro of Nat.)

James & Martha Blackman Tracey
Mass

1811 Dana & Lyman Crum

Luman Cage

Christian Hart

Jeremiah Keeney

Henry Middaugh (before 1811)

Jonas Rudi

Widow Jemima Personius Van de
Mark

1812 Abraham Blackman

Abraham Boice, Jr.

Thomas Haggie or Heggie

Benjamin Hoffman

Isaac Hollister, Jr.

1813 James Bishop

Jacob Delong

Thomas Haggan

Joel Hastings

Asa Leonard

Moses D. P. Schoonmaker

1814 Dr. James Ashley

Festus Cooley

Charles Manning

John Sloughter

Simon V. W. Schoonmaker

To say that these were all of the pioneers would be making sort of a risky assertion. By the year 1814, there were 905 residents in the Town, and others continued to come in until as late as 1838. Not all remained, but descendants of many of these early families are found in the area today.

BEFORE THE WHITE MAN CAME

The heartland of the Iroquois once stretched across what is now central New York State from Schoharie to the Genesee Valley, southeastern Ontario, northern Pennsylvania and northeastern Ohio.

The soil was rich and fertile, rainfall was plentiful, and there were about 120 frost-free days a year for farming. There were rich mineral resources, forests filled with plants and animals, and streams, rivers, lakes and ponds filled with fish, eels, and shellfish.

The land where they lived was the center of things. While the men hunted, the Iroquois women worked in the fields raising corn, beans, and squash--known as the "three sisters" and "our supporters". With this source of food, the Iroquois could build villages and live a more secure and settled life than people who had to depend only on hunting and the gathering of wild plants for food.

The Iroquois could see a religious or spiritual meaning in nearly everything around them. The land was a gift from the creator. It was holy, and called "our mother", and was there for their use. Land was not something that could be bought or sold; that concept was not in the realm of Iroquois life. Above the land was the Sky-World, where, they believed, dwelt the Master of Life, the right-handed twin. In the Sky dwelt "Our Grandmother, the Moon" and "Our Elder Brother, the Sun" The land itself rested on the back of the turtle. The Corn Mother watched over the fields, and in the woods lived the Little People and the masked spirits, whom you might meet sometime if you were alone. In the land below there lived the left-handed twin, Flint.

The beautiful legends of the Iroquois tell of the creation of the earth and why birds have songs. They teach lessons and renew traditions. They explain the earth around us and tell of when the Great Peace came to Iroquoia.

The Iroquois were not a single tribe, but a federation of tribes--the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Cayugas, the Senecas, and about 1710, the Tuscaroras were permitted to join when they were forced out of North Carolina and came north. The Iroquois Confederacy, also known as the League, is also called the Six Nations.

The Iroquois family was large and a child was part of not only a fireside family, but a longhouse family, clan, clan group and the nation. A "fireside family" consisting of father, mother and children, occupied a compartment in the longhouse and shared a hearth with the fireside family across the corridor. Each person belonged to the "Longhouse family" into which he or she was born, which was the mother's longhouse family. The father belongs to the longhouse family into which he was born. When a man married he moved into his wives longhouse. The family structure was very strong.

The head of the longhouse family was always a woman. Several longhouse families made up a clan. There were ten clans although not every nation had every clan, all the Iroquois nations shared the Bear, Wolf, and

Turtle clans. Another member of one's clan was considered a relative no matter what nation he lived in.

Within the symbolic Longhouse of New York State, the tribes had various names signifying their geographical locations and their kinship ties with each other. The Mohawks were the "Keepers of the Eastern Door", and the Senecas the "Keepers of the Western Door." The Onondagas were called the "Keepers of the Central Fire", and these three, large, powerful tribes were referred to as "the Elder Brothers". The Cayugas and Oneidas, smaller and less powerful, were "the Younger Brothers".

The League of the Iroquois stands as one of the great political efforts of mankind. From the scattered tribes of the forest and clearing arose a vision of a world of peace, order, law, and justice. The journey in ideas from the familiar longhouse of the village to the great symbolic Longhouse of the League required extraordinary imagination and intelligence.

For several hundred years the Iroquois, whose territories commanded water routes to the north and west, engaged in a forest diplomacy and war with the English and the French, who were struggling for possession of the North American continent. In this lengthy, confused, and devious conflict, the Iroquois sided sometimes with the English, sometimes with the French, sometimes with one Indian tribe, sometimes with another, as the Indian allies and the European power also shifted their allegiance. That the Iroquois were able to flourish for so long is due to their organization, which was much better than that of other tribes; to their internal strength; to their skill at diplomacy and negotiation; to their prowess in war; and to their geographical position, which commanded one of the most important routes of westward European expansion.

In the Confederacy, there was no formal structure for the waging of war, no standing army, and no formal military discipline. Despite their wisdom and experience, the Iroquois do not seem to have understood the size and extent of the power with which they were confronted. The wealth, number, technology and strength of the Europeans lay beyond their imaginations. They even believed that these European tribes might themselves accept the Great Peace and come into the Longhouse.

The revolution which brought freedom to the American colonies brought disaster to the Iroquois. Their villages were burned, their cornfields laid waste. Some fled to Canada where the British government offered them land. Most stayed in this country on shrunken remnants of what had once been Iroquoia or on lands farther west.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, a leader, Handsome Lake arose among the Seneca. He had been influenced by the Quakers, and he advised the people to adopt some of the new ways of the white man. In most respects he sought to strengthen and protect the old culture. He changed the ancient religion in some ways but preserved most of it and helped to give it new life. Even though many of the people had become Christians, still there were those who carried on the ancient traditions handed down to them from their ancestors. The teachings of Handsome Lake gave the Iroquois a way to adjust to their new situation without abandoning all their old culture.

The Confederacy endures. The Chiefs of the League carry on its business. The Elder Brothers and the Younger Brothers still conduct their work. The people still meet in a longhouse, and hold the great Midwinter Festival. The Iroquois renew their strength as a people as they have for hundreds of years. The modern day Iroquois, like most other people, are a blend of modern technology, and the teachings of their ancestors. All people carry with them the inheritance of the past as well as ideas of the present in their language, their customs, and their ways of living and feeling and thinking.

(The Great Tree and the Longhouse: The Culture of the Iroquois, by Hazel W. Hertzberg)

BEFORE THERE WAS A TOWN OF CAROLINE

Excerpts from the Charles F. Mulk's Journal

Tioga County was organized in 1791. The Caroline area was the Northeast corner portion of Owego, one of the five Townships into which Tioga County was first divided. Later the original five towns of Tioga County were made and organized into six or seven counties.

The first settlers of Caroline area lived in the Owego Township and their deeds, contracts for purchase, or occupation of land, were described as being in Owego Township until 1806 when Spencer was set off from the northern part of Owego.

In 1811, by the subdivision of Spencer, Caroline was made a separate town, but still in Tioga County. The town limits were nearly the same as today: bounded on the East by Berkshire (then in Broome County), North by Dryden (then in Cayuga County), West and South by Candor and Danby. The boundary of Ulysses (Ithaca) of Seneca County was two or three miles from the west line of the Town.

The Township was formally organized at a meeting held at the Bush Tavern (in Boiceville). At the forming of the Town Government, there had been no controversy until the name of the Town came up for discussion. At a later meeting, held at a school house to settle certain business details, it was proposed that a spelling book should be taken and opened. The first female name that was found would be the name of the town. This was agreed to and done-- so Caroline became the name of the new Town.

At the same time, Dr. Speed and John Cantine, who were present, promised each other that should ever a daughter be born to either of them, her name would be Caroline. Diana Caroline Speed was born October 12, 1811, the sixth child of the family. Caroline Cantine was born later.

Much of the land in Caroline was part of the great "Watkins and Flint Purchase" which was made up of 12 townships often named in the older title deeds as "The Twelve Townships." Township #1 was Catherine in Schuyler County, Township #12 was a large part of Candor. The entire Township #11 and the east half of #10 were much of the Caroline area.

Simeon Perkins, surveyor, mapped out Town #11 in 1798. He was also a large owner of the wild land of Caroline Area. Several early settlers acquired title directly from him.

The 1813 edition of Spafford's Gazetteer of New York described Spencer as "a large Post-town, Capitol of Tioga County, situated near the center of the County." "Town has several settlements known by local names such as 'Dutch Settlement', ...and others."

CHRONOLOGY OF THE TOWN OF CAROLINE

(Items pertaining to Town of Caroline are in "bold" print)

GLACIAL PERIOD--Slaterville Lake (1270 ft), the eastern branch of Six Mile Creek, covers Slaterville; ice barrier presses against Bald Hill; drainage leaves massive sediment in Brooktondale and large Adirondack boulder in Slaterville. At 9890 ft. Lake Brookton and Lake Danby join to become Lake Ithaca.

1570 League of Five (later six) Nations founded by Iroquois, including local Cayuga tribe

1607 British settle Jamestown, Virginia

1609 Henry Hudson sails up the Hudson River to Albany for the Dutch

1615 French explorer Etienne Brule is first white visitor to Tompkins County.

1620 Pilgrims from Britain land in Plymouth, Mass.

1625 Dutch establish New Amsterdam

1656 Two French missionaries visit Cayuga Indians.

1664 British rule of New York begins

1745 Moravian missionaries use Owego-Dryden-Onondaga Trail.

1775-

1789 New York a sovereign state during Revolutionary War and post-Revolutionary periods

1777 New York State adopts the US Constitution

1779 General John Sullivan campaigns against the Six Nations/Loyalists, ravaging countryside.

1785-

1786 Boston Purchase of land, including Speedsville area

1787 US Constitution submitted to states

1788 First white settlers in Ithaca

1789 Six Nations cede to New York lands east of Seneca Lake, so opening land to immigration. George Washington inaugurated.

1791 Watkins, Flint and other New Yorkers buy part of Caroline and other land. Tioga County and Town of Owego organized. Caroline in northeastern part of Owego.

1792 Mail route established from Hudson Valley to Susquehanna. General John Cantine acquires 32,000 acres, 2000 between present marker east of Slaterville and western Brooktondale in Six Mile Creek Valley.

1794 Samuel W. & Robert C. Johnson deeded large acreage in Caroline, Danby, Newfield by Watkins, Flint. Widow Mariah Earsley travels to and buys 100 acres in Caroline.

1795 John Jay is New York State governor. Widow Earsley and Captain David Rich arrive in Caroline.

1796 Captain David Rich records first deed.

1797 David Rich, Jr. born--1st white child born in Caroline. Richard Earsley -- first white death

1798 John Cantine, Jr. receives land from father, builds log cabin in Cantineville (now Brooktondale).

1800 John Cantine opens first gristmill on Six Mile Creek (built by Benoni Mulks). Richard Bush opens tavern in (now) West Slaterville. Jenks arrive at "The Corners" (now Speedsville).

1801 Thomas Jefferson president of U.S. Harriet Rounsvell born 26 January--1st white girl born in area. Mulks brings family to area.

1802 First school in Dutch Settlement. Matthew Jansen brings 1st slave; Cantine's daughter brings others.

1803 Louisiana Purchase. Augustine Boyer buys 1000 acres in Centerville. NYS legislature charters Catskill Turnpike.

1804 Lewis & Clark expedition. Boyer brings 1st slave from South--Jerry Blackman. Mansion House built in Brooktondale--1st frame house in Town.

1805 Southerners arrive, bringing slaves: Speed, Hyde & Patillo families.

1806 Spencer set off from Owego, and Caroline becomes part of Spencer. Speed Post Office opens at his blockhouse.

1808 Congress forbids importation of slaves. "Bottom Mill" built on Six Mile Creek in "600". Free Mason Lodge opens at Cantine house.

1810 Dutch Reformed Church founded.

1811 1st Town Meeting at Bush's Tavern. Caroline becomes separate town

1812 War of 1812. "Speedsville" Post Office moved to City Lot. Chief Wheelock dies, Indian village near Thomas Road disperses

1813 First Methodist Church of Caroline organized

1814 First Baptist Church (Cantineville) "Old School" Baptist organized

1816 Jonathan Snow of Mass. arrives in Caroline Center. Abraham Boice opens inn in West Slaterville--area takes name of Boiceville.

1817 Tompkins County created

1818 First circulating library established in Town of Caroline

1819 Tobeytown Post Office established. Peter Webb buys freedom from Speed. Oldest house in Speedsville (later Legg homestead) built by Laban Jenks. Lyman Cobb publishes Cobb's Spelling Book

1820 US Census reports 50 slaves in Tompkins County. 32 slaves in Town of Caroline. Peter Lounsbury settles on corner of White Church and Valley roads. Methodist Church organized in Caroline Center. First school in Caroline Center in Speed's garden. Dutch Reformed Church built in West Slaterville.

1821 General male suffrage established.

1822 Town of Caroline transferred from Tioga County to Tompkins.

1825 Erie Canal opens. John Quincy Adams president.

1827 All New York slaves freed. Universalist Society of Speedsville organized

1828 Erie Canal connected to Cayuga Lake. Seth Akins builds covered bridge in Speedsville, over west branch, Owego Creek

1829 Andrew Jackson president

1830 William Mott bought Cantine's mill and soon had 6 sawmills and several stores.

1831 Garretson Society organized

1832 Speed Post Office moved to Jenksville

1834 Methodist Episcopal Church, Slaterville, dedicated

1835 10 feet of snow falls. Terryville Post Office opens.

1839 Post Office opens in Caroline Center. School built corner of Buffalo Road and Taft Road.

1840 Cantineville became Mott's Corners, and Terryville Post Office moved there. Ithaca-Owego Railroad runs through Caroline Depot.

1841 1st wagon train from Missouri to California

1842 St. John's Episcopal Society and church moved to Speedsville from Richford.

1844 Morse sends 1st telegraph

1846 New York State Constitution

1847 Baptist meeting house built Mott's Corners

1848 Gold discovered in California

1850 NY State population--4 million. Town of Caroline population- -

1851 Melville's Moby Dick published. Speedsville Lodge 1265 F&AM erected

1858 1st transatlantic cable. Speedsville pagoda and park created to honor Laban Jenks

1860 Caroline Depot Post Office opened to expedite all Caroline mail.

1861 Civil War starts. Abraham Lincoln president

1865 Cornell University opens

1866 Ku Klux Klan formed. Present church at Caroline Center built. Approximately 20 school districts in Caroline.

1867 Caroline Lodge #681 built

1868 Congregational Society, Mott's Corners, organized

1869 Transcontinental Railroad completed. Caroline Cheese Factory opened by R.G.H. Speed

1870 Universalist Church of Speedsville organized

1871 Magnetic springs discovered in Slaterville, opens area as health spa. Fountain House and Magnetic Springs House open in Slaterville.

1873 Old School Baptists cease to function, Church of the Nazarene buy building on White Church Road and move it to corner of White Church and Caroline Depot Roads.

1874 N Y graded public schools created. U I &E RR completes wooden trestle over Six Mile Creek at Mott's Corners.

1876 Mark Twain publishes Tom Sawyer. Custer's Last Stand at Little Big Horn. Post Office opens at Besemer Depot

1883 Mott's Corners becomes Brookton

1884 Brookton roller skating rink opens

1885 South Dryden residents, lots 91-100 become part of Caroline.

1888 Great Blizzard of Northeast. (see "Weather In Caroline")

1892 Methodist Society, Caroline, organized.

1893 President Grover Cleveland's inaugural parade uses 2 Town of Caroline horses. (see "Caroline Animals")

1894 Edison's 1st motion picture. Brookton trestle rebuilt in steel. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Slaterville and Methodist Church, Caroline, built.

1898 US at war with Spain after USS Maine blown up.

1900 Carry Nation begins raiding saloons with hatchet.

1902 Rural Free Delivery of mail in Tompkins County

1903 Orville Wright's first flight. Caroline Farmers Telephone Company organized and owned by Charlie Jones.

1909 Peary reaches North Pole

1910-12 Boy Scouts, Girl Guides founded

1911 Fountain House burns

1917 Prohibition Act signed. US in World War I.

1920 Women gain right to vote. 2-yr high school in Slaterville closes

1924 NYSEG gets franchise for Caroline electricity 28 October.

1926 Brookton becomes Brooktondale.

1927 Lindberg's solo flight to Paris. Jazz Singer is 1st talking movie.

1928 Crispell buses serve Caroline, Slaterville and Brooktondale.

1929 There are 16 elementary schools in Town of Caroline. There are 4 shipping RR stations: White Church, Caroline Depot, Besemer, Brooktondale. Greater Tobey Parish formed.

1930 The Great Depression. State reclamation of abandoned and ailing farms starts: Shindagen Hollow, Hammond Hill; Blackman Hill in 1940's.

1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt president. End of Prohibition.

1935 Social Security Act passed.

1936 Brooktondale trestle torn down.

1938 National minimum wage enacted

1940 Antibiotics introduced. Brooktondale community publishes Bugler for local service men.

1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; US in World War II against Germany, Italy, Japan.

1943 1st paycheck withholding tax

1944 GI Bill of Rights education bill.

1945 World War II ends.

1946 Brooktondale Volunteer Fire Co. organized

1947 Robinson Airlines operates out of Ithaca

1950 US engages North Korea. Slaterville Springs Volunteer Fire Co. formed. Catholic Mass in Patrick Caveney home.

1953 Salk polio vaccine

1954 Racial segregation in public schools banned. NYSEG gets franchise for Town of Caroline gas installation 7 Sept.

1955 US begins to train South Vietnamese army

1957 US civil rights bill protects black voting rights. Caroline Elementary School opens.

1958 1st US satellite in orbit.

1959 Alaska & Hawaii become states. Former Skip and Joe Club becomes Brooktondale Community Center.

1962 Gov. Nelson Rockefeller breaks ground in Caroline Center for Camp McCormick, for 60 delinquent youth.

1963 President John Kennedy assassinated; prayer in public schools unconstitutional; Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech

1964 Omnibus civil rights bill. Brooktondale Community Center built

1965 Electricity blackout in Northeast. Speedsville Volunteer Fire Co. formed.

1966 Cerrache gets franchise for TV cable in Town of Caroline.

1967 475,000 US troops in Vietnam. Town of Caroline Servicemen on active duty.

1969 Neil Armstrong lands on moon.

1970 First Earth Day

1972 Brooktondale Baptist Church and school opened on route 79.

1973 Vietnamese peace pacts; Supreme Court rules on legality of abortions

1974 President Richard Nixon resigns after Watergate investigation. Crispell brothers ends bus service to Town of Caroline.

1975 Town Hall (former Slaterville Springs school) remodeled with volunteer labor.

1979 Three-Mile-Island nuclear accident

1980 Computer revolution; War on drugs; AIDS epidemic begins. Caroline Census population 2754, 20% below poverty level, 97% white, average family income-\$18,356. About 23% of those age 25+ had education beyond high school. 982 housing units, 3/4 owner-occupied.

1988 Fountain Manor opens in Slaterville Springs.

1989 12 dairy farms (plus/including 7 part-time livestock and 5 fruit-vegetable farms), 3000 acres farmed. State of NY owns 6821 acres (19%), 1127 housing units, including 730 single family homes, 280 multifamily units, and 117 mobile homes, all serviced by private wells and septic systems; at least 18 small businesses. Reading Room opens in Town Hall with volunteer staff.

1990 Recycling center opens in Town of Caroline.

1991 US at war in Persian Gulf. Life features Town of Caroline's yellow ribbons in support of local service people.

1993 Buffalo Road bridge replaced and causes wells in Slaterville Springs to go dry. Water trucked in until engineers can correct problem.

CAROLINE COMMUNITIES

BALD HILL -- Sometimes shown as "Bald Mountain" on maps. Widow Jemima Vandemark Personius was one its early settlers. It was noted for its "Skunk Farm" (see Business and Enterprises) and a 4-story barn, built by Camp "Doc" Reed, whose "bridge" went over the road. (see Bald Hill-- Few Elevations In The County Attain Its Height)

BESEMER -- The name was changed from "Besemer Depot" in January 1883.

BESEMER DEPOT -- This community, six miles southeast of Ithaca on the Elmira Central & Northern Railroad was established by Josiah Besemer, a rugged individualist who wanted a station near the water tank which the railroad company had built to replenish the water supply of the train engines. The company did not want to build the station, so Mr. Besemer built it himself. It was known as "Besemer's Depot" until January 1883 when the name was changed to "Besemer". The railroad ceased to operate in 1935. Besemer Station was the center of community activities in the days of health resorts at Slaterville Springs. Besides being used as a passenger depot, the building was used for storing coal, lime, flour, and feed for more than 35 years. Willis G. Besemer was station agent for 60 years.

BLACKMAN HILL -- The area between "Caroline" and "Speedsville" where the Blackman and related families settled about 1804. (see THE STORY OF BLACKMAN HILL)

BOICEVILLE -- A hamlet west of "Slaterville Springs" that took its name from the Boice family, early settlers there. It gradually became known as "West Slaterville". At one time had a tavern, where the first town meeting was held, and a blacksmith shop.

BREARLEY HILL -- Brearley Hill starts at the south end of Central Chapel Road and runs in a general southwesterly direction into Shindagin Hollow in this county and over the line into Tioga County leading to Prospect Valley.

BROOKTON -- When the railroad trestle was completed across Six Mile Creek gorge at "Mott's Corners" and a depot was built on the southeast side near the site of the University Sand and Gravel pit, the hamlet was renamed "Brookton".

BROOKTONDALE -- Confusion developed because of handwriting and spelling differences, and mail for "Brookton" often went to Brooklyn or Brockton. In an attempt to cure the problem, 'dale' was added to the name and since February, 1926 the name has been "Brooktondale". The Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. changed the name of their station a short time later because the difference between the name of the post office and the train station caused confusion in shipments of freight, etc.

CANAAN -- A small valley extending from a south to north direction in the northeast part of the town. It originally was almost entirely in the Town of Dryden and called Union Valley, but in 1887, seven lots of 600 acres each were transferred to the Town of Caroline.

CANTINESVILLE -- This area was in the Six Mile Creek area where the Cantine family settled and built their mills. In 1840 "Cantinesville" was renamed and became "Mott's Corners". It was also known as "Cantine's Mill"

CAROLINE -- The first Post Office was established one half mile east of Slaterville, in 1810 by Dr. Speed, who was the first Postmaster. After it moved to Caroline Center the "Tobeytown" Post Office was established. Later, a grand-daughter of Widow Earsley became Postmaster and the Post Office came to be known as the Caroline Post Office. The Post Office closed in 1902 and the hamlet came to be known as "Caroline". At one time the hamlet boasted of saw mills, a grist mill, a cheese factory, a blacksmith's shop, a small grocery store, a church and a few houses. "It is simply an agricultural settlement, not having progressed any since the destruction of the grist mill". (History of Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler and Tompkins Counties)

CAROLINE CENTER (or Centre) -- When the Post Office was established at "Centerville" in 1839 the name was changed to "Caroline Centre". As "American" spelling became standardized, "Centre" became "Center". At one time there was a general store, blacksmith shop, school, two churches, a grist mill and saw mill.

CAROLINE DEPOT -- On May 29, 1860 the Caroline Depot Post Office opened. The Depot was built to serve the two railroads that converged to run parallel through White Church Valley. Nearly a century later the Post Office was closed and the railroads were gone. Thus a typical rural hamlet came to an end. Once it had two stores, a feed mill, a railroad depot serving two lines, and a cluster of residences.

CENTRAL CHAPEL -- An area in which the Shindagin Road and Brearley Hill Road come together. A lovely old Church overlooked the intersection as late as 1939 but had not been used for many years.

CENTERVILLE -- This area of Caroline was purchased by Augustine Boyer in 1803. The hamlet that grew up was called "Centerville" due to its geographical location. It was located on "76 Road", a pioneer highway of the town from Speedsville to Brooktondale. The name was changed to "Caroline Center" in 1839 when the Post Office was opened. (The original Post Office had been moved from the Catskill Turnpike and was known as the "Speedsville" Post Office, although the area around it was called "City Lot". It later moved to "Jenksville" which became Speedsville) The first school was built in 1820 on land in the "upper end" of William Speed's garden.

CONNECTICUT HILL -- "Driving easterly from Ithaca through Brooktondale and Caroline Center, one reaches a concrete bridge about four miles beyond "The Center"...Just beyond this bridge, to the right, leads a dirt road across a little valley and up a long, steep grade to the summit of Caroline Town's "Connecticut Hill". (Lyman H. Gallagher) The dirt road mentioned is now known as Ekroos Road.

DUTCH SETTLEMENT -- "Dutch Settlement" was the name by which Slaterville and the adjacent neighborhood was known for twenty years after the area was settled by the Robison, Bush, Chambers, Quick, Ennest, Boice and Mulks families from the Marbletown area in Ulster County. For twenty years they spoke what they called "The Marbletown Dutch" and this gave the locality the name.

GUIDEBOARD CORNERS -- The crossroads where "76 Road", "Grove School Road" and "Judge's Road" (Central Chapel Road) meet was referred to as "Guide Board Corners" by early settlers. Until recent years, direction signs were on a post at the intersection.

HARDSCRABBLE -- "Hardscrabble" is northeast of Caroline Center on the high land known as "Taft Hill".

HONEYPOT -- The area between Candor and Caroline Center. Honeypot Road was re-named South Road in the Town of Caroline. Once you cross into Town of Candor, the road is Honeypot. It was originally Speed Road South.

JENKSVILLE -- Laban Jenks who first settled below present day "Speedsville" on the Berkshire side of the Creek, traded this land for 400 acres covering most of the Speedsville area. He opened a store and began to barter. The hamlet became known as Jenksville. Between 1832 and 1835 a movement was begun to have a post office for Jenksville.

MOTTS CORNERS -- In 1830 William Mott bought Cantine's Mill and converted it to a plaster mill. He added a sawmill and a furniture factory specializing in fine tables. Before long he had six sawmills and several stores. The hamlet became known as "Mott's Corners" instead of "Cantinesville".

MUD BRIDGE -- The culvert nearly in the middle of Flat Iron Road that allows the swamp to drain into the West Branch of Owego Creek

THE NARROWS -- This was the area directly east of Guideboard Corner where the '76 Road followed the creek very closely on its way to Caroline Center. In the early 1980's the road was widened and the rock was used as fill in the area of 225 and 231 Creamery Road.

PACIFIC BRIDGE -- The culvert through which the West Branch of Owego Creek passes in Caroline. The creek divides Town of Richford from Town of Caroline. The road on the South (Caroline) side of the creek is known as Pacific Road. The road on the north (Richford) side of the creek is known as Elishaburg Road. It is told that Miss May Tobey named that area because of its "quiet" (or "pacific") beauty.

PUGSLEY'S DEPOT -- "Pugsley's Depot" was one of the original stations on the old Ithaca-Owego Railroad which started operating with horse drawn cars in 1834. The Railroad was abandoned in 1935 and the Depot was on Bell School Road. Abraham B. Pugsley was named Postmaster in 1850 for the Post Office which was moved to Caroline Depot in 1860.

RAWSON HOLLOW -- "Rawson Hollow" is a short valley opening east of the west branch of Owego Creek between "Blackman Hill" and "Speedsville". It was named after Lyman Rawson, an early tavern keeper. A Post Office was established there in August 1856 and closed in December 1861.

ROSEYBONE -- The ridge that runs east and west on the north side of NYS Route 79 between Six-Hundred Road, across Midline Road and to Ellis Hollow Road.

SHINDAGEN or SHINDAGIN HOLLOW -- "Shindagin" is a corrupted form of Shandaken. This valley known as Prospect or Shandaken Valley was so

named by early settlers from Shandaken, Ulster County. It is an Iroquois word meaning "rapid waters."

SIX HUNDRED -- Was originally 600 acres of undeveloped land that included the headwaters of Six Mile Creek and was mostly in the Town of Dryden. Part of it was transferred to Town of Caroline in 1887.

SLATERVILLE -- In 1823 the name "Slaterville" was given to the newly established Post Office in honor of Levi Slater, the first school teacher. John Robison was Postmaster. By 1866 there were 171 residents in the area and between 1871 and the "turn of the century" was the period of greatest prosperity. In 1871, with the discovery of Magnetic Springs water which was believed to have medicinal value, summer guests totaled as many as 200 at one time. In 1872 the Fountain House was built by Hornbeck Brothers of Slaterville. The name of the Post Office was changed to "Slaterville Springs" in August 1890.

SLATERVILLE SPRINGS -- On August 2, 1890, the name of the Post Office at "Slaterville" was changed to "Slaterville Springs". There was a permanent population of about 275 residents. "The Slaterville Springs Resort Business" was developed in 1893. By 1920, the resort business started to decline.

SPEEDSVILLE -- The "Speedsville" Post Office had traveled around the area and the younger Speed was custodian. "Jenksville" citizens wanted it moved to their hamlet and the name changed to Jenksville. A compromise was worked out--the Jenksville citizens got the Post Office but the name was kept as "Speedsville" but Mr. Speed resigned as Postmaster and a new Postmaster was selected from the area of the hamlet. Speedsville was a thriving hamlet in the 1800's with a grist mill, feed store, woodworking shop, barrel and crate factory, jug and crock making potters, two general stores, milliner and dressmaker, a creamery that produced 500 pounds of butter per day, a cheese factory, blacksmith shop, bowling alley, and a cider mill. Good times were held in community events and private homes. Music and dance instruction were also available. A news writer for the Owego and Ithaca papers did a very good job of keeping the residents aware of events. Patriotism, religion, politics and education were important in the life of the people. In 1858 the residents of the area decided to create a Park to honor the memory of Laban Jenks. Land was donated by the Legg and Stearns families and the trees were set out in 1859. The Pagoda is reported to be located near the site of his log cabin home and store. The pagoda was refurbished in 1976 as part of the national Bicentennial Celebration. On 17 April 1863 the New York State Assembly "set" (incorporated) the "Speedsville Common" as a park and placed it under the management of a Park Commissioner, responsible to the school district. When the local school was closed, the Speedsville Community Association assumed the supervision of the Park.

TERRYVILLE -- In 1835 Willett Terry established a Post Office on the Coddington Road one-half mile west of Caroline Depot, at his home. It was the first Post Office between Ithaca and Owego. He was Postmaster. It was moved to Brooktondale due to the influence of William Mott. The name existed only as long as the Post Office.

TOBEYTOWN -- In 1819 the "Tobeytown" Post Office was established in the area known as "Yankee Settlement". The Tobey family had settled in the

area and built a number of residences. The Post Office was located at one time at 3262 Slaterville Road.

WEST SLATERVILLE -- "West Slaterville" was the area formerly known as "Boiceville". It extended as far westerly as the Dutch Reformed Cemetery. There was also a school, located across from the present Caroline Elementary School.

WHITE CHURCH -- This community was named for a Baptist Church that was located on the road between Brooktondale and Willseyville Road. A depot was built for the railroad to stop for passengers and school children who went to Candor to school.

WILLOW BRIDGE -- The bridge that divides Tompkins County from Tioga County on NYS Rt. 79. It was named because of the willow trees that grow there.

WILLOW CREEK -- The small (sometimes seasonal) stream that is east of the Widow Earsley's cabin site, and west of Captain Rich's tavern site on NYS Rt. 79.

YANKEE SETTLEMENT -- As the area near where Widow Earsley settled was developed, it became known as "Yankee Settlement" due to the number of pioneers and early settlers who came from New England. It became known as "Tobeytown" when a Post Office was established in 1819.

BALD HILL - FEW ELEVATIONS IN THE COUNTY ATTAIN IT'S HEIGHT...

By Lyman Gallagher

"Driving easterly from Ithaca over either the 'Coddington Road' or the 'Catskill Turnpike', one's attention is soon attracted by that majestic prominence of the Caroline range of hills, known for a century past as "Bald Hill".

"There are few hills in Tompkins county that equal Bald Hill in the extent of its wide-spreading area; and, few that attain its height. From "Brooktondale Heights", Bald Hill reaches beyond White Church; and from Brooktondale, the northern face of Bald Hill continues several miles toward "Caroline Center", in oval form. The height of Bald Hill may be more fully appreciated, when one considers that, although this hill is 8 or 10 miles from Ithaca, one can readily look from its vantage points upon possibly 24 miles or about half the length of the shining blue waters of Lake Cayuga.

"Around the Summit of Bald Hill originally coursed a well-traveled road. Since the old-time settlers have, for one cause or another, gradually been seeking homes in the valleys, portions of this high-commanding summit of Bald Hill, namely the "Dug Road", leading from the Brooktondale-Caroline Center highway have been abandoned and remaining sections have been rerouted. These roads run around the crown of this hill; and afford wonderful views of the surrounding valleys and country side. One clearly looks down upon Brooktondale, Slaterville, Tobeytown (Caroline), the "Dryden Road", Canaan, and the like.

HISTORY IS ANCIENT

"The history of the settlement of Bald Hill reaches into the dim past; and the family names that early graced its homes, are names that have continued throughout the existence of Carolinetown, even unto the present day.

"Most of them we have known many years. Leonard, Evans, Vandemark, Rightmire, Personius, Reid -- these are a few of the family names one recalls..." [see JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK - BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES]

(printed in the Ithaca Journal, August 7, 1936)

CANAAN IN THE HILLS

by Lyman H. Gallagher

ONCE A WELL-POPULATED COMMUNITY IN CAROLINE-

DRYDEN AREA, IT NOW HAS FEW FAMILIES

"Canaan, as a place name, is somewhat common in New England. One Canaan in New York State is in Central New York, in the Caroline-Dryden hills. Once, a well populated community, Canaan now depends upon its few remaining families to maintain its separate estate as a hamlet.

"When the last snow covered the hills, we stopped in Canaan to watch a splendid specimen of native deer, as it complacently walked about an apple orchard in search of ungathered fruit which had survived the winter.

"In possibly a period of three-quarters of a century, this was the first year in which the fruit of this orchard had gone to waste. Until recent years, deer had been wholly unknown in this section for well-nigh that length of time, the last deer then living here having been captured in the "Six Hundred".

ACRES STATE PROPERTY

"At this writing (1935), some thousand acres in Canaan have become state property, the list of former owners including these names: Isaac Hunt, Fred Meier, Mrs. Bates, George VanHorn, Margaret Kingsley, Edwin Shurter, James Tryon, Starr Stanton estate, Duncan McKellar place, or Pellham estate. The list is being rapidly augmented.

"Years ago, there lived here the Coopers, Smiths, Johnsons, Myers, Dwights, Silsbees, Barnes, Norwoods and many others. The names Cooper and Johnson still survive. Bert Smith lives in Dryden, George Smith and Fred Meier in Ithaca.

TWO GEORGE SMITHS

"There were two George Smiths in Caroline, the one we mention, being generally referred to as "Canaan George". Descendants of the Silsbee family reside in Caroline. The Norwoods are all gone, though "Norwood's Corners" was once well known.

"Francis Norwood lived near Slaterville. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and is buried in the "Robinson Cemetery" (Yates Cemetery) situated in the rear of the J W. Page property. No marker indicates his patriotic services, we regret to say. Jonathan Norwood was often referred to because of the great number of years which were allotted to him. Henry Norwood, one of the last to bear the name, lives on the Indian River, in Florida.

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

"Down at the southerly entrance to "Canaan", just to the right of the concrete bridge, which spans the "West Owego Creek", and forms the Tompkins-Tioga County line, stood the little red structure which served in the dual capacity of church and schoolhouse. Here met the inhabitants of Canaan, in forgotten years. The building was removed to the Ashley farm years ago.

"Travel access to "Canaan" was usually quite difficult in bad weather. The "Harford Road", now being improved, will soon correct this. When the reader drives through "Canaan", he should halt at the top of the hill and look into the beautiful "Harford Valley", and over beyond this valley to the Virgil hills of Cortland County, where he can easily see Virgil's church and its modern school building, many miles away. In Virgil village lived JOSEPH CHAPLIN builder of the "Bridle Road" in Dryden.

HUNTS FIRST SETTLERS

"The HUNTS were possibly the first settlers in "Canaan". They are a long-lived race. The original settler father of ISAAC, rests in "Caroline Grove Cemetery". According to the dates on his marker, he lived 110 years. We spoke to "IKE" about these figures. His answer was respectful and terse. "Why," said Ike, "Father wasn't near that old." "Then how old was he?" we asked. "Only a hundred and six", answered Ike, and his manner as he spoke, was unsuspecting and casual at that. Maybe it is this complacent view of life that explains why, "they live long in Canaan", as the expression goes. It is written in the Book of Books that "the meek shall inherit the Earth." Maybe these people have gotten more out of life than those now favorably situated can fully understand.

"Their philosophy of life may be summed up in "Canaan's" poem which they repeat in earnest tone at the ending of the day:

"In the Happy Land of Canaan,
Where the birds sing all the day,
And the woodchucks shrilly whistle,
As we're raking in the hay,

It is here we live contented,
Where the forest breezes blow,
In the sunlight's brightest glow,
Far removed from others' ills
'Mid our vales and wooded hills."

(Ithaca Journal - 1935)

PHILOSOPHY OF HILL COUNTRY STANDS KING IN GOOD

STEAD AS REALM GROWS SMALLER

Only Little Plot of Once Big Area Now That of

Isaac Hunt

"The calm philosophy of the hill country stands Isaac Hunt in good stead these days as this reigning "King of Canaan" watches the rapid disintegration of his 3,000 acre realm, overlapping the corners of Tompkins, Tioga and Cortland counties, which pious early settlers once named after the Biblical "land of milk and honey".

"Isaac Hunt is ruler by succession to the title once taken by the physical giant, Earl Johnson. His kingdom has dwindled from the 300 or 400 subjects who once hailed Burly King Earl some 50 years ago to less than 100 today. Even the land itself has shrunk before inroads of state reforestation agents, until scarcely 30 of the original 3,000 acres remain.

Yet, King Isaac has philosophically accepted the changing order of things. Just recently he sold 250 acres of land on Hunt Hill to the state for reforestation. From this particular parcel of land atop the hill which bears his family name, King Isaac has often stopped to look far across Harford valley to see the spires of the church and new consolidated school in Virgil.

DISSENSION PLAYS PART

Dissension has played no little part in the decadence of the happy Land of Canaan. Back in the reign of good King Earl, when the boys in blue were returning from the civil war to take up land grants, Preston Darling took up such residence at the gateway to Canaan valley. Motivated by patriotism, the newcomer decided to rename the section. He erected a flagpole and with elaborate dedication exercises, called the place "Union Valley".

But the inhabitants of Canaan have lived unusually long spans of life. King Isaac's father, some say, lived to be 110 years old. Perhaps that is why the section is still known as the Land of Canaan to most people...

Fifty years back, the Land of Canaan bustled with life and gaiety. Between Slaterville and Canaan, some 15 sawmills joined in a symphony of melodious industry. Today the back country is quiet and not a little tired. The streams are sluggish and without power to turn a single mill wheel. The mills have followed the virgin timber they cut into the abyss of time and now new timber is coming back to reclaim the land.

GAIETY NOT ALL GONE

Melancholy as the undertone now is in the hill country, the Land of Canaan is not entirely without gaiety...Pete Johnson is fiddler-leader of the royal musicians, while Mrs. Lena Hunt, wife of King Isaac, plays the organ, and Leon Hunt, no less a prince of the realm, plays the accordion and "calls off..."

(undated Ithaca Journal article)

THE STORY OF BLACKMAN HILL

Rising abruptly from the west banks of the West Owego Creek, where it turns southward, bordering the town of Caroline, to flow into the Susquehanna River, is a long high hill running mainly north and south. The plateau at the top rises to the height of seventeen hundred feet above sea level. The hill is, even now, rather inaccessible and consequently, rather sparsely settled. It is Blackman Hill and our story is about those few hardy pioneering families and their descendants who wrested a living from the soil in this remote spot.

Twenty miles south lies the Susquehanna in its temporarily east and west course. Between, stretch narrow valleys to the north, spreading out fan-wise as they recede from the wider valley to the river. Among them lie broken hills called Onnon-tioga by the Indians and Blackman Hill is one of these. Around 1800, the hills as well as the valleys were forested with pines and hemlocks, among them the hardwoods, oak, chestnut, maple, ash, hickory, basswood and birch. Thus, the first crop of incoming settlers was destined to be timber. And along the streams and crossing them to ascend the hills were destined to come the roads which give access to the hill farms of the future.

Like other sections of western New York, the counties of Tompkins and Tioga were settled after 1790 -- a part of the westward movement. The men of Sullivan's army, coming close but passing to the west, had liked what they had seen in these parts, during the campaign of 1779. Upon their return home, their enthusiasm had spread and many came back to take up lands, bringing with them their families and friends. There were also many purchases of large tracts, for a few shillings per acre. In 1794 Watkins and Flint bought of the state of New York a parcel of 373,000 acres and divided them into twelve towns, the eleventh of which became the town of Caroline, then in Tioga, the older county, but ceded to Tompkins in 1822. The eastern boundary of this purchase was the West

Owego Creek and just across it lay the Massachusetts Ten Towns Tract bought earlier in 1787 - by a group of settlers from the state of Massachusetts from which they purchased it.

Most of the folk who settled in the southern part of western and central New York had followed down the course of the Susquehanna and its branches, working their way up into the hills and valleys wherever the situation lent promise, but doubtless keeping an eye on the whereabouts of the broad river which had borne them hither. The Indians still begrudged their hunting grounds! The little stream known first as the Owego River and later as West Owego Creek -- to differentiate it from its east branch -- gathering momentum after its inception in Dryden, poured its way southward toward the broad Susquehanna. Narrow and winding now, its channel was perhaps wider and straighter a hundred fifty years ago. Many from Berkshire County, Massachusetts, had been attracted to it and by 1795 we find settlement beginning in Caroline, bordering the creek on the west and some two-thirds of the way toward its source. Among others, eight of the ten children of Abraham and Sarah Loomis Blackman left their home in Partridgefield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, to take their turn at their ancestral habit of carving a home from the wilderness.

We pause to see who these Blackmans were and what had been the fortune of this family since it forsook its English home to cast its lot upon American shores.

The trickle of explorers and immigrants which flowed west from England to America in the 16th century had become a rapid torrent during the Great Migration of 1629-1640. The hardships of colonization were preferred to the oppressive government of Charles I which created monopolies, extorted ship money and thrust an Anglican prayer book and ritual into the independent churches, established the Star Chamber to judge and inflict severe penalties upon the non-conformists. They longed for a new country where their hands and minds should be free to shape their own fortunes without interference. In realizing this, they molded the form of a nation great beyond their utmost imagining. They were of different stock, ability and means, but mostly middle class freeholders, merchants and artisans, with happily a few men of education and wealth, ministers, lawyers and statesmen for leaders. So, the pattern of early American civilization unfolded: farms and little villages with plain homes, a store or two, a school and a church.

New England grew fast. By 1640, the Massachusetts Bay Colony had 16,000 inhabitants. There were thriving towns along the Connecticut River, around New Haven and in central Massachusetts. There were smaller ones in Rhode Island and what is now New Hampshire and Maine. The population was fluid. If a man or a group became dissatisfied with the soil, the water, woods or companions, they could always pack up and go elsewhere. With the whole continent to choose from, the pioneers laid the basis for the restlessness that characterizes the American temperament.

The Blackmans followed the tide, pulling toward the West. Their trail from Dorchester, Mass., to Little Compton, R.I. (then part of Plymouth Co., Mass.) to Freetown and across to Lebanon, Conn. Over to neighboring Hebron, they went and by 1770 were established over the line again, but this time in western Massachusetts at Partridgefield in Berkshire County. (Note: the name Partridgefield was changed to Peru, in 1806).

These wanderings were representative of most of the early families, both in direction and in the amount of time spent in each place.

Their lives resembled those about them. They married and raised large families; they joined and helped organize churches. They bought and tilled their lands. Abraham's father's land in Lebanon, Conn., was near the famous Congregational Church, but they all belonged to the Baptist Church on the other side of the Green. There this son was baptized in 1735. The family moved soon to Hebron, where a little creek called "Blackman" still recalls this family.

In 1769, Abraham bought one hundred fifty acres of land on the road between Hatfield and Pittsfield, from Francis Barnard, Governor of the Bay Colony, for 28 pounds, 13 shillings. His wife was Sarah Loomis, daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Ryley Loomis of Coventry, Conn. The Loomis family had arrived in America about the same year as the Blackmans - 1638 - and also had settled in Dorchester but had soon moved to Windsor, Conn., where the family remained through several generations. It was not until after 1716 that the family, having moved to Bolton, again came into the vicinity of the Blackmans who were then living in Lebanon and later, Hebron. Nathaniel Loomis gave his wife, Sarah Ryley, a string of gold beads, upon her wedding day, and she gave them to her daughter, Sarah, when in 1762 she married Abraham Blackman and they came with her to Caroline. Ever since, they have been handed down to a Sarah in each generation, but fairly recently -perhaps because the popularity of the name ceased - they were buried with a later Sarah.

The old hip-roofed home on the "western Roadway" was built about 1790 and it was 15 months in building, according to an inscription cut into the pine lintel, which has been preserved (The signs of the zodiac used on the lintel of the old house in Partridgefield translated "ten days before the reign of Scorpio Oct. 16 Second reign of Capricornus, 2 days. Jan. 14", making 15 mos for building.) Perhaps the home between 1770 and 1790 had been a log cabin. But this broad, low, spacious home which sheltered the parents of Caroline Blackman for many years was still standing as late as 1935 and the huge old chimney with its bake-oven could be seen still later, exposed to the pitiless winds of the Berkshire hills. For Partridgefield, or Peru, was high in the Hoosac mountains, the highest township in the state. And the soil was very poor, good only for grazing. Small wonder that our Blackmans chafed to leave it, for the fertile valleys of Tioga. But we note that the children did not leave while their father, at least, was still living. Hard times prevailed in New England after the Revolution. Added to the difficulties caused by the poor soil and harsh climate, they had to endure high taxes, inflation and loss of markets, without having political power to obtain relief. And so in spite of the rights of the Indians to live in western New York, by treaty of 1784, the pressure became too great to keep the land-hungry settlers back and by 1800 there were little farming communities in all the present counties of New York.

About 1804, after their father's death in April, two of the brothers, Abraham and Lemuel and one sister, Sarah, who had married Ezekiel Jewett in 1795, made the long trek; the others came later. Martha with her husband, James Tracy, came about 1810. Lydia, Levi, Esther, and Eli followed along. The old chest that came with Abraham Jr. was long preserved by the grandson of Eli. It is covered with raw deerskin and is about 5' by 2' by 10'. There is some vestige of its original lining

of old newspapers, and the date 1804 was found, so doubtless the old chest was re-lined for its trip out to York State, that year. With its hand made handles and nails and spotted deer covering, it is an endearing memento of the old days. The boards are cut with an up and down saw - a ridge where each stroke is. Only two boards could be sawed in an hour.

The Blackmans were not the first, however, to settle in Caroline, near the West Owego Creek. Lyman Rawson from Uxbridge, Mass., and his wife, Deborah Keith, with other members of her family, had come perhaps as early as 1789. Deborah and Lyman built the first house and kept stage tavern in it. A fine old house, it is still standing, to the west of West Owego Creek, where one turns to take the road up the Blackman Hill, in the locality known as Rawson Hollow. Deborah who had no children of her own, brought up her brother Luther's children. She was known far and wide as Mother Rawson, and was a sister of Rhoda Keith who became Abraham Blackman's wife and of Eunice Keith who married Lemuel Blackman. After some years it is believed Lemuel and Eunice moved out to Jackson, Michigan. The other Blackmans all remained, though Lydia died in 1822, a year after her marriage to a Mr. Blanchard of Marathon. Mr. Herman L. Blackman thought most of the Blackman sisters and brothers were married before they left Partridgefield.

The journey from Berkshire County must have been an appalling undertaking. They came by ox-teams and horses to the Hudson River, where they ferried across to Athens. Straight westward on the Catskill Turnpike, then a mere path, they reached the Susquehanna at Wattles Ferry. Thence down the river to Owego and up the West Owego Creek. Let us hope The Hill was beautiful with its rhododendron when they arrived. Some others came by horseback, as did Eli's mother-in-law, Anna King, and her sister, Phoebe, who came all alone with their spinning wheels and other possessions tied on! On the River, they packed themselves and their teams onto flat boats or keel boats, but the roads, so called, were merely wide tracks through the woods, full of rocks and stumps and holes. Toward the end of their journey, they were pushing through forest primeval. White pines towered above, sometimes two hundred feet high; shag bark hickory gave promise of sweet, thin-shelled nuts, graceful paper birches would furnish bark, oaks and sugar maples, shade and sweetening. Can we not understand the ringing welcome the Blackmans were accorded by the few families who had preceded them? The earlier comers were still in log cabins, but how they could expand when friends and strangers alike came in from the East bearing news of the outside world. And so the caravan was stopped and the Blackmans were eager to look over their prospective purchases in the Pumpelly tract. Here they settled near each other, needing each other for sustaining comfort. Looking about them, they were astonished at the deep fertility of the soil and the richness of vegetation. Such a contrast it was to the stony hills of the East. Nor did they miss beauty of landscape which had been predominant in their Berkshire environment. Here were fair prospects, long vistas and intimate beauty spots. Best of all, everywhere was promise of success in making a livelihood. The sparseness of settlements made room for all.

So, in township eleven, soon to be named Caroline, in the northeast corner of the Watkins and Flint Purchase, they chose their homespots on the big hill the foot of which was washed by the West Owego Creek. Its upland surfaces of loam, well watered and drained, made great appeal. The land was purchased from the James Pumpelly tract at \$1.00 to \$3.00 an acre. The early deeds were not recorded at the time. Mr. Herman

Blackman of Sayre, grandson of Eli said his grandfather's deed was not recorded until the property came to him, 107 years later (in Ithaca, 1912). The families settled near each other on adjoining land. Eventually, sister Sarah and her husband, Ezekiel Jewett, made their home less than a mile west on the road that crosses the Creek. Abraham Jr. and Rhoda had settled already on the south brow of the long hill soon to be called for their family. Farther north on the Hill road were Levi and Eli who came perhaps a little later. Sister Martha and her husband, James Tracy, came in 1810 and settled on the east side of the Creek across from the others on the Hill. Lemuel and Eunice were first in Lisle but at least between 1812 and 1824, in Berkshire, several miles south of Patty on the same road. After a short sojourn here, they moved on to Michigan where they became the first white settlers near Jackson. Lydia married and went to live out of the Purchase where she soon died. Esther remained unmarried and lived around with her brothers and sisters, about four months at a time in a place. Herman Blackman thought they all lived within at least seven miles of one another.

Getting on their own as quickly as possible, we can imagine they pitched tents and bark lean-tos: perhaps the wagon served as shelter until log cabins could be erected. We wonder how much they had been able to bring with them. The old deerskin chest must have carried many necessities; some tools must certainly have been brought in. A mortar and pestle would be needed and iron kettles in which to make hasty pudding, skillets for frying salt pork. Muskets and powder were not so plentiful but that they must make traps to catch animals for food. Powder was perhaps saved for protection, and sometimes their pewter dishes had to be melted into bullets. We know that some lovely old china was brought, decorated with pink peacocks. A cup and saucer still belonged to one of this last generation. And there was Esther's scarlet full cloth cloak, probably made by her mother, Sarah Loomis Blackman. And an old crepe veil and immense hoop skirts. The scarlet cloak was used in patch work, by the next generation. The men must have brought axes for felling the trees and tools for building their cabins, ploughs to turn up the rich soil and seed for planting. Someway it all got here.

Another cherished heirloom which doubtless came to Caroline at this time, was the old coverlet woven by Sarah Loomis Blackman, who raised the flax and wool, colored and spun it. Sarah gave it to her daughter, Esther, who gave it to her niece, Esther, from whose daughter, Esther, her nephew, Herman Blackman, received it. Fortunately, each one has also transmitted its history as it has passed from generation to generation. After the flax and wool were raised, carded and spun, Sarah wove it on a hand-made loom. Every thread was put in by hand in a pattern which had been handed down from earlier generations. Of it Herman Blackman said: "Dyeing was with indigo. The warp linen was threaded through heddles, two for plain and four for Kersey, then through a reed all hand-made, then sprung by treadles. The wool was wound on a small quill. This was put in the shuttle and passed over and under and in between warp to make the foundation. My aunt was a weaver, too, and left me her tools and I wove for many years - even a little overshot work. It would take a good weaver two weeks of steady work to make a spread like this. Some threads took a half hour to place. They brought the reeds and tools from Partridgefield, but the looms were built on Blackman Hill." Mr. Blackman said that he was taught to weave when he was no more than five years old. His aunt Sarah Blackman, daughter of Eli was a skilled weaver. Perhaps the lovely old coverlet woven by the grandmother for whom she was named, was an incentive. She

worked with only two harnesses or heddles. The harnesses were made of linen; all her tools were hand-made. They were later stored in a building which blew down in a long-remembered blizzard, and so lost to posterity.

The first houses were one-room log cabins, with dirt floors stamped down hard like cement. The walls were chinked with mud between the logs. These cabins were all alike: each had one door, one window, a pole roof covered with pine boughs and a stone fireplace. The Blackman brothers and sisters made out with these for two or three years, until it became possible with a more secure footing in the new country to build frame houses.

The frame houses also had only two rooms on the ground floor, but the overhead space was ceilinged and the children slept on this upper floor, which they reached by ladder. Their beds were linen ticks filled with straw and covered with home-made sheets of linen and wool. The older people slept downstairs on feather beds. As these houses were also built alike and some of them remained until within the memory of living people, we know somewhat of their specifications. There was always a double fireplace built into the central chimney, one facing into each room. The bake-oven was built in one side of the chimney, opening into the room where the cooking was done.

The furniture was perhaps mostly made by the hands of Levi Blackman, who was a cripple and unmarried. He had bought fifty acres on top of the hill next to his brother Eli. When he came to die, his will left the life use of his property to his unmarried sister, Esther. After her death in 1871, the property passed to brother Eli's children.

The hill farms were the first to be settled, wooded marshy bottom lands. First they cut the timber, a crop that at first they must lose in order that tillable land might be made. They probably did not have a real dollar from their labor for many years. They raised all they had, or bartered with a neighbor, or went without, but gradually with the clearing of the land they could leave off their early pioneer efforts in getting crops that had volume and marketability. Wheat and corn were raised in increasing quantity and later, potatoes. From the start the only thing they had in plenty was meat, and that, only for the getting which was not always so easy. Deer, bear, turkey, chicken, fish and small birds filled the woods. With few guns, they must catch by trapping.

They gathered herbs in the woods for medicine, as there were no doctors. The nearest woman was midwife for all births. Before they had a fulling mill, they gathered teasels in the fields and with them rubbed the hand-made cloth to give it a nap. They spun even their own thread. Their weaving achievements have already been described. There were some certain roots which they dug and pounded up to make bread with, before they had their own wheat and corn. They pounded most of their grain. A man went around and made their shoes out of home-tanned leather. A Mr. Akins made their handleless coffins. And, of course, they had maple sugar for the making.

Owego, eighteen miles distant, was the nearest trading post. As early as 1790, it had twelve stores and some salt and gypsum. Families from the Hill took their grists to the old red mill, near the village. On horseback, they took their corn and wheat to get it ground and the

miller took tool? for pay. It was sometime after they had made their settlement that a road was extended from Owego northward to meet the Susquehanna Turnpike running westward to Ithaca. It followed their beaten trail along the Creek, and a daily stage went through except in winter when it might be closed for weeks at a time. There was a road house every three miles. Ithaca had long been an Indian center but now it was settling rapidly. When Eli came from Massachusetts with a roan horse, an Indian chief from over Ithaca way coveted it. He offered Eli a large tract of land for the horse, but the offer was not accepted. But Owego remained the trading center for the Blackman Hill folks.

Gradually the settlement at the foot of the Hill grew up. Named for Mother Rawson who kept the tavern which is still standing (1994), it boasted a grist mill, a cooper shop, sash and bind factory, saw mill, blacksmith shop and distillery. Never more than a little hamlet, Rawson Hollow was a perfect example of the utility contained in a small farming community. With one or two shops additional, the immediate needs of the community were served. It was only when the farm community disappeared that the little center lapsed. There was also a fulling mill run by Mr. Heggie. Here they brought their hand-woven cloth to have it shrunk and a nap put on it. The distillery was built early; the old books of Capt. Leonard show an account with Blackman and Rawson on West Creek, before 1807. Whiskey was made and sold for 25 cents a gallon. There was no church

here at any early date. Like everyone else for miles around they must go to the Union Church at Speedsville, built in 1823. Later, across the Creek, to the east, there was a Baptist Church which burned many years ago, the only church of Rawson Hollow. A school was built and taught by a maiden lady, Miss Harriet Heggie. This first building was moved away and used for a house. The later building was erected on the same spot. Now all that is left is the old Rawson Tavern and the Kingman home. Spafford's Gazetteer of 1824 mentions no Rawson Hollow, nor does Gordon's of 1836, nor Williams Register of 1840. So the Hollow as a hamlet must have had a short, if flourishing career. (It is mentioned in French's Gazetteer, 1860). Other settlers on the Hill besides Rawsons, Keiths and Blackmans, were Tylers, Goodriches, Kingmans, Jewetts and the nearby Freelandts. They are all gone now. The little cemetery laid off of the Kingman farm, at Rawson Hollow holds five of the original eight Blackmans, besides Keiths and Rawsons.

And what were the Blackmans like? Mr. Herman Blackman thought they were tall and inclined to be bent. That, though haughty and reserved outwardly, their minds were exceedingly active--"sputtery", as he puts it. There are in our possession,

two photographs of that early generation. Since they resemble each other, we think of the faces as characteristic of the family. The face is long, somewhat massive, with large keen eyes and a determined chin. The nose was long, aristocratic and of the "executive" type. It is a proud face, but a wide-awake one, with much poise and intelligence. Mr. Blackman said they were somewhat peppery of speech but had a good sense of humor. There was always a strong innate belief that no one else was quite as good as a Blackman. If they felt a little better than their neighbors, this probably explains why they intermarried so much. Their mother's family - Loomis - had been outstanding in the East. Speaking of the old zodiac sign on the lintel of the house in Partridgefield, Mr. Blackman said, "you would understand Grandfather making it if you knew as I know the extent of their belief in the moon. They would do

nothing unless the moon was right. All of the old people were great believers in it and never built or planted unless the signs were right."

Only four of the eight original Blackmans left a second generation here: Levi and Esther never married; Lydia died too soon after her marriage; Lemuel's children were all in Michigan. But on the Hill there were for a long time, descendants of Abraham and Eli, while close by Sarah Blackman Jewett and Martha Blackman Tracy brought up their families. Martha's experience was unique. She and her husband, James Tracy, had come in 1810 and settled across the Creek. After the usual custom with children named Martha, she was called Patty and her nephews and nieces always referred to her as Aunt Pat. James had bought about 275 acres in the southwest corner of Richford Township. Some six years later he went back to Hinsdale on business and was taken seriously ill. Patty, alone with her youngest child, rode on horseback the long trail back. Hinsdale was very near Partridgefield and James and Patty had lived near his father before they came out to Caroline. James died and was buried there. The census of 1820 names her as a widow with nine children under age. Hers was an indomitable spirit. When her children were grown, she lived with different ones as needed. She outlived her husband fifty years, dying in 1869 at the home of her son, Smith Tracy, on the north crest of the Hill, beyond the Blackman brothers. Her grave stone is in the cemetery by the Richford Congregational Church which she joined in 1832. Several of her children migrated to Michigan but three daughters and two sons kept loving watch of their mother until the end of her days.

This story could not have been written without the material which has been sent us from time to time, during the last ten years, by Herman L. Blackman of Sayre, Pennsylvania. Mr. Blackman was a son of Frederick and grandson of Eli, one of the original brothers. His mother was Nancy Jenks of the Jenksville family of that name. This family all lived on the Hill. He and his grandfather were each the youngest child of the respective families - which curious circumstance afforded him ample opportunity to obtain wide-spread knowledge of the whole family tradition. Even so, without his keen interest in the subject, the story of Blackman Hill would never have been told. Since he came into his family when their household was already a full one, two aunts across the road, one childless and the other unmarried, laid claim to him, thinking to relieve the overburdened mother and provide themselves, at the same time, with young life in their childless home. So, aunts Sarah and Martha, also daughters of Eli, brought the little boy up. He loved the stories of the old days and with an excellent memory, stored them all away - much to the gratitude of some of his kinsmen. Endowed with a rich imagination, he lacked no excitements even when a very small boy. The big deerskin chest in his eyes, became a wild animal of which he was afraid. The old crepe veil brought from Mass., he dressed up in to play funeral. His uncle, aunt Martha's husband, William Shaw, made a little seat for him to put in the wagon, when they went on long drives over the hills, and sometimes gave him pennies to spend for licorice and striped peppermint sticks. He recalled the meals of baked potatoes and apple pie sweetened after it was baked. Aunt Sarah taught him to weave when he was not more than five. He said, "I thought more of Aunt Sarah than anyone that has ever entered my life." He gathered eggs and hunted for new nests and lived a carefree boyhood on the Hill, and to him belongs gratitude for the written record which he so carefully and accurately compiled of the early days in Caroline.

The tide of the early 1800's flowed into Caroline, but also, out. The Michigan lands were opening up and some from every family felt the urge to go. Indeed, Abraham's grandson, Austin Blair, became Governor of that state. All of Lemuel's and half of Martha's (Patty) found their way there. Most spectacular of all departures was that of Lemuel. He and his wife and fourteen children joined with William Rufus DeLand, who had been teaching somewhere in Caroline, in an expedition bound for the wilderness of Michigan Territory, one thousand miles away. On April 17, 1830, the cavalcade of six covered wagons left Ithaca amid the prayers and tears of the pastor and friends. They followed the new Erie Canal to Buffalo, took a boat to Detroit and reached the Green (Washtenaw) River, their destination, in six weeks time. They became founders of the city of Jackson.

We cannot continue the annals of Blackman Hill. They have gone, not one of the names remain near Rawson Hollow - only a few from the allied families. Where have they gone? The oldest generation lie quiet in the old Blackman-Keith cemetery. Many are in the new cemetery. But why this dwindling of a strong clan? Some say that much intermarriage broke down the stock, reducing it in strength and numbers. Of the web of relationships, Mr. Blackman gave this example: a cousin's four grandparents and her husband were his cousins! He attributed these marriages to pride. "No one so good as a Blackman". However, such unions are the natural result of a narrow environment.

But the restless ones marched on. What shall we say of them as they disappear into the West? They had the typical virtues of the early Americans; self-reliance first of all, faith in themselves, courage and ambition matched by energy. In addition, a certain characteristic pride, maybe stand-offishness, yet a desire to be fair, a strong belief in the God-given rights of all men to seek life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is sad then to know the old Hill is covered with brush and the old homes deserted.

SPEEDSVILLE PRETTY AND BUSY

Many persons today hold Speedsville to be a pretty hamlet and the most peaceful in the county. It was different years ago when it was both pretty and busy. The village has been different for more than a century.

A transplant of New England culture set down in the wilderness that originally embraced the Town of Caroline, it has retained an air of calm determination. John Stearns and Leonard Legg gave land for a village green, and as early as 1854 this was incorporated by the State Legislature as a public park. Five years later the site was improved by setting out trees, and then in 1863 another legislative act placed the park in control of a commissioner.

Speedsville's charms are shared between Tompkins and Tioga counties, for it lies partly in each of the two.

Hub of a rural community, its services formerly were typical of the days when family-type farming prevailed. Services demanded of Speedsville of the late 1880's were provided by small personally owned enterprises, none of which were ever thought of as lucrative businesses. The number and the range of their services are revealing.

Seth H. Akins operated a sawmill, cheesebox factory, planing mill, cider mill; when these did not keep him busy, he did contract work, one such job being the covered bridge.

Solomon K. Blackman was a buyer of stock, dealer in agricultural implements, and a buyer of wool, while Merrit M. Campbell operated the Speedsville-Owego stageline and Dunham & Meeks operated a meat market.

W. J. Gilbert was the proprietor of a combined dry goods and grocery store, S. L. Hart was the community's miller, George W. Hawkins was a blacksmith shop operator, and Miss Mary Havens kept the women in up-to-date millinery.

Higgins & Keeney were dealers in agricultural implements at a time when farmers were seeking new types of machines, while Mr. A. L. Jenks was a breeder of Percherons, the sturdy horses that furnished most of the power in the fields or on the way to shipping points.

Ransom Johnson was a physician and surgeon, M. L. Legge was a wagonmaker, Legg & Osburn were carpenters, and Emmett E. Legge was an auctioneer who conducted "voodoo" sales that were common in rural communities until well after 1900.

W. S. Legge & Co. appears to have been a busy retail outlet when their merchandise selection is considered: drygoods, groceries, hats, caps, boots, flour, feed, salt, etc. The "etc." no doubt included liniments that were "good for man or beast." Mr. W.S. Legge kept himself busy otherwise, for he was postmaster and manager of the New York and Pennsylvania Telephone office, and proprietor of the Speedsville and Ithaca Stage Line.

(People, Places & Events of Speedsville)

CHURCHES AND RELIGION

"Religious opinions of the early settlers were various. Early religious gatherings consisted of several denominations. They were not so intensely sectarian as to deny themselves the rare opportunities that were offered to hear the Gospel preached.

"Pioneers had much to be grateful for and they publicly returned thanks irrespective of the Doctrinal Medium through which their orisons ascended to the Throne of Grace. Would that the same harmony existed today." (History of Tompkins, Tioga, Schuyler and Chemung Counties)

Residents of Caroline were not of the type that would rest with one religious group or society expressing their religious feelings. The Pioneers were a mixture of English, French, as well as Dutch. Their religious backgrounds were, among others, Anglican, Huguenot, Puritan, Presbyterian, Methodist and Quaker. There were also some with scarcely any religious background.

The large number of Dutch Settlers in Caroline made it very natural that the first church to be established would be the DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH OF CAROLINE. When the Rev. Garrit (Garret) Mandeville arrived in the area, he organized a Society in 1810 - before Caroline was organized as a Town.

It was not surprising that the Widow Earsley, a Presbyterian, was one of the original members of that Society, for she had been born in Holland and came to America when she was twelve years old. Other early members included Joseph Chambers and Oakley Bush.

Rev. Mandeville served as Pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church of Caroline for twenty-five years. Charles C. Wack (or Wake), John Tarbell, and Cornelius Gates were also pastors. John Whitbeck was the last regular pastor when the Society disbanded.

A House of Worship was built in 1820, was used until the late 1800's when it was bought by Mr. Gallagher, dismantled and moved to Slaterville Springs. The telephone switchboard for the Caroline Farmers Telephone Company occupied a section of the building for many years. With many changes, the building is an apartment house on the corner of Buffalo Road and New York State Route 79.

The FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SOCIETY OF CAROLINE, Tioga County, was organized at Rawson Hollow, Tioga County in 1813.

John Wesley came to America in 1735 as a Missionary to Georgia. In England he had been led to study the Moravian Doctrine and had accepted some of it. The Church of England was opposed to his teachings, so he joined George Whitefield, a celebrated revivalist, in holding open-air meetings.

Wesley organized his converts into bands for prayer and church societies, appointed leaders to act as lay pastors, and finally ordained or commissioned preachers.

In 1784 The American Methodists were formed into a separate church and by 1850 had become the largest Protestant Church in America. The members were called Methodists because of the regularity of their lives and their strict observance of religious duties.

The FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF SLATERVILLE, Tioga County, was organized in 1813 as a class of eight members. In November 1831 this organization came to be known as "THE GARRITSON SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH" and eventually it was incorporated as The FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF CAROLINE. The founding of the Class was just 78 years after Wesley had arrived in Georgia and 37 years before Methodism reached its supreme position based on the number of members and churches. A House of Worship was built in Slaterville and dedicated in 1834, having cost \$1,000. Before that they used the schoolhouse. After the formation of the CAROLINE VALLEY FEDERATED CHURCH, the SLATERVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH building became a Community Center and was demolished by fire in 1957. (see St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Slaterville)

In about 1820, the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF CAROLINE CENTER SOCIETY was organized with 13 members. In 1825 the Society built a House of Worship at a cost of \$1000.00. This building burned and a new building was erected in 1866. This building is the oldest church building in the Town of Caroline. The attic has logs with bark on them that had been planed evenly on one side so as to be used for the roof rafters. It is a lovely building with the lower level having a Community Room. From the entrance hall two winding, wide stairways lead up to the beautifully plain sanctuary. It is now known as THE CAROLINE CENTER CHURCH.

The SECOND SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH had an organized Class in Speedsville (which was known as Jenksville at that time) in 1820. The Church congregation became organized and built a House of Worship in 1851. The METHODIST CHURCH OF SPEEDSVILLE became inactive in the 1900's and eventually the building was sold and taken away.

The CENTRAL SOCIETY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH was organized in 1855. BREARLEY HILL CHURCH and CENTRAL CHAPEL CHURCH seem to have been an outgrowth of this Society.

In September, 1867, the FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MOTTS CORNERS was organized.

In 1868 the CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH was formed at Brooktondale by members of the BROOKTON METHODIST and the REFORMED CHURCH OF AMERICA. A foundation had been created for a Methodist Church, but when the new organization was formed, the Varna Presbyterian Church building was purchased and moved to the Methodist Foundation. The building is in active use by the CAROLINE VALLEY FEDERATED CHURCH. The steeple was blown down during a wind storm in 1925. A fiberglass steeple was lifted to its platform by a crane from H. D. Besemer Co. on 22 June 1977. The bell was bought from the Dutch Reformed Church by the Congregationalists, and is probably the oldest bell in this area.

In 1892 the METHODIST SOCIETY OF CAROLINE was organized. Their building was erected in 1894 by local workmen. It is often photographed because of its architecture, stained glass windows, and picturesque setting. (see Caroline Community Church)

The CAROLINE VALLEY FEDERATED CHURCH and the Community Churches at Caroline and Caroline Center seem to have developed as a result of an experiment in 1929, known as "The B. F. Tobey Larger Parish" plan in which the small congregations of Morris Chapel, Central Chapel, Slaterville Springs, Brooktondale Congregational, Caroline Center, and Caroline, joined together with five Danby Churches, at a central location and endeavored to carry on a full program of church activities, each church sharing in the raising of necessary funds for the church needs. This project developed during the financial crisis of the late 1920's and early 1930's.

The churches at Caroline and Caroline Center were unable to send "male representatives" and to raise the necessary funds to support their participation, and withdrew from the alliance.

CAROLINE COMMUNITY CHURCH was formed in the early 1950's and served the needs of the community for a number of years, but in the mid 1960's it became inactive. The building was built in 1894 by the local community and owned by the Methodist Conference. It served as a meeting place and was used by a number of other denominations for short periods of time, until December 1984 when the non-denominational CHRIST'S CHAPEL opened the doors once more. In 1986 they bought the building from the Methodist Conference, refurbished the building, and added a well and bathrooms. Late in 1993 the building was put up for sale when the congregation built a larger church in Ithaca.

The CAROLINE CENTER CHURCH became "inactive" at about the same time as Caroline but was also used for community activities and meetings. In the 1970's the Board of Trustees invited ministers to come and hold services but it became vacant again until June 1989 when a local minister started holding non-denominational services. The A-frame bell support fell during the attempt to ring the rusty bell during the Fourth of July 1976 Bicentennial celebration. The 400-pound, cast-iron structure dropped from its belfry and smashed to pieces on the church roof. The bell parts rested between the ceiling and the belfry for nearly 12 years before it was repaired and replaced. It was dedicated on 18 June 1989.

The UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SPEEDSVILLE was organized with 27 members in 1827. This group joined with Presbyterians and Methodists to build a Community House of Worship in 1828. The three groups used this building co-operatively until the Methodists built their edifice next door. However, they still used the Church Sheds cooperatively between the two buildings.

In 1870 a new Universalist Society was organized as the UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SPEEDSVILLE with 43 members. The Society purchased the building that had served since 1828 as a Worship Center for the Community until the Methodists built their own.

The Universalist membership dwindled until that building was given to the Community. A bell made by Meneeley & Co. of West Troy (Watervliet) was hung in the Community Church in Speedsville. This company started a bell-founding business in 1826 and has supplied some of the finest chimes in the country as well as sets of bells for organs. The bell in Speedsville is still able to be operated.

The ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Building of Richford was moved to Speedsville in 1842. According to one local historian, "the Church bell rang all the way". This building is in use today with an active congregation.

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SLATERVILLE came into being in 1891 when the EPISCOPAL SOCIETY OF SLATERVILLE was organized. In the spring of 1894 they finished a beautiful church. Memorial windows were presented by Moses Bull in memory of his wife and daughter; by Mrs. Mary F. Tobey, in memory of Simon and Sally Andrews (her father and mother); and by Mrs. William P. Speed, in memory of her husband and her sons, Joseph and Daniel. The bell measures 27" high x 37" diameter at the mouth. It was made by Meneeley & Co. West Troy, N Y 1885. It is inscribed: "Presented to the Garritson Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Slaterville, N.Y. by Moses Bull of Slaterville, N.Y. Sept. 15, 1885 Rev. A.W.Cooper, Pastor" and "and the spirit and the bride say, Come, and let him that heareth say, Come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation:XXII.17. The bell had originally been in the steeple of the Methodist Episcopal Church (which was being used as a Community Center) but when the steeple was deemed dangerous, it was removed, and the bell was placed in St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in 1957.

While 1826 is historically known in our nation as the year of The Great Awakening and in Ithaca there was a meeting in October which was the first one for Baptists in Ithaca, the Caroline area had Organized in 1814.

In 1814, the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAROLINE, Tioga County, was organized near Cantine's Mill in what is now Brooktondale.

"The Church seems to have enjoyed peace and prosperity from its organization up to 1838, when a rupture occurred on account of differences of opinion in regard to the doctrines and practices of the church.

"The two parties called themselves respectively 'New School' and 'Old School'. The Old School held to 'particular atonement' and were opposed to missions and benevolent organizations.

"The other portion of the church, declared for 'General Atonement' and in favor of benevolent and missionary societies. A large minority seceded, and organized a church known as the OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAROLINE. They built an edifice in 1843. They claimed to be the original church, and the body adopting modern view of doctrine, had left them. Both churches called councils from sister churches known to favor their respective views, and each was sustained by its own council.

"The Patriarch of CAROLINE BAPTIST CHURCH was William Spaulding who was pastor for 26 years. His grave in Cooper Cemetery is believed to be located where the pulpit stood in the original church building. The first meeting house was built in 1847 and replaced in 1863. Dedicatory services were held January 11, 1864. The new building, in Brookton, cost \$2500 and was estimated to be worth \$3000. A pleasant parsonage across the road from the church was valued at \$1500." (History of the Seneca Baptist Association - 1879) This building was used many years by

the Brooktondale Baptist Church but was sold and became an apartment house.

The CAROLINE FREE WILL BAPTIST was organized at Caroline Center on October 14, 1843. An edifice was built on South Road and a parsonage was located on 76 Road in Caroline Center.

The Methodists seemed to have been the strongest among the residents and the Baptist Church gradually ceased to function. It is reported by people of the community that the building was torn down and the materials taken to Horseheads to be used for building in that locality. However, one small, square, stained glass window of the FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH building was mounted in the peak of the Blacksmith Shop located behind the crossroads country store.

Today, the store has been converted to a dwelling, 476 - '76 Road. The Blacksmith shop building is in poor repair and the owner removed the window in 1993 and donated it to the Historical Room of the Town of Caroline at the Town Hall.

In 1873, the CAROLINE BAPTIST CHURCH united with the Seneca Baptist Association.

The OLD SCHOOL BAPTISTS eventually ceased to function. Their building was bought by the CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE and moved from lower White Church Road to the tract of land opposite Caroline Depot Road.

There was also a FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH active in Caroline in the late 1800's and early 1900's at the junction of Harford, Flat Iron, and Canaan Valley Roads. (Slaterville-Harford Rd.) The 1860 U S Census lists: Oramel Bingham as a Free Will Baptist clergyman. It was known as THE CHURCH OF CANAAN.

The BROOKTONDALE BAPTIST CHURCH evolved from the CAROLINE BAPTIST CHURCH. The meeting house that was erected in 1863 on Valley Road at the corner of Elm Street, was used until 1972 when a new building was built on N Y S Route 79 opposite Snyder Hill Road. It seats 265, has 8,500 square feet and classrooms on the lower level. The church congregation contributed much of the labor.

When another break in congregational harmony occurred in the CAROLINE BAPTIST CHURCH, a new denomination was brought to the community - The CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE on White Church Road. This group bought the building of the OLD SCHOOL BAPTISTS and moved it to a location opposite the junction of Caroline Depot Road with White Church Road.

A District Camp of the CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE developed into a very active summer retreat for members in New York State and a new Nazarene House of Worship was built in 1963-4, next to the Camp Grounds on the west side of White Church Road. In 1976 it was turned into a "motel" with 8 units, and the congregation meets in Ithaca. The first edifice was sold to become a family home, 191 White Church Road.

In the early days there were very few or no ROMAN CATHOLICS in the area. In 1976 there were quite a number of Catholic families, and Religious Education classes were held weekly at the Brooktondale Community Center. In April 1959, Mass was held in Slaterville at the

Fire Hall. The fire truck was moved from the station to provide room for the parishioners. On Sunday, July 16, 1950, Mass was celebrated in Brooktondale at the home of Patrick Caveney, 6 or 9 Elm Street.

The 7th day Baptist denomination started "The Christian Doctrinal Advocate and Spiritual Monitor" at Motts's Corners in 1837. It continued several years and then moved to a different location.

The 1850 U S Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline, lists Asa Dodge, Cornelius Gates, John Grimes, William Spaulding, and Elbert Young as Clergymen. The 1860 U S Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline lists: Elias Hoxie, Methodist Episcopal;

Oramel Bingham, Free Will Baptist; Kinner Hollister, Baptist Old School; Frances Chubbuck, Methodist Episcopal; John Cushing, Presbyterian Episcopal; William Spaulding, Baptist; John Whitbeck, Dutch Reformed. In 1865 James Hills who preached in Richford and Dryden, and Thomas Burgess who preached in Candor and Newark lived in the Town of Caroline. Rev. Whitbeck and Rev Bingham are still listed on the New York State Census, but Henry Wilber--"Christion", Granville Gates--Baptist, and Silas Comfort--Methodist, are listed as clergymen.

The 1868-69 Tompkins County Directory lists the following Clergymen: Hiram S. Ball, Caroline Center--Freewill Baptist;

Ormal Bingham, Slaterville--Baptist; Enoch P. Eldridge, Slaterville--Methodist Episcopal; Philip Holbrook, Caroline Center--Methodist Episcopal; Minus H. Perry, Caroline Depot--Baptist; John Whitbeck, Slaterville--Dutch Reformed Church.

The US Census for 1870 lists George W. Reynolds--M.E., Allen Woodworth--Bap., Austin G. Morp--Pres., Ruffus Wheelock and William Reatley as clergymen while on the 1875 New York State Census Edgar Sibley, Kenner Hollister, A. B. Chase, C. M. Burt, and A. W. Loomis are listed as "minister" while Henry Gilbert and Ormal Bingham are listed as "retired minister".

On the 1892 New York State Census Arthur Bloomfield, Oliver P. Legg, Douglas D. King, James Gutsell, Charles Bogardus, John E. Vassar and Juanita Breckenridge are ministers. In 1900 Irving Smith, William House, Charles Bogardus, Oliver Armstrong, Rozelle J. Phillips and Emily Woodruff are listed as clergymen and in 1905 Frank J. Niles, Isaac B. Wilson, and A. B. Woodworth are listed with Charles Bogardus as clergy. Charles Bogardus is still listed in 1915 as a Baptist Minister, along with Daniel W. Allen--"Meth.", Fred Brown--"Cong.", and Ralph Chaffee, but there are only two living in the Town who are listed on the 1925 census as ministers, Martin J. Ross and Howard V. Miller.

WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY

The Brookton Congregational Church was served by three women as ministers. First was Annis Bertha Ford Eastman who came to the church "on trial" for \$12 a week and was ordained in 1889. When Mrs. Eastman accepted a call from the Congregational Church of Elmira, Juanita Breckenridge was ordained in 1892 at a salary of \$10.58 per week. She preached for two years, and married the Town of Caroline Supervisor, Fred E. Bates in September 1893. After marriage she lived in Ithaca but

maintained a life-long interest in the Brooktondale Church. Rozelle J. Phillips is listed on the census for 1892 as a "clergyman" along with Rev. Emily C. Woodruff who was the minister of the Brookton Congregational Church from 1899 to 1903 and organized the Christian Endeavor Society for young people. Mary Swart Delong was an ordained Universalist Minister who moved to Speedsville in 1874 and served the Church in that community for two years. She was the wife of Rev. William Delong of Binghamton.

CAROLINE CEMETERIES

How were cemetery sites chosen by the pioneers and early settlers? When a person lost his way and perished, he usually was buried near where found. Families buried their dead on their own land for in the settlement there was no public burying ground at first. Strangers and transient persons who died while at a settler's home were permitted to be laid in the family grounds. Gravestones (where any existed) were simple and of native flagstone. The coffin of the pioneer times was a course wooden box made by the local undertaker and costing \$15.00 for the very best.

As a "retirement hobby", Mr. Elmer Lockwood, former Town Clerk, determined "to make as complete a record as possible of all Caroline inscriptions." His efforts, and those of all who helped him find remote family plots, photograph stones, organize the material, and type and index the book, have "made life much easier" for those searching for their families. Much of the following information comes from his notebooks.

BISHOP PLOT - on Caroline Depot Road but only one inscription has been deciphered. Is recorded in the Lockwood book.

SMITH ROAD (or Blair Family) CEMETERY - on Smith Road, a short distance from 76 Road, between Speedsville and Caroline Center. There are others besides the Blair family buried there.

BREARLEY HILL CEMETERY - on the left side of Brearley Hill Road, going south, about a mile and a half from the intersection with Central Chapel and Shindagin Gulf Roads. It was near the Brearley Hill Church site.

CARL - PAINE - QUICK PLOT - is on the east side of Brearley Hill Road about 1.7 miles from its intersection with the Central Chapel and Shindagin Hollow Roads, then about a quarter mile east on an abandoned road.

CAROLINE CENTER CEMETERY - is behind the Caroline Center Church building on the corner of Taft and Buffalo Road.

CAROLINE GROVE CEMETERY - is on the north side of N Y S Route 79 as you enter Caroline hamlet from the west.

CENTRAL CHAPEL CEMETERY - on the left side of Central Chapel Road near the intersection of Central Chapel, Shindagin, and Brearley Hill Roads. This cemetery was not far from the Central Chapel Church site.

COOPER CEMETERY - is on White Church Road near the Church of the Nazarene.

RIDGWAY ROAD (or Dennis Family) PLOT - is on Ridgway Road. It is north of the road, about a quarter of a mile west of White Church Road. There are others besides Dennis family buried there.

GARRETT MANDEVILLE/DUTCH REFORMED CEMETERY - is on N Y S Route 79 across from Caroline Elementary School.

EARSLEY FAMILY PLOT - on land back of the site marked by a New York State Historical Marker for the Widow Earsley's home, located on the right side of N Y S Route 79 when traveling east. This cemetery was ploughed up many years ago by someone and the headstones were thrown into the hedgerow at the side of the field. One stone has been found and can be seen in the Historical Room at the Town Hall. (It is listed as #23 in the Lockwood book.) Maria Earsley, her sons John and Joshua and four other persons were buried there. Legend has it that three small native rock headstones were carried to a cemetery nearby, (Caroline Grove) but none of these stones bore the Earsley name.

GENUNG FARM (or Hutchinson/Besemer) PLOT -is located east of Besemer on the north side of N Y S Route 79 in the back yard of a modern house which was built with no consideration of the cemetery site. (2084 Slaterville Road) The inscriptions can be found in the Lockwood book of cemetery inscriptions. It is not known where the markers are now. One was found being used as a step at a neighboring house.

HAMILTON-NELSON PLOT - is on the west side of Brearley Hill road, about 1.3 miles from its intersection with Central Chapel and Shindagin Hollow Roads.

MULKS (or Bowman) CEMETERY - is located on the left side of Slaterville Road when traveling east, just before you enter the hamlet of Slaterville Springs.

HOLLISTER CEMETERY - on the upper right bank of the University Sand and Gravel business and to the left of Middaugh Road when traveling to Coddington Road, about a mile west of Brooktondale.

LANE CEMETERY - is on White Church Road on the left side of the highway as one nears the intersection of White Church and Coddington Roads.

QUICK (or Cantine) CEMETERY - is on Lounsbery Road at Brooktondale.

RICH FAMILY PLOT - is on the north side of Gulf Creek Road about 1/2 mile from South Road.

ROE CEMETERY - on the left side of Brooktondale Road just east of Banks Road.

SPEED FAMILY PLOT - is on Level Green Road in back of a field south of the Speed Homestead. Slaves of the Speed family were buried around the edge of this Family Plot. There is a New York State Historical Marker telling about "Springfarm" just to the north of the homestead. There are others besides Speed family members buried there.

SPEEDSVILLE CEMETERY - is at the northeast corner of The Commons in Speedsville. Old headstones are no longer legible due to age and type of stone.

YATES (or Robinson) CEMETERY - is in Slaterville Springs on the left side of Harford Road (which branches left from Slaterville Road at the

eastern end of the hamlet.) It is located in the woods behind 2764 Slaterville Road.

The 1868-69 Tompkins County Directory lists Abram T. Harding, Slaterville--Undertaker & Carriage maker; Henry S. Akins, Speedsville--Undertaker as well as Carpenter and Business Man.

THE BROOKTONDALE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Brooktondale Community Center is an outgrowth of the original "Skip & Joe Memorial, " which was organized in May 1955 following the death of two local boys, Harold (Skip) Lattin, Jr. (age 16), and Joseph English (age 15), who were killed in an automobile accident on Easter Sunday in 1954. The parents of Skip and Joe appointed a committee to decide on the best use of money gifts contributed in memory of the boys. Thus began a youth recreation program by May 1954.

The minutes of the youth recreation group were found in 1984 in the attic of 69 Middaugh Road. They called themselves the Skip and Joe Club, and met every 3 weeks at the firehall which had been built in 1950. They were full of plans for raising money by selling soft drinks at the softball games, by having bake sales, and by charging dues. For a certain period of time, one could be a charter member of this organization. They also had dances, hayrides, and barbecues. When they needed to know what the community thought about something, there was great recourse to a "box at the store."

Meantime, an adult group was also meeting to provide support. This adult group was called the Trustees of the Skip and Joe Memorial. They represented the three local churches, the Fire Company, the Ladies' Auxiliary, the Home Bureau and the businessmen of the community. In January 1955, everyone decided to organize a Board of Directors consisting of three adults and three teenagers. The minutes of the Board of Directors cover January 1955 to March 1961. The adults focused on leveling the land behind the school and the fire hall, planting grass in some areas, and creating a combination tennis/basketball court in one corner.

The By-Laws of the Skip and Joe Memorial Youth Recreation Center were passed at a public meeting on May 9, 1955. A total of \$561 had been donated to create a memorial for the boys, and \$400 was turned over to the club at that time.

In April 1957 the Club learned that money "from a previous group [Brooktondale Community Council] that started a community project and failed" could be used toward the tennis court project. They also learned from Ray Lattin that the Firemen had voted that the teenagers could not use the Fire hall for meetings any more because there had been property damage. The teens had not cleaned up after meetings and there had been drinking on the school grounds. The minutes recorded that the trustees and guests present at the meeting "did not think that pushing the teenagers out of their community was the proper solution."

By 1957 there was talk of buying the school when it became available, as a place where teens could meet. In 1958 the trustees decided that they would have incorporate in order to buy the school. The completed tennis court was dedicated at Old Home Day on August 10, 1957. Some school officials came to a meeting and wondered why Brooktondale would want its own facility when the new school would provide two ball diamonds, outside play equipment, a gymnasium, and an auditorium for public use. Local residents were persuasive.

The Fire Company bought the school in 1960 and in October of that year, Gordon Cunningham sent out a notice to Skip and Joe Club members and "those eligible to join" explaining the availability of the school. A plea was made to keep the group active.

In the spring of 1961 Dave Dunlop was elected to be youth advisor, and later the by-laws were discussed and minor changes made. In October of that same year, Bob McKenna, chairman of the Skip & Joe Club, sent out a notice of a meeting to be held in the old schoolhouse and a plea to reactivate the organization.

On March 24, 1962, a public meeting was held at the Caroline Elementary School for the purpose of presenting a new set of by-laws and to change the name of the Memorial to the "Brooktondale Community Center (Skip & Joe Memorial), with the emphasis of including the community as a whole--youngsters and adults. Present by-laws and name were approved at this meeting.

On November 11, 1962, the old school burned to the ground. The Fire Company donated the \$5000 fire insurance money and also the land to erect a new building. At a public meeting at the Caroline School on March 23, 1963, plans for a community center were presented and voted on. On November 2, 1963, ground-breaking ceremonies were held and excavation began the following January. While not completely finished, the building was being used the following May. Formal dedication of the Brooktondale Community Center was held on September 7, 1964. Members of the board of directors at this time were: Mrs. Robert Albertson, Paul Crumb, Mrs. Allan Ferrel, Richard Ferry (Chairman), Mrs. Pat McDermott, Max Murray, Pat Raponi, Thomas Scott, Stanley Shaw, Daniel Signore, Mrs. Donald Sopp, and Mrs. Glenn Turner.

The building cost \$30,000. Initial financing was provided by the First National Bank of Dryden, with a mortgage of \$25,000. Later it was thought that this amount was not adequate, so a note was taken from the Dryden bank for another \$6,000.

The activities of the Center and its operating expenses...are paid for by funds from several sources:

Tompkins County United Fund, special gifts from the people of the community, and community fund-raising projects such as the Apple Festival in October, where apple products can be purchased, and exhibits entertain.

The Center is managed by a volunteer board of directors. It has sponsored a monthly newsletter since October 1963 and the first Apple Festival was held in October 1964.

(Our Town, handbook of the Brooktondale Community Center, 1970, pp 7-9 & Molly Adams)

WEATHER IN CAROLINE

T. M. Boyer told Charles F. Mulks that the winter of 1835-36 was remarkable for its deep snow. It began snowing 1 January and continued for four consecutive days. During the winter not less than 10 feet of snow fell!

UTICAN RECALLS 1888 WINTER IN BROOKTON

Seventy years ago this week, the storm of '88 was still making itself felt through the Ithaca area.

Up in Utica, there's a woman who'll be thinking Friday, about the hugh snowdrifts of 70 years ago. She is Mrs. Pearl Heath Catlin, who was traveling through Ithaca 20 years ago and clopped the following article out of The Journal's "50 years ago" column for 14 March 1888:

"During the storm, a resident of Brookton started for Slaterville to bring Dr. Gallagher to the bedside of his wife. His horse became stalled in a great drift and the man returned alone to his house to serve as physician and midwife."

"The man mentioned in the article was my father, William Heath of Brookton, I was the baby girl who arrived in that home on that very stormy night. Five days later Dr. Gallagher reached our home and pronounced: 'Mother and baby doing nicely.'" Now 70 years after that eventful night, I'm glad to say that I'm living in Utica and still doing nicely."

(Ithaca Journal, 1958)

Weather comments from the diary of Ed McDaniels 1891-92:

May 27, 1891 Froze ice last night.

June 1, Commenced Pressing Hay. Had frost, froze ice on water in hen's pans...potatoes & beans froze to the ground in Slaterville and other places on low ground.

June 15, Grass is drying on the ground. Oats & grain do not grow...no signs of rain.

Jan. 20, 1892 Thermometer stood at 22 below zero.

April 6 Cold night..froze water in the kitchen, yet the day has been mild - raw wind. Sap run very little. Bowne Mulks commenced ploughing.

February 1945

SHOVELING CREW OPENS CLOGGED ROAD BY DIGGING LONG TUNNEL

"James Beebe, highway superintendent of the Town of Caroline, last Sunday spent the first restful day at his home in more than a month, but he could not help thinking about some tough winter road problems still ahead of him.

One of them was the Buffalo Hill Road, the only road linking Caroline Center with Slaterville. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Rich and their 4 children on the top of the hill had been snowbound for weeks.

DRIFT STALLS PLOW

With a crew of shovelers and his heaviest piece of equipment - a caterpillar tractor plow - he began battling the hard drifts over the hill Monday morning and was making slow but sure progress until his men reached what had been a 20-foot drift at the brow of the hill. The recent thawing weather had caused the drift to settle and then to freeze.

This condition was just a little more than the caterpillar plow could take and the machine ended up in the repair shop with a broken plow blade. It was decided to continue the shoveling, and several feet of solid, icy crust was left over the top of the gap to create a tunnel.

CEREMONY OPENS TUNNEL

The completion of the 50-foot tunnel Tuesday was the occasion for an impromptu ceremony...The roof is strong enough to hold several persons...The tunnel is about 9 feet high and about 9 feet wide - room for a single car."

(Ithaca Journal, Feb 1945)

The Town has seen its share of flooding. Those people who live in the Six Mile Creek valley have managed to withstand floods in 1935, 1972, 1976, 1981, 1982, 1986 and 1993. Those who travel through the area can remember detours that inconvenienced them.

THE FLOOD OF '35

Within a 24 hour period, 8.12 inches of rain fell upon the area. The greatest amount fell when a cloudburst which was reported to have occurred over this vicinity resulted in a total of 5.46 inches for a 12-hour period.

The creeks were filled with debris from trees, logs and other floating objects. Streams changed their courses hourly and new streams were created within a few minutes. Roads were closed, culverts and bridges out, trees down while in other places the water was too high to permit passage of an automobile.

Helen Albertson relates her memories of the 1935 Flood:

"I don't know why we decided to leave the cottage we had rented that Sunday afternoon, but luck was with Arlene Nuttall and me as it turned out. That evening my date, Bob, and K were returning to Brooktondale after a movie and it was reining. As we were going out East State

Street, suddenly it was like riding through a waterfall. I remember Bob making the remark that if that kept up we'd have a flood.

"The next morning I went to my job (my first real one) at Agricultural Advertising and Research Service and was pretty disgusted with myself for making the effort because almost no one else was there. Parts of downtown Ithaca were under water. I hadn't become wealthy enough yet to buy a car, so Crispell's bus line was my transportation. Coming home that night on the Brooktondale Road the driver (I think it was everybody's good friend Les Crispell) had us all get off the bus before he crossed the little bridge below what is now the Red Barn Apartments. The riders walked across the bridge, piled back on the bus, and got as far as the Middaugh Road and could go no farther. No road was visible. The whole area was under water. Somehow Les got the bus turned around, eventually. We alighted again at the little bridge, walked over it again, back on the bus, back to Cooks Corners and up the Slaterville Road where I eventually was delivered home (on Lounsbery Road).

"The rain had ceased but from our house the roar from the Six Mile Creek was unbelievable, there being three dams on the creek then.

"A few days later in Ithaca I was Bill Wilcox, the owner of Wilcox Press, whose [lakeside] cottage was adjacent to Mike's and mine, but separated by a little ravine. He told me that with some effort he had gotten to our cottage sometime in the night to rescue us. That little ravine had turned into a life-threatening torrent. I don't recall whether our rented cottage was badly damaged or even lost in the flood, as many of them were on the West Shore of Cayuga Lake. Bill Wilcox remained a good friend for many years after that.

"This was not a local flood by any means. The whole Southern Tier got it--some worse than Tompkins County, I believe".

JUNE 1972

Tropical Storm Agnes brought water to Tompkins County. "Enough drinking water for Tompkins County residents for seven years! That's how much water has flowed and fallen into Cayuga Lake in the last 24 hours" reports the 22 June 1972 Ithaca Journal. The Journal for 23 June then reported: "So you thought a seven-year supply of drinking water is a lot of water! Well that figure was topped in the last 24 hours. Enough drinking water for nine years for Tompkins County residents ran or fell into Cayuga Lake during the last 24 hours."

Middaugh Road, Grove School Road and NYS Rt. 79 were closed because of flooded bridges, but the roads were "generally awful all over". The rail bed just off Middaugh Road washed away and left a 60-foot chasm.

Severe damage was caused in Slaterville and Brooktondale. First estimates were "\$312,450 in damages to private property, with no figures yet on damages to town highways...Harold Payton, Caroline Town Supervisor, said...that in spite of the high damage figures for the Slaterville area, many residents were still too busy making emergency repairs to report their estimates. Some farmers, for example could still not reach crop lands ravaged by the flood." One homeowner, 2742 Slaterville Road, estimated damage was over \$60,000.

THE FLOOD OF JULY '76

July flooding caused much damage to Slaterville properties as "uprooted trees and other debris blocked the flow of water under the bridge where Six Mile Creek crossed Route 79. The debris formed, in effect, a dam, and the muddy waters overflowed the stream banks and the road, swept across yards and filled basements and ground floors of local homes with tons of brown slime.

"The bridge at Slaterville was washed out, as were bridges on the Six Hundred Road and further down the stream, at the Middaugh Road. Route 79 was closed to through traffic...for some time...The bridge at the Middaugh Road had a four-foot gap between the bridge and the road leading up to it.

"But the worst damages were at Slaterville, where the Route 79 bridge, a relatively new structure, designed with an abutment in the middle, had very early in the flood become clogged with debris, including huge trees, oil tanks and the remains of the Six Hundred Road bridge, all of which had been swept downstream.

"Water and mud gushed into the home of Robert Nash (2750 Slaterville Road), filled the basement with sludge, and carried a chicken coop into Nash's back yard. It stood, (in the) morning, in the middle of the highway - with the chickens still alive and clucking inside...

"There was, after it all, a perfectly spectacular sunset, full of boiling clouds tinged with yellows and purples, quite a perfect, dramatic ending to the day."

THE FLOOD OF OCTOBER '76

On 9 October, heavy rain again brought high waters along Six Mile Creek, flooding in the West Slaterville area. The high water was about a foot underneath the Boiceville Road bridge, and washed out the approaches to Middaugh Road and Creamery Road bridges.

1981, 1982 and 1986 again saw flooding in the Town of Caroline but not to the extent of "the flood of '76". Middaugh Road once again had problems when about 50-feet caved into the creek. Property at 2 Boiceville Road was surrounded by water, but no cars were washed away like they were in '76. Foundations were swept away and garages and sheds collapsed.

WIND STORMS

Wind storms have done their share of damage to the area. In the late 1960's a house on Landon Road had its roof lifted off and set in the field. The house is still standing but with a flat roof.

In early May and 29 August of 1990, severe wind storms caused damage, especially in the Brooktondale area. The early May storm toppled trees and crushed a truck on White Church Road, the 28 August storm threw trees into a house on Burns Road and picked up the roof of a barn, also on Burns Road. Damage occurred on Besemer and Woodlane Roads, and trees were blown down into Six-Mile Creek below Middaugh Road. The August storm had all of the earmarks of a tornado although National Weather

Service specialists say the damage was caused by "microbursts" and not a tornado.

BLIZZARD AND FLOOD OF 1993

March of 1993 saw one of the biggest blizzards of the century hit the East Coast of the United States. It started in the south and moved northward, dropping large amounts of snow as it went. As it moved through central New York and on to New England, it left 3-4 feet of snow on Caroline. Roads in Tompkins County were closed, snow crews worked almost around the clock, and electric power was maintained throughout the storm. As the snow melted, and the rains came, flooding became the issue. Streams and creeks overflowed and Cayuga Lake invaded homes on the shore. Streets and stores were closed. Caroline had high water that flooded in places, but being on higher ground, the damage was not as extensive as in Ithaca. One person was seen wearing a T-shirt that read: "I survived the blizzard and flood of '93". July of 1993 saw another windstorm that downed trees on 600 Road, Harford Road and Slaterville Road. Miraculously, no one was injured although one lady had just walked out of her kitchen into her livingroom, when a tree fell and demolished her kitchen.

TRANSPORTATION

INDIAN TRAILS

The Owego-Dryden-Onondaga Trail branched off the Cayuga-Owego Trail or Warriors' Trail two miles south of Willseyville, in Tioga County at the entrance to Shindagin or Shandaken Valley. From Shandaken Gulf, a long, steady climb is encountered; and at a distance of two and a half miles, the path dipped into a hollow in the hills where Caroline Center is now located. Continuing northward, the trail again climbed upward a short distance, then reached a level plateau where it bore to the right, following what is known as the Rounsville Road [Speed Hill Road].

At the north brow of the hill there were two routes down the slope. The first was a straight continuation of the trail down the Rounsville Road to the Caroline Road [Slaterville Road, NYS Rt. 79] or the old Catskill Turnpike. There it turned east a short distance over NYS Rt. 79 to the hamlet of Caroline. The other route turned eastward at the top of the hill and descended the slope back of the Old Spring Farm, or the Old Speed Homestead, then followed north over what is known as Level Green Road to Tobeytown, or Caroline hamlet.

Here another trail, which came up the West Owego Creek from Owego joined, and both continued on to Onondaga as a single trail. At Caroline, the Ganowtacherage or West Owego Creek was crossed; the path then followed north along the creek a distance of nearly one mile. The trail then left the valley at the north end of the Flatiron Road, leading north from Caroline on what is known as Hammond Hill Road. Here began one of the roughest parts of the trail, the ascent over a high ridge and through the woods known later as the "Six Hundred".

This trail was one of several routes leading from Onondaga to the Susquehanna River. The first record of white men traveling over this part of the trail passing through the Prospect, or Shandaken Valley and the site of Caroline Center, to the present hamlet of Caroline, is the account of two Moravian missionaries, who passed that way in 1745, guided by Shikellemy, famous chief and ambassador of the Six Nations.

The Warriors' Trail or The Cayuga Indian Trail, came from Ithaca along what is now NYS Rt. 79 to "Cook's Corners" [Brooktondale Road-Slaterville Road]; near there it turned to the right in the direction of the Six Mile Creek and continued over the route of the Brooktondale Road [formerly NYS Rt. 330, now Tompkins Co. 115] to where the Beaver Brook Road [Middaugh Road] branches off. Turning off in a southerly direction, close to this road the trail crossed the Teegastoweas, or Six Mile Creek, west of and near to the present bridge, and followed a short distance along the right bank of the Beaver Brook.

The distance from where the trails joined in Ithaca, at the Cascadilla crossing, to this crossing, was just six miles, hence the name given the stream by early settlers was Six Mile Creek, to denote the six mile landmark.

Less than an eighth of a mile south of the Six Mile crossing, the trail crossed to the east of the Beaver Brook stream, and leaving the valley

floor ascended a sloping hill into a pine and hemlock forest known as Middaugh Woods. The trail continued to the base of Bald Hill, then, running southerly along the east side of the valley, [White Church Road] it left Tompkins County where it crosses the Willseyville Creek and continued through Willseyville and Candor to Owego on the Susquehanna River.

PIONEER ROADWAYS

Newcomers into the country traveled over roads that were little more than trails. In fact, the original paths followed the Indian paths that had been "brushed out" two feet wide to form a bridle path for those who traveled on foot or horseback. For teams the width was 32 feet. Passage was slow and difficult. From these "roads" to the settler's claim there were nothing but blazed paths, and blazed trees marked the boundaries of the settlers claim. These early "roads" were muddy in spring and fall, dusty during the summer, and snow-filled in winter.

When the State realized that people would not move to the wilderness area until there were roads, it offered large tracts of land to those who would construct roads. There were very few acceptances. Private individuals formed corporations and built the roads as turnpikes, and collected tolls for a specific number of years.

The ITHACA TO OWEGO TURNPIKE was chartered in 1807 and operated for 41 years. Much of its length followed the Warriors' Trail. Later, railroads would follow this same route.

The CATSKILL TURNPIKE was built past Widow Earsley's home about 1804. The eastern section of the original highway was constructed before 1804 from Catskill on the Hudson to Unadilla on the Susquehanna, and was officially known as the Catskill and Susquehanna Turnpike. The western section was known as the Susquehanna and Bath Turnpike or as the Jerico and Bath Turnpike. (Jerico was then the name of what is now known as Bainbridge.) The two sections, with two short, connecting turnpikes, were known as the Catskill, Jerico & Bath Turnpike but called more often The Catskill Turnpike.

In its time, this was a super highway, with marshy places traversed by corduroy roads. These were logs placed crosswise of the track to prevent wagon wheels or horses from becoming mired in the mud. It had stone walls on either side paralleled by maple shade trees and eighty-nine red sandstone milestones along its route.

The Turnpike was paid for partly or wholly by fees collected every ten miles at Toll Gates--hinged bars or logs large enough to swing across the entire width of the roadway, that prevented passage through the gate until the Toll was paid. Toll Charges were as follows:

- For every score (20) of sheep or hogs--8 cents
- For every score (20) of cattle, horses or mules--20 cents
- Carts drawn by one horse--6 cents
- Each chariot coach or coach phaeton--25 cents
- Every cart drawn by 2 oxen--12 1/2 cents
- NO CHARGE for person going to or from worship, his farm, or a funeral, to or from a gristmill for grinding grain.

- NO CHARGE for going to and from blacksmith shop, going or returning with a physician, or attending election.
- NO CHARGE for anyone residing within 4 miles of the gate, jurors or witnesses.
- NO CHARGE for U.S. Troops and Army stores in transit or persons going or returning from military training.

When stage coaches were operating regardless of the weather, travel was kept up through the year. Sometimes in heavy traffic, two 4-horse coaches and a baggage wagon were operated at one time. P. C. Slaughter was one of the stagecoach drivers on the Catskill Turnpike. He wrote to Lyman H. Gallagher the following:

"You asked me what I can remember about my driving stagecoach on the Catskill Turnpike from Ithaca...in 1857, I drove from Ithaca to Lisle. Some called it Mud Lake. We used to stop at Boiseville [Boiceville], Slaterville and Tobeytown [now Caroline]...If I remember rightly, I made two trips a week, up one day and back the next. The road was very rough and bad. I drove two horses. This is as near as I can remember."

(The Catskill Turnpike: a Wilderness Path)

In 1850 Aaron Legg, age 61 was also listed as a "stage driver" in the U S Census.

There is a story that "a toll gate on the Catskill Turnpike stood nearly opposite the residence of Michael Krum (corner of Ellis Hollow Road and NYS Rt. 79). The Chambers family lived in a large square house in front of which a tollgate was located and the family were in charge of collecting toll for Turnpike use.

About 1818 or 1820, the road was neglected and became almost impassable, so a party of 8 or 10 farmers came with their ox teams to draw off the gate. They hitched 7 or 8 teams to it--John Mulks was the first one to hitch on. They drew it from Krum's to above Tobey's or Vickery's Tavern where they halted for liquid refreshments and jollification of the event.

Just as they began to feel warmed up, Noble Howard of Lisle who was very impressed with the Turnpike (and may have been an officer of the company) arrived at the Tavern. The men formed a line on both sides of the gate and compelled him to go through the gate and pay the toll. He did it and then they cut it into firewood and had a general spree."

The gate was not replaced and the road was worked by assessment of highway labor to the Eastern Tollgate near Padlock.

The " '76 Road" was a pioneer highway built from Brooktondale to Speedsville by Augustine Boyer. He made preparations to build the road through his lands during the summer of 1804. It was originally laid out from Jenksville (Speedsville) on Owego Creek to a spot on Six Mile Creek near Bush's Tavern at Boiceville on the Catskill Turnpike. The road was surveyed and the first bee for cutting the road through was held near Augustine Boyer's on 4 July 1804. It was opened and dedicated at a "bee" by the settlers on July 4, 1808. Mr. Boyer was requested to name the road. He replied that he would name it the " '76 Road". Mr. Boyer explained that he had spent seven days obtaining the services of

the commissioners and surveyors to lay out the road, and these days were representative of the seven years of the Revolutionary struggle, and since the day was 4 July, and the spirit of '76 was in the air, and other spirits in their bottles, he would give the name of " '76 Road" in honor of the spirit of cooperation and dedication that the people had in working together on the project, and to honor the memory of those who worked together in laying the foundations of our country in 1776.

By 1825 there were some 47 roads in the town and these were assigned to the "Pathmaster". It was the duty of these officials to keep the roads in repair. Widows, Clergymen and those over the age of 70 were assessed a small fee in lieu of working on the roads. After snow storms each property owner was expected to clear or "break path" on his section of road. Each spring the Pathmaster "called out" the property owners to do road work. The men would bring their tools and teams of horses to scrape, level, and fill in potholes. These roads were all dirt roads, and would remain so for nearly a century.

OLD ROAD NAMES

Over the years, road names have changed. Many roads names were changed when road signs were put up and a former (unofficial) historian decided to name roads in areas of the town he was unfamiliar with. Other road names came from the County Historian and no documentary evidence can be found for the names given to some roads. The road names used in this section came from the records of the Town of Caroline in the Town Clerks office, Historical Room, or Town Vault.

To honor the Speed family, which was well known in the town, a road that ran from Slaterville to Candor was named "Speed Road". The part of the road from Candor to Caroline Center was known later as Honey Pot Road, and is now known as South Road. The part of Speed Road from Caroline Center to Slaterville is now known as Buffalo Road. Another road was named Speed Road, and that was the road that ran from Slaterville to Harford. Some of the Speed family lived on this road, but this road is now called "Harford Road" (unless you are in Harford and then it is called Slaterville Road). In 1849 this was officially Curran Road and in 1889, Canaan Road.

Speed Hill Road still honors that early family, but that name has been put on the road that runs southerly over the hill from Caroline to join Buffalo Road at the top of the hill (Snow Top). This road was called Rounsville Road, Webb Hill Road or Caroline Center Hill Road.

Line-of-Lots Road started at the top of the present Speed Hill Road (where Bailor Road joins) and ran in an easterly direction down the hill, crossed Level Green Road and continued up the hill to near where the Fire Tower stood. In 1849 Bailor Road and the part of this road west of Level Green was called Chestnut Road. The part of this road from Speed Hill Road easterly, that was not abandoned, is now called Bailor Road Extension. The easterly section of this road, from Level Green to Blackman Hill Road was known as Earsley Road.

Panama Road left Line-of-the-Lots Road and returned, in a west-southwest direction, to Level Green Road and joined it about one-half mile south, north of where "Willow Creek" crosses Level Green Road.

This was abandoned before 1930. Dryden Road is now Midline Road and Yates Road is now 600 Road.

The Slaterville Road (NYS Rt.79) was the Catskill Turnpike and known as the Caroline Road. The northern part of what is now Level Green Road from "Hildebrandt's Corners" to the hamlet of Caroline was called South Road. "Hildebrandt's Corners" is where Level Green, Blackman Hill and Yapple Roads meet. Blackman Hill Road from there to Fire Tower Road was Allen Road in 1849 and from Fire Tower Road into Rawson Hollow was Blackman Road. Goodrich Hill Road was Heth Road.

The original " '76 Road" ran from Padlock Corner in the Town of Richford, to Speedsville Common, through Caroline Center, Guideboard Corners, and into Boiceville (now West Slaterville). The name of the road is "'76 Road" and NOT "Old '76 Road". Ekroos Road was known as Case Road and later Connecticut Hill. Part of Case Road was abandoned from Snow (later Wheeling) Road to Blair Road (now Smith Road) and was made part of Ekroos Road.

Most of Hyde Road, that connected '76 road and Level Green Road was abandoned, and that part still maintained is now named Weston Road. Mc Grath Road has maintained its name through out the years, but part of the road has been abandoned. Center Road went from Caroline Center to Yapple Road in 1849, but only part of it is maintained at this time, and it is called Taft Road. Downey Road was Davis Road.

At Guideboard Corners, '76 Road, Bald Hill School Road, Central Chapel Road and Valley Road met. Somewhere along the way, and it appears, with no official Town or County documentation, Valley Road now ends at Boiceville Road, and Central Chapel Road starts there instead of at Guideboard Corners. In Speedsville at about the same time, what was known as Owego Street turned into '76 Road.

In 1849, Hart Road, Schoonmaker Road, Ennis Road, Keeney Road, Quick & Dennis Road, and County Judges Road all existed. Today they are Brearley Hill, Shindagin Hollow, Gulf Creek, Leonard and Central Chapel Road as far north as Guideboard Corner. Grove School Road was Boice Road and part of Bald Hill Road was Hungerford Road.

Hutchinson Road is now Besemer Road, Bouton Road in now Landon Road, Mill Road is now Lounsbury Road, Bush Road is Burns Road, and Mechanic Road was what is now Valley Road from Boiceville Road to the upper bridge in Brooktondale. White Church Road was Cooper Road from Brooktondale to Belle School Road, and Old Owego Road from there south to the Town line. Coddington Road was Sawyer Road in 1849.

Times have changed and those who specialized in mechanical pursuits, such as mills and engines, no longer have a "Mechanicks Road" to honor them. The old families of Blair, Ennis, Cooper, Quick and Dennis are not brought to mind when we look at the road signs, but other families are. The Ridgway, Ekroos, Yapple, and Goodrich families are remembered. The "white church" that once rang with song, the "600" acres of wilderness, the "fire tower", and the "hollow", "gulf" and "hill" are now honored on the road signs in The Town of Caroline.

RAILROADS

The Ithaca & Owego Railroad began operating in 1834 and was drawn by horses on strap-iron rails nailed on stringers across the ties, for six years. When the train would get rolling over 15 miles per hour, the nails would pull out and the strap iron could curl around the wheel into "snake heads" and strike through the wooden floored coaches to wound the passengers about the legs and thighs. Manning Bogardus was the driver of the two horses used tandem style on the train from Ithaca to White Church. The trip from Ithaca to Willseyville and return at night was 12 miles, and the principal cargo was lumber. It was the second railroad charter granted in the State of New York and was 29 miles long. The coaches were so light that passengers could lift them off the rails to make way for opposing trains, thus making passing sidings unnecessary.

The first steam-powered engine was put on the line in 1837, but went through a bridge near Candor and was abandoned in the creek there. On 4 July 1842, a group of Ithaca's city fathers, enroute to Owego for a celebration, had to get out and push when the engine failed five miles short of its destination. The tracks came out of Ithaca, east up the Six-Mile Creek valley, through Caroline Depot and Caroline Junction, and continued on to Willseyville.

In 1855 the line was reorganized and leased to the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. This was the only railroad in the county until 1865. The 1860 U.S. Census for the Town of Caroline names 4 men who list their occupation as "Rail Road Man" and 1 who was a "Fireman."

The Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Railroad was later known as Elmira, Cortland and Northern Railroad. In 1905 it was absorbed by the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The tracks came out of Ithaca at East Hill up the north side of Six-Mile Creek valley, crossed Brookton on the trestle, crossed the DL&W tracks at Caroline Junction, and continued on to Willseyville.

In 1874 the wooden trestle at Brookton was started, and completed in December 1875. It was made of foot-square timbers cut from area forests and set close together in several tiers 1600 feet long and 85 feet high. It was built for the Utica, Ithaca and Elmira Railroad. "The wooden trestle required a watchman to cross it on foot after each train, just to make sure no fire had started anywhere in its timbers.

"As the old trestle weakened, it seemed so frightening that passenger trains stopped at the approach to either end and let fearful passengers walk across if they chose.

"In 1894 the wooden structure was replaced by one of steel. The work was done by Moses Hurlbut and his crew was quite remarkable, too, in that traffic was never completely stopped for the replacement. The metal bridge was placed without fully tearing down the old wooden one beforehand.

"The crew worked through the week preparing sections of the old trestle for removal and then, on Sunday, when no trains ran, a single span would be cut out and replaced. During the entire rebuilding program, not one train missed its schedule because of the trestle-builders' activities." (Ithaca Journal--Glance Backward by Barbara Bell)

The steel trestle was about 800 feet long and 85 feet high at its highest point over the valley. It was called "the new bridge" and Lyman Gallagher of Slaterville said that "old valley residents who had lived 50 years in the protection of that gigantic wooden windbreak, practically were blown out of their homesteads when the new steel bridge failed to stop the force of the winds up the valley."

Lehigh Valley Railroad service was discontinued on 1 July 1935 on the old branch line over the stretch from Van Etten to East Ithaca. The "last" passenger train out of Ithaca to Owego over the 110 year old Cayuga-Susquehanna & Western branch of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, was on Palm Sunday and in short order, the trestle was taken down by a small crew of Bethlehem Steel company workmen.

BRIDGES

On 2 April 1825, Lemuel Yates and Abraham Chambers, commissioners of highways in Caroline, addressed the Board of Supervisors as follows:

"Sir, we report to your honorable body that we have expended \$65 in building a bridge across Six Mile Creek, near John Cantine's, for which we pray you to raise said sum on said Town of Caroline at your next annual meeting."

A drawing of the "Big Bridge at Mott's Corners" in the DeWitt Historical Museum was completed 13 November 1879 by Marian "May" Tobey (1847 - 1915). No one has been found who remembers the structure, but a covered bridge expert, Grant Musser of Newfield, said it looked like a covered pony trestle. The sides would be covered with wood so the horses could not look down at the water rushing below them and get frightened.

The "big bridge" was replaced with one built by the Groton Bridge Company in 1886. It was called the "upper bridge" and collapsed on 7 August 1939 when Merle Sloughter and George Arsenault were crossing it on a home-made truck-tractor. They were fortunate that no serious injury came to them when the bridge buckled and they went into the creek bed 20 feet below. Highway officials believe the collapse was caused by excessive loads of 10 tons of coal being brought from Willseyville and crossing the bridge which was limited to 5 tons. Vibrations of the large loads had worn the rivets which held the 50 foot span together.

The bridge is once again to be replaced or rebuilt (1993) and the estimated cost is in excess of \$200,000, a far cry from the \$65 spent 170 years ago.

Little of the history of the covered bridge at Speedsville has been recorded but thanks to the efforts of Gertrude Conant and Bill Osburn the following is known:

The bridge was constructed in 1856 by Seth H. Akins (1828 - 1909), and razed in 1929 to make way for a concrete road. It spanned West Owego Creek, half the structure in Tompkins County and half in Tioga.

The bridge was 60 feet long and 14 wide, built of large, hewn timbers and heavy planks. The trusses were fastened to the sills with bolts

that were both large and long. Bridges were covered to protect timbers and planks from the weather that caused rotting, however, during the winter, snow had to be shoveled inside so teams hauling heavy loads on sleds or sleighs would not get stuck on the dry plank flooring.

The inside walls of the bridge made good locations for large and colorful posters advertising circuses, spavin cures, liniments, seeds and other goods that would appeal to the locals, and for auction notices.

A feature of the bridge was an opening on the upstream side from which boys fished. On occasion they raised a floor plank, lay on their stomachs and dipped their lines into the water below. When a team approached, they would have to rush to replace the plank. (Forests to Farms in Caroline, Glenn Norris)

Stage coaches were the first form of public transportation. Merritt M. Campbell and Bert Blow, operated the Speedsville-Owego stageline. Willis Legg and Frank White were proprietors of the Speedsville-Ithaca stage line. Many times in the winter, a group of men went to the "flats" below Speedsville and shoveled a road so the stage coach could get through.

The Ithaca Weekly Journal of 8 January 1902 announced a trolley project as follows: "The Auburn-Ithaca railroad promoters in this city have received the maps of the survey of the route where the railway is intended to be built. The survey was completed about three weeks ago, and since that time the engineers have been completing the maps of their work.

"The maps show elevations, grades, locations of company buildings, and all the residences along the line. The maps are over ten feet in length and of great value. It is expected construction work on the road will be commenced before the last of February.

"The promoters at Owego of the Owego-Ithaca railway have signified their willingness to the projectors of the Auburn-Ithaca line to commence at any time purchase of rights of way for a road from Cornell Heights, there connecting with the Ithaca Street Railway, and running through Forest Home, across country to the Catskill turnpike, then to Brookton, Slaterville, Speedsville, and on to Owego.

"The project, the promoters state, will undoubtedly go through at the completion of the Auburn-Ithaca Railway, with which the Owego road is planned to connect."

The project never materialized, but Bill Osburn in Speedsville thinks the route was staked out.

There was no transportation to High School in Ithaca or Candor unless a young person rode the train or sometimes a milk truck. Some young people lived in Ithaca during the week to attend school and came home only on weekends. Because of his experiences, HARRY CRISPELL bought his first truck, a Model T and with LESLIE, his brother, performing the mechanics to keep it running, the brothers shared transportation to High School. "But that experience put it in the back of my mind that if

I could ever do it, I would help those rural youngsters get to high school by making transportation available," Harry said.

In 1928 the two Crispell brothers formed a partnership and acquired a small bus. It was enough to carry high school students from Slaterville and Brooktondale to school in Ithaca. At first, the pupils or their parents paid the cost of transportation, but in 1930, rural school districts began to foot the bill, usually through one-year contracts. The early school bus lines accommodated families to the extent of allowing non-students to ride into Ithaca, or some other stop along the way. (It was not unheard of for a driver to stop while a student ran an errand in a store). Many Ithaca High School students never knew any other kind of school bus.

By the 1959-60 school year there were other companies and private persons driving buses to transport children to schools in the Ithaca School District. There were two individually owned buses, Swarthout & Ferris had 18 drivers, Ithaca District had 14 drivers and Crispell Charter Service had 24 drivers, who included Town of Caroline residents: HENRY MORNER, DONALD MCMILLEN, ROLAND MILLER, JOSEPH WHITE, RONALD LAMPMAN, CARL MCKENZIE, BRYCE PARTRIDGE, "HANK" CRACE, and "DICK", "DAVE", and "HARRY" CRISPELL.

CRISPELL BROTHERS always had a truck or two and hired out for a variety of jobs. In 1929 Crispell Brothers received their first "charter" trip-taking Candor High School seniors to Washington, D.C. for their "Senior Trip." (see Biographical Notes)

WOMEN IN CAROLINE

And Some Of Their Organizations

"CAROLINE GIRLS" MEET AT FREEVILLE FOR 20TH REUNION

"The 20th annual Caroline Girls' reunion was held at Hotel Shaver, Freeville, Thursday, July 18. About 40 members from Ithaca, Cortland, Candor, Lisle, Dryden, Caroline, Slaterville and Freeville were present. Mrs. Orva Haskins Smith presided in a pleasing manner. Roll call was responded to with readings, poems, quotations and letters from absent members. Resolutions of sympathy upon the death of Mrs. S. E. Winchell and Mrs. Rose Smith were ordered placed upon the minutes. A letter from Ernest Winchell in memory of his wife was read and a picture of her presented by him to the organization. Election of officers made no changes excepting the election of Mrs. Orva Haskins Smith as president and Mrs. Martha Whiteley general flower committee chairman. Hotel Shaver was voted the meeting place for next year. A terrific thunder shower caused the visiting hour to be extended until later." (Ithaca Journal, July 22, 1921)

"The 25th annual reunion of the Caroline Girls was held in Freeville, N.Y. on Thursday, July 19, 1934 at Shavers Hotel.

The business session was held in the morning. Mrs. Homer Wool and Mrs. Hattie Smith both of Ithaca died during the past year and tribute was paid to their memory.

Of the original 8 members who started the organization 25 years ago, only two survive - Mrs Martha Haskin of Jacksonville, Florida and Mrs. Elizabeth Knapp of Pensacola, Florida, both of whom answered to roll call. Mrs. Knapp has the distinction of attending every meeting and has been Vice President during all those years. Election of officers resulted as follows:

Mrs. Milo Smith, President; Mrs. Elizabeth Knapp, Vice President; Mrs. Floyd Whitely, Secretary; Mrs. Kate Winchell, Treasurer.

It was voted to hold the 1935 meeting at the Brooktondale Congregational Church. After the business session was adjourned, a chicken dinner was served. A delightful afternoon was spent renewing friendships and playing cards. Aside from the Charter Members and the Officers mentioned, the following were present:

Mrs. Mary Renwick, Mrs. Will Bates, Mrs. Mary Beach, Mrs. Anna Tryon of Ithaca; Miss Margaret Nuttall of Brooktondale; Mrs. Charles Earsley, Mrs. Max Deyo of Caroline; Mrs. Hilma Johnson, Mrs. Leslie Crispell, Miss Sue Earsley of Slaterville Springs; Mrs. Cordelia Strong, Mrs. Charles Hyde, Mrs. Homer Genung, Mrs. Alice Gray of Freeville; Mrs. Howard Hazen of Dryden; Mrs. Carl Brogden of Cortland; Mrs. Mary Carrington of DeRuyter; Mrs. Esther O'Connell of Cooperstown; Mrs. Bert Locke, Mrs. LaVerne Lumbard, of Etna; Mrs. Hanna Eighmey, Mrs. Mary Robinson, Mrs. Clarice Jones of Speedsville.

(Ithaca Journal, July 1934)

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was actively promoted by three steadfast women of the Slaterville area: Mrs. A. A. Quick Brill, Mrs. Anna Root, and Mrs. Hazel Root Brill.

In 1935 a few local women organized a Writers Club which held meetings and encouraged women to develop their skills as writers. Mrs. Hazel Brill, Mrs Amy Atwater, and Lois O'Connor, a columnist for the Ithaca Journal, were among the first members. It has since become inactive.

The Caroline Ladies Aid Society

"The women's church group was called the Ladies' Aid Society and that was a most appropriate name for it. The ladies met every two weeks for a social afternoon of visiting, sewing for needy families, or making quilts which they sold for three or four dollars." They also helped the social life of the community with their chicken pie suppers, ice cream socials, bazaars, box socials, etc.

There is a photo showing "nine women standing behind nine bushels of potatoes and some old-fashioned potato hooks. The women were Esther Shaw, Mary Conrad, Lizzie Reed, Isobel Paterson, Elnora Borthwick, Ida Williams, Mrs. Fred King, Martha Yaple and Mrs. Pierce (minister's wife). Mr. (Del) Patch told the ladies that the lawn back of the church needed reseeding and he would do it. He said that he would "fit" the ground by raising potatoes there the first year IF they would harvest them...it was probably his idea of a joke but must have cost him a lot of work, for he grew the potatoes, took them to market, gave the Ladies Aid the money and then seeded the ground." Sally Patch was a long time member.

When the Methodist services ended so did the Ladies' Aid Society.
(Memoirs From the Life of Norman and Ida Mix

and interview with Ida Mix)

The Good Will Club was organized about 1840 by the women of Caroline hamlet with the help of Rev. Floyd Morris, pastor of the Caroline Valley Federated Church, along the same lines as the "Ladies Aid Society". It started as an afternoon meeting where local women met once a month to visit and sew, often for the Red Cross. Later it was a dinner meeting but they still sewed and also planned community suppers that were held in the Caroline Church basement. The Club was also active in repairs to this room. They continued to hold meetings for several years after the church was called the Caroline Community Church, and even when there were no longer church services being held.

The Club record books for 1967 and 1972 show that these women sponsored monthly "Community Suppers" (see COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES), bake sales, bazaars, quiltings and quilt sales. They sent flowers and gifts to the sick, Christmas packages to service personnel, the elderly, and "shut-ins". They fed Scout Troops 26 & 44 during special functions, held community picnics, and helped the Federated Church Ladies Aid and Slaterville Springs Firemans Auxiliary. Some of the women who participated in the Good Will Club were not members of the Caroline Community Church, but the club was principally a community rather than

a church organization. The Club was not active for a number of years, and the funds were given to the Slaterville Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Fund, and Ladies' Auxilliary.

The Epworth group of the Caroline Center Church was started in the 1870's. This group of ladies met once a month to discuss what had to be done for the church. It was their job to help raise money for the upkeep of the building and also of anyone in the neighborhood that was in need of help. This group would put on church suppers, ice cream socials, and bake sales. This group later became known as the Ladies' Aid Society. They maintained a membership of 15 to 25 women who usually met at noon for a dinner and invite the men. After dinner the ladies would have their business meeting. At these meetings they would make quilts, aprons, or bake goods to sell and raise money for the church down through the years. This money was used to buy stoves, chairs, curtains, cushions for the pews, or to put on a roof. As far as can be determined, this active group has met continually down through the years.

The Federated Church Ladies Aid Society started on June 10, 1868 and organized as the "Congregational Aid Society of Mott's Corners." Initiation fee was 25 cents, dues 5 cents per week. A moderator was "Accountable" for closing each meeting with prayer.

It was an industrious company. The members raised money by "sociables" of various kinds: chicken pie, maple sugar; by oyster suppers and strawberry festivals. They pieced and tied quilts for sale, made rag rugs, had bake sales, served cafeteria lunches and suppers, put on plays, sponsored concerts with home and outside talent. Their minutes state that a Victrola concert was given in 1915 by a gentleman from Hickey's Music Store; tickets 10 cents.

In spite of the slight charges for their work, these active women managed to pay \$300 on the original church debt, and as early as 1869 they paid \$129 for church carpet and \$74 for pulpit furniture, \$100 for stoves.

Missions came in for their share of the Society's generosity. Barrels and boxes of food and clothing as well as cash were sent to Indians in New Mexico, to the poor in New York City, to mission fields in India, Puerto Rico, and Alaska. They solicited funds for church repairs when necessary. Down through the years, the Society has given a specified sum each month toward the pastor's salary. During the First World War they spent much time and energy on Red Cross work.

In 1889 they adopted a new constitution and changed the name to "Ladies' Society of the Congregational Church." When the church body became part of the Federation, the women formed a Federated Ladies' Aid. The Congregational women became part of it, but also retained their identity as a Congregational group.

The Federated Ladies' Aid is still a strong force in the life of the church. Annually the Ladies' Aid hosts a Mother-Daughter Dinner, a Christmas Tea and sponsors the Christmas Country Store. Also, as a fund raiser they have two rummage sales each year. Included in their generous service to the church are baby and wedding showers as needed, assisting with dish-to-pass occasions, and providing drinks and light snacks after the Sunday services.

Because many of the younger women were not able to participate in all of the Ladies' Aid work, especially that held during the daytime, a second unit was formed in 1987. This was called the Ladies' Evening Circle. This group is "attuned to children, school and church work for the youth". It is generally composed of the younger ladies, but the two units often work together and some participate in both.

At one time a King's Daughters organization existed. In 1898, they proposed to buy a furnace and put it in running order. No doubt they did so; notes are few on their activities.

The Caroline Center Home Bureau was organized on or before 7 August 1920 with 22 members. Over the years the many Home Bureau units throughout the county have been disbanded but even though the name was changed to Caroline Homemakers Club, they are still affiliated with the Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County and use their services and advice.

It is interesting to note the signs of the times in the projects that were done over the years. From 1920 through 1930, they made dress forms and clothing, helped clean up the cemetery, painted and papered the Caroline Center Church basement. They had civic lessons, canned fruit for the hospital, sponsored a traveling library for Caroline Center, took lessons in home nursing and care of sick children.

In the '30's, the lessons were on low cost meals, proper care of the Flag, health care, making over clothes, and decorating their homes. During the '40's and '50's, they learned to black out windows, sew for the Red Cross, care for and repair electrical equipment. They had talks on cancer (with films), on heart disease, outdoor cooking, understanding themselves, their responsibility to schools and education, dehydrating food, additives, cake mixes, and shopping for credit.

In the '70's and '80's, they had lessons on home and health care, controlling garden insects, the dangers of insecticides, low salt diets, nutrition, financial planning. They made a quilt and many other craft items. They knit and crochet hats for the newborn babies at Tompkins County Community Hospital. They have co-sponsored with the Caroline Center Ladies Aid, a dinner to benefit a kidney failure victim.

They enjoy the basic friendship of working together and of helping their community when they can.

(Mrs. Florence Starr and Brooktondale Community Center Newsletter)

The Brooktondale Craft and Hobby Club was the name chosen on March 18th 1970 by the Brooktondale Home Demonstration Unit. Shortly thereafter, it disbanded and the funds that had been accumulated were used to send Annie Tyler and Glen Stearns to speech camp in 1976.

In the Spring of 1950, a letter from Mrs. Harold Fitts of Dryden was sent to the Slaterville Volunteer Fire Company regarding the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary. Mrs. Fitts offered to help start one. According to the minutes of the June 1950 Fire Company Meeting, after what must have been a lengthy discussion, Russ Boyer and Delbert Hanson, Jr. were

appointed to TELL the ladies of the community they could form a Ladies Auxiliary.

January 9, 1951, a meeting was called to order by Mrs. Estelle M. Drake of Brooktondale. Other visitors from Brooktondale were Mrs. June Tutton, Mrs. Clara Morey, and Mrs. Mary Oltz. It was decided at this meeting to form the Ladies Auxiliary, and it would be called Slaterville Volunteer Firemen's Auxiliary. Officers were elected at this meeting.

Mrs. Estelle Drake notified the Ladies Auxiliary of the Firemens Association of the State of New York that she had organized the Slaterville Firemen's Auxiliary, Slaterville Springs, New York on January 9, 1951.

The Preamble of the By Laws of the Slaterville Volunteer Firemen's Auxiliary say "The Purpose of this Auxiliary shall be to have regular meetings at which members can meet and to promote and assist the Slaterville Volunteer Fire Company."

During the first year, the Ladies were very busy. They put on dinners, bake sales, food sales, quilt raffles, and bazaars. They also held a plastic party, sold vanilla, pot holders, and shampoo. They even had a fish pond at the Eastern Star Bazaar. When asked what a fish pond was, one of the charter members explained that each plastic fish had a number on the bottom, and prizes were won according to the number drawn. The ladies also worked on the Carnival. They had a baby-sitting booth and charged 25 cents per hour per child.

The minutes were unclear as to whether the Oliver Fire was in July or August, however it was the first time the Auxiliary was called upon for drink and refreshments at a fire scene. After that, the women were asked, in case of a fire, to meet at the Fire Hall if they had a car available.

The Auxiliary purchased coffee urns, cups and knives for the Fire Hall. Most of the money the Auxiliary earned was given to the Fire Company directly or they purchased needed items for the Fire Company. The books were audited each year.

The Auxiliary ended its first year (1951) with 36 members.

The next year found the ladies still very busy, not only with fund raisers to help the Fire Company, but they also had a First Aid Course.

In April of 1952, the Auxiliary asked permission to use the hall. It was granted by Russell Boyer. On Friday, April 24, a "Game Party" was held with refreshments and soft drinks.

This same year, the Auxiliary made a motion to keep only \$75.00 in its treasury. All other money was turned over to the Fire Company. Members felt that this was correct, since the Auxiliary was established to help the Fire Company. The ladies also worked the carnival again.

In February of 1954, a committee was set up to buy dishes and silverware. The dishes (service for 100) were purchased from the

Syracuse China Factory at a cost of \$40.82. The stainless steel silverware cost \$48.90.

On September 8, 1954, Ralph Fuller asked the Auxiliary if they would be interested in joining the Civil Defense. The particulars were not known as to what would be expected. At the October 4, 1954 meeting, Mr. Wickham gave a talk on Civil Defense and what would be expected of the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary decided to join.

In February of 1955, the Auxiliary decided to take another First Aid Course. The course was open to any member of the community as well as the Auxiliary. In June 1955, the minutes state that two members gave a report on their snappy new uniforms. The Auxiliary collected toys and repaired them to give to the Salvation Army at Christmas. They also sponsored two needy children at the Reconstruction Home.

The Auxiliary joined, as a unit, the Tompkins County Firemens Association of Ladies Auxiliary in 1956.

In January of 1958, Denny Ryan made new tables for the Fire Hall since the old ones were lost in the fire at the Community Center. He was paid \$440.00 for eight tables.

The early years of the Auxiliary were extremely busy years. Many hours were spent with fund raisers of all kinds. The proceeds of a dinner for the Agriculture Engineering Starr on March 28, 1959 resulted in a donation to the Ambulance Fund. The Hose Team was given \$50.00 for their uniforms in June 1962.

In August of 1962, discussions started regarding a Marching Unit for the Auxiliary. Finally in April of 1963, they decided on a black and white striped dress to be ordered from Sears. Each member would buy her own. At the June meeting, they decided to wait another year and get regulation uniforms. The Marching Unit finally came to pass in 1964.

In May of that same year, it was decided that the Junior Auxiliary members must be daughters of Auxiliary members or firemen if they are not in the Fire District. They must be 16 years of age in the current year.

What is most remarkable about the minutes of the early meetings was the courtesy between the Firemen and Auxiliary. "Thank You" were words that flowed freely, either by a letter or in person. The Auxiliary members also praised one another for a job well done.

Over the years, the Auxiliary continued to help the Fire Company. The names and faces changed, but the purpose for existence did not change. THE GENTLEMEN OF THE FIRE COMPANY MADE A GOOD DECISION BACK IN JUNE OF 1950 WHEN THEY TOLD THE LADIES OF THE COMMUNITY THEY COULD FORM A LADIES AUXILIARY.

(Short History of S.V.F. Auxiliary,

by Sandra Clary, 1994)

The Sweetheart Girls of Brooktondale were the forerunners of the Fireflies, a band and marching unit that participated in Firemen's

Parades in the area in the 1950's and 60's. The Sweetheart girls were:
Sheila Vorhis, Lynne Lattin, Roberta and Dorothy Onan, Debbie Murray,
Cathy and Joan Shettle, Debbie Prescott, Judy Raponi, Karen Woodin,
Barbara Crumb, Roberta, Frances and Colleen Slaughter, and Debbie
Orton.

THE POLITICAL SCENE

"I would see this Government established on a foundation so firm and stable that the despots of the world might hurl against it their fiercest anathemas backed by their armed hosts without being able to cause a single pillar on which it rests even to vibrate from the force of the shock."

(George Wolcott, in a letter to his wife, Julia --2 Dec 1862.

The politics of this Nation has at times been a stormy one, and that also applies to the Town of Caroline. Whether it be choosing a name for the town, deciding to build a stockade in which to place stray animals, debating zoning laws or "Prohibition", the men and women of Caroline have used "due process" to make their wishes known. There have been times, however, when the citizens of the Town of Caroline have carried their opinions to the "Ithaca Democrat" or "Ithaca Journal" so as to have a larger audience.

The 28 April 1887 "Ithaca Democrat" shows a cartoon of a man in a corked bottle with the caption "SPEED OF CAROLINE", "Bottled and Corked by a Simple Prohibition Problem." The label on the bottle reads:

A is a Democrat & votes against sumptuary laws

B is a Republican who talks Prohibition and votes with liquor men

C is a Prohibitionist who votes as he believes

If A, B, & C represent the voters would B have to go to C or C to B to accomplish Prohibition?

The Ithaca Journal published a poem that showed how one Town of Caroline resident felt about the national political scene. (see Leisure Time Activities)

Another resident, Harry Boyce, voiced his feelings about Standard Oil, "catching skunks to raise a few dinners", the "ex-supervisor" and "foreigners" in The Brookton Oil Well Song.

The first town meeting was held "the second Tuesday in April, 1811" in Bush's Tavern. Caroline was organized as a town in Tioga County on 22 February 1811 (see Before There Was A Town of Caroline). The first supervisor was William Rounsvell; the first town clerk was Levi Slater.

In 1885, without yoking a single ox team of horses, a large number of South Dryden residents transferred allegiance to the Town of Caroline. Dwellers on lots 91 to 100 petitioned the transfer which was granted by Dryden Town Board on December 5, 1885. The reason for the petition? "Climbing over the South Hill ridge to conduct town business at Dryden Village in an era of dirt roads was too big a price to pay for the privileges of democracy."

Many willing people have served the people of the Town of Caroline by being elected to public office. They have done this while raising families, making a living, running farms and other businesses, and being active in their churches, clubs, and other activities. Old time family names of McGrath, Munch, Thomas, Goodrich, Lattin, Middaugh, Woodin, Westfall, Whittaker, Crispell, Nash, Beebe, McDaniels, Dean, Lockwood, Gallagher, Lounsbery, Jones, Snow, Ward, Fuller, and Bennett are found in the records. Not only "old-timers" are willing to serve. Other, newer names, are found also: Morgan, Jackson, Payton, Shaw, Harrington, Hughes, Henry, Brock, Howell, Schultz, Phoenix, Williams, Patterson, Short, Kish, Menzies, Davenport, and Hotaling.

Evelyn Brock was the first woman to be elected as Town Clerk. She tells that there was a bit of apprehension over her capabilities. She invited the Town Board to meet in her home, and after she served apple pie, the apprehension seemed to be gone. She served as the Clerk from 1948-59. Florence Starr served as Town Clerk 1959-79, Councilman 1980-81, and County Representative 1982-84. "Mal" Webb and Pat Osburn have been elected as Town Clerks since then. Sandra Sarsfield Payton was the first woman elected to the Town Board. She served from 1974-79. Since that time other women have been elected to the Town Board: Dorothy Yaple Mix, Maude Overbaugh, and Margaret Zimmer Scriber. Susanne Yaple served as Town Supervisor 1985.

LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES

In the days of the pioneer, "leisure time" or "spare time" was not a common occurrence. The pioneer did not "think up things to waste time on", instead, he would fill his days and evenings with different types of work. After "chores" were done, father might sit and mend a harness, husk some corn, repair a tool or carve out a new ax handle. Mother would mend or darn, shell beans, quilt or do some "fancy work".

Often, the community could "get together" and have a barn-raising, house-raising, or husking bee. Cornhusking gave a welcome chance to mingle work with that most tingling of entertainments: courtship. Living far apart, the younger set of the neighborhood had only rare occasions to get together. Cornhusking was one of them. The boys were bashful and the girls played hard to get, and finding the red ear of corn was a hilarious contrivance for promoting an opportunity for a kiss.

"Candy pullin'" was another one of the activities that might happen whenever the young people got together. Molasses taffy was cooked in a kettle on top of the kitchen stove and when ready for pulling was served out in gobs of a size to suit the manipulator. There was no better way to get your arms around the lady of your choice than to stand behind her and help to extricate her hands from a wad of taffy which could be as treacherous as the quicksand, though not usually as fatal. This is supposed to be the origin of the phrase about being "stuck on a girl." The object of the pulling was to make the taffy more brittle and tasty and to lessen the danger of extracting your teeth. It was also regarded as fun.

The church was the center of most community events. There were programs at Christmas time and Children's Day in early summer. Later the Sunday School picnic was held in a nearby woods. Often there were guest speakers and evangelistic meetings at church to keep up interest and membership.

To pass the time in winter the young people rode down hill, skated, and had sleigh rides if someone would furnish a team and sleigh.

On May first nearly everyone found a May Basket at his or her door, left there by a group of neighborhood youngsters who spent many happy hours making them from scraps of wallpaper. They were filled with early spring flowers and sometimes candy.

Summer was berry picking time, and wild berries were more plentiful than they are now.

The story is told of how there used to be peddlers of medicines who came through the country and sold remedies of all sorts. Such a peddler with his helper came to Caroline Center many years ago, set up a Medicine Show to demonstrate the use of his remedies. Everyone who made a purchase could vote for the person they felt should be the Beauty Queen of Caroline Center. The people lined up and bought well so the peddler decided to stay more than one day.

Young men of the area decided to liven up the contest a bit. Accordingly, they asked the Peddler's helper whether he would give them some ballots if they gave him a pint of liquor and he agreed. He gave them a cigar box full of ballots and they proceeded to fill them out with the name of a young lady who was not particularly attractive. Everyone felt sure that they knew who the winner would be. Then the ballots were counted, the individual nominated by the young men was the winner...and a sort of community uproar developed, but the young men kept very silent on their part in the election.

The 4th of July was usually celebrated with Old Home Days, parades or other activities. William Osburn wrote an article entitled "Speedsville's 4th of July Celebration...Noisy":

"July 4, 1836--"Cannon firing lively this morning" wrote Samuel Osburn in his diary.

"Many of the settlers in Speedsville were Revolutionary War veterans, as was Sam Osburn. One of his neighbors was Abner Merrick who had a cannon. It was an era when men really celebrated the 4th.

"Came the day, and Abner hauled the old piece down the hill to the village. At midnight of July 3, he had plenty of help to ring the church bells, load up the cannon with black powder and keep firing it for the whole day.

"Some other attractions on the program were horse racing and passing the hard cider jug until sometimes a fight added diversity to the events. Over the years some celebrants were hurt, as might have been expected of rough play.

"One year a novelty was added when the cannoneers got to trying to see how fast they could load and fire it off. Then it happened' a man rammed a charge of powder in while a spark from the previous discharge was still glowing, and it touched off the powder prematurely and drove the ramrod through the gunner's thigh.

"That spelled doom for the old cannon which was then hauled down to John Stern's swamp, then an extra load of powder was rammed home, the barrel plugged with clay, and the piece blown up. Thereupon, its remains were buried in the swamp.

"But still the men wanted to celebrate, so they took two blacksmith's anvils, turned bottomsides up on the ground. On the underside of this anvil was a hold about an inch square and an inch and a half deep; this was filled with black powder. A thin line of powder was drawn off to one side to act as a fuse, and a green leaf of burdock was placed so as to confine the gases by sealing up any unevenness.

"After this preliminary preparation was completed, the second anvil was upturned and balanced over the powder, leaving some of the fuse exposed. There were two methods used to fire the charge. The faster and the one most often used was to build a bonfire and heat an end of a steel rod about 12 feet long until red hot, then it was drawn over the fuse. The other method was to insert a piece of newspaper under the top anvil so that it hung down one side, and then ignite it. This took longer and sometimes failed to burn all the way to the fuse.

"On many occasions the celebrants would send somebody to get a supply of chickens for a roast. It didn't make much difference whose poultry house was visited, so not infrequently one would unknowingly enjoy a piece of his own chicken. He might find out the next morning if curiosity provoked him to count his flock."

A July 4, 1890 handbill from Speedsville states: "Trouble will begin at sunrise by the firing of a Grand National Salute of 42 Guns, the Ringing of Bells, etc. After which the Glorious National Birthday will be celebrated in a manner that will tickle the young, please the old and restore grey hairs to their natural color. The day will be spent in the Good Old Fashioned Way and nothing left undone to add to the hilarity of the occasion." Activities for the day included: Fat Man's Wheel-Barrow Race; Sack Race; Foot Race, Free to All; Potato Race; Horse Race; Fat Man's Foot Race; Oration; Fantasies; Ball game, Speedsville against Richford; Dancing in the evening in Johnson's Hall, Good music in Attendance; and fireworks in the evening. A note on the bottom of the handbill says, "The Police will be Muzzled at 10 A.M."

The Ladies Aid Society sponsored Ice Cream Socials, Bazaars, Chicken Pie Suppers, Box Socials, etc. These events were a great financial aid as well as a source of pleasure to the neighborhood people who could not jump into their car and go elsewhere as is now done.

Ice cream socials were especially popular for it was not possible to buy ice cream in rural communities then. To have a church ice cream social a couple of women, with horse and buggy, went from house to house collecting donated milk, eggs, sugar, flavoring, etc. to make the three 10 quart cans of cream.

Some woman cooked the custard and a man dug sawdust covered ice out of someone's icehouse. It usually needed a man to help turn the crank to freeze so much, unless there were enough big boys who wanted to "lick the ladle".

It was served a big saucerful for ten cents, and there was plenty of cake to eat with it. If any was left when the social was over it was repacked in ice and sold the next day. Some of the women drove from house to house with it and people came out with their own dished and bought it. They always made chocolate, lemon, and vanilla. Often the lemon and the vanilla were mixed for the morning sale, but any kind was a treat then.

Community Suppers were sponsored by the Good Will Club of the Caroline Community Church in the 1950-60's, and held in the church basement. The Club would decide on a main dish and members would bring "dish-to-pass" items that would fill out the menu. The community was invited to join and bring a dish to share. After "supper" the children would play games outside, or if the weather was bad they would play "poor-pussy", "Button-Button, Who's Got the Button", or "I Spy" upstairs. Sometimes they would "sing-along" around the piano. Adults would visit and have been known to have "corn-on-the-cob" or "pie-eating" contests. Howard Durbon, a slender man, usually won these contests.

The Caroline Literary Association, the first circulating library in the Town of Caroline - and probably in the county - was organized 13 January, 1818. Dr. Speed was the first librarian; there were forty members. It was managed by a board of trustees and continued for about

ten years before the association dissolved. For many years there was no library in the Town but the Finger Lakes Library System provided a "Bookmobile" or motorized library that visited small hamlets and villages in the Finger Lake area. This method became too expensive and in 1989 a "Reading Room" - an outlet of Tompkins County Public Library - was opened in the Town Hall in Slaterville Springs with an all-volunteer staff.

A hand bill tells when the Slaterville Skating Rink was completed, "with a new hard wood floor and furnished with all the modern conveniences", and opened to the public on "Tuesday Evening, September 23rd, 1884 and would continue the same every evening thereafter (excepting Sundays.)" Good music and instructors to aid beginners were in attendance. It was run by Henry Norwood and Omar Mulks.

Attractions for one week in October included a "greenhorn race for prize", "one-fourth mole race, prize, skating cap", "one-half mile race, first prize \$1.00, second, 50 cents", "apple race, prize, pair Henley skates", "fancy skating" and "on Wednesday afternoon the Rink will be open exclusively for Ladies".

On 3 February 1885 there was a "Candle Race!" "with a prize of \$1 worth of Rink Tickets for the one going six times around with a LIGHTED CANDLE." DEDERICK & MULKS were proprietors and Will Parker, Manager. On the 27th of February 1885 the Rink was also used for a "Social Hop", with full orchestra and supper to order.

Another hand bill tells of an exhibition of "graceful, fancy, trick, combination skating at the Brookton Rink, together with music by Besemer's Full Cornet Band", was provided patrons for the sum of 10 cents in 1884. The Handbill, printed by the Ithaca Journal, announced the "grand opening" of the roller skating rink at Brookton, when "two unsurpassed experts", George F. Edwards and Lynn Merril, would perform.

The rink was 110 x 44 feet, well arranged and heated; one of the very best and most attractive in this section of the State. Seating capacity for 1000 including gallery. Skates were rented for 10 cents. Parties from Ithaca and other towns were especially invited.

The premiere of the Rink was Wednesday evening, 26 November 1884. The rink was popular with young people and adults for many years. At one time Omar Mulks operated it. The building stood on the south side of the present highway near 526 and 528 Valley Road.

The Brooktondale Fire Department created an Ice Rink for the community by flooding an area near the Community Center and letting it freeze. The Community Center tried to do this for several years, also.

The Speedsville Comet Band (also known as the Speedsville Cornet Band) played Saturday nights in the pagoda. They also played for parades and at parties. E. Howe paid the band \$100.00 a year to play in the Speedsville park. Members of the band included: Otto Legg, John Sason, Hulett Liddington, Amos Hart, Ephraim Jordan, Homer Liddington, Theodore Eighmey, Thomas Nuttall, and Henry Nuttall.

Speedsville also boasted of Lyman Legg's Bowling Alley.

Where once the churches were the center of the community activities, today the Volunteer Fire Departments often are. Within the Town of Caroline the Chicken Bar-B-Q's of Slaterville Springs and Speedsville, and the Pancake Breakfasts of Brooktondale are always times to socialize, as well as support a worthwhile enterprise. There was a period of time, when both Brooktondale and Slaterville Springs sponsored Firemen's Carnivals.

The BEN WELCH SNOWSHOE CLUB was not a formal affair. Snowshoeing enthusiasts strapped on their snowshoes and a few miles beyond Caroline trekked up the gulch and over the hill to Ben Welch's lodge in Robinson Hollow. The starting-point could be anywhere along the road to Richford but the trail always converged toward Ben Welch's. The members of the Club would identify the tracks of wild things in the snow (so some of the boys up ahead made funny marks in the drifts for others to puzzle over), enjoy the beauty of the hills and forest in winter, and then partake of a hearty meal and story-telling or singing at Ben's lodge. "Ben exhibited a pair of homemade snowshoes constructed from green hardwood saplings by a neighbor boy named Fitzcharles. He had never seen a real snowshoe, but patterned these after the tracks left in the snow by the snowshoe club. "Don" Johnson borrowed them for display in Treman & King's window." (Ithaca Journal, ?)

The CAROLINE VALLEY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB feature event of 1951 was the raising and liberation of nearly 700 pheasants in this area and the planting of 12,000 trout in nearby streams. The club sponsored a boy at the State Conservation Camp and also placed the Conservationist magazine in 8 of the local schools. By the end of the year, their enrollment was 200. They purchased a set of "skeet traps and a straight" and plans were underway for their erection in the spring. A clubhouse was built in the spring of 1952 at what is now 114 South Road. In November 1952 the club was incorporated.

The Club held a "mortgage burning supper" on 4 September 1960 at 5:00 pm. The club served barbecued chicken and everyone brought a dish to pass and a donation.

The clubhouse was broken into and ransacked later, and in October 1970 the club was dissolved. At that time it had a membership of 24.

The Caroline Valley Coon Club on Central Chapel Road started in 1972. John Tharp had plot of ground he was told had quicksand in one spot. Howard "Hooch" Hilberry said it would be a good spot to make a pond to "swim" coon hounds in. They decided to do it, but were told would never hold water. They went ahead and scooped it out two days before the flood of 1972 hit. There has been water in the pond ever since.

The club was organized by John Tharp and John Cleveland.

Cornell University had placed some "moon" shacks, for their astronomy department on John Tharps property on Bald Hill. Tharp did not ask for a rent payment, but did ask for a couple of the buildings when they were no longer used. One Sunday morning, before traffic started, John Tharp, John Cleveland, Harry Dickson, and a number of other men pulled them down off of Bald Hill and set them on the property on Central Chapel Road.

John Tharp was the first President. The club bought the land on a 20 year lease, and later built new building.

The club sponsors a number of events, among them "swims", night hunts, shows, auctions, etc.

Dogs are auctioned off and bought for a race. The winner of the event has the entry fee returned to them. In a "swim", a racoon in a cage is towed across the pond. A group of six dogs swim after it and the first three dogs to cross the finish line are placed, respectively, in Division I, II, or III. All other dogs in that heat are in Division IV. After all the heats have been run (or "swum") each Division meets for field trials.

A licensed Night Hunt is held. The dogs are released and must "tree" a raccoon. The owner must be able to tell the judges what the dog is doing by the sound of his voice. When the dog is found at the tree, the dog must have his paws on the tree, and the judges must be able to see the raccoons eyes. No kills are made.

The first Masonic Lodge in the county, the Eagle Lodge was organized in 1808 at the home of General Cantine and held there and alternately at the inn of Luther Gere in Ithaca. It later became Caroline Lodge, No. 681.

Speedsville Lodge, No. 265, Free & Accepted Masons, was instituted 11 June 1851, and worked under a dispensation until 19 June 1852, when its charter was issued and 13 members enrolled.

The Caroline Lodge, No. 681, organized in November 1867 with 28 charter members. W. C. Gallagher, MD was the first master. The lodge was incorporated on June 20, 1887 with the following officers: Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior and Junior Deacon, Master of Ceremony, Stewart, and Tiler. The first lodge meetings were held in the attic of the Cantine "Mansion House" at 573 Brooktondale Road. Later they moved to Slaterville. They have been held at what is now (1993) the Town Hall in Slaterville Springs, Caroline Elementary School, and are now held at 2704 Slaterville Road, a former store. The building also houses the Slaterville Springs Post Office.

Past Masters include: E.H. Abbey, Howard Best, Frank J. Boice, James Boice, George M. Bull, C. L. Davis,

William C. Gallagher, C. J. Hamilton, Leroy J. Heffron, Leland J. Hollister, Richard Leonard, Leroy McWhorter, John B. Middaugh, W. H. Middaugh, John Morris, Bowne Mulks, Henry Schutt. R.G. H. Speed, Robert A. Wightman, Jay Phillips, Leslie Crispell, Orlin Warrne, Lamont Snow, Fred Atwater, Harry Crispell, Edwin Bakko, Clarence Griffin, D. A. Chatfield, Edward Wight, Herbert Schutt, Sr., Victor J. Moore, Albert Rich, Wilson Martin, Carlton McKenzie, Louis C. Walther, Samuel Markowitz, Anton Juhl, William Reed, Joseph Delong, John Adams, Lewis Oliver, Joseph Perko, Raymond Hart, Frank Muzzy, Guy Juhl, Jacob Jacobson, William Reed, Howard Pidduck, Clifton Cook, James Honness, Larry Knuutila, Roger Buckley, Gordon Ryan, Robert Doan, Raymond Ink, Maurice Skinny, R. Barry Goodrich, Duane Church, Harold Knuutila, Dean L'Amoraus, Jonathan Smith, William House, William Winters, Ross Welch, William Genter, Harold Phoenix, Albert Juhl, Bryce Partridge, Jr., and James A. Moravec.

BALL TEAMS were the pride of every community whether they boasted uniforms or not. Many an evening after "chores" were done, a ball game could be enjoyed by players and spectators alike. Rules were followed, somewhat, with each team deciding questionable plays, as there often were no umpires. Some lively debates often resulted. Ball teams then, as today, changed their players. Some players continued playing for many years, and provided experienced advice to the younger players. Some of the players lost the physical ability to continue playing, but remained loyal fans.

The earliest ball teams in the Town were from Speedsville, Brooktondale, and Slaterville. Caroline and Caroline Center sometimes had their own teams or sometimes interested players would play with another team. Teams competed for members, and the "hottest pitcher" in the area was Percy Yapple.

An early Speedsville team had Harry Shearer as manager. Herry's regular job was driving stage to Owego. Members of one Speedsville team consisted of Lew Lant, Ephraim and Fred Jordan, John Wood, Bill Liddington, Frank Baker, and Henry Boyer among others. Another Speedsville team listed Bill Liddington, John, Henry and Floyd Woodard, Ephraim and Bill Jordan, Clint Neff, George Legg and Harry Shear.

According to a 1961 report submitted to the United Fund, the Slaterville Springs Community Council sponsored the Community Center and a Youth Recreation Program for three age groups. The 6-11 group met at the Community Center on Thursday afternoons, while the two older groups, (12-14 and 15-18) met Monday evenings at 7 and 8 PM respectively, in the Caroline Elementary School Gym. All groups were supervised by Ithaca College Seniors from the Physical Education Department. Total attendance was 75-85 per week. Young people from the Town of Caroline were welcome at these sessions. Chaperoned dances for the young people were held twice a month. Shuffleboard, table tennis, wrestling and tumbling were available. The Council was also the sponsoring institution for Boy Scout Troop 44 and Cub Pack 44, which met regularly in the Center. Running expenses of the projects and the Center were covered by monies from United fund, State Aid from New York State Department for Youth, and donations.

In September 1993, Hazel Brill Brampton compiled "A Memoir of Early Boy Scouting in Slaterville Springs". She writes:

"My father, G. Meredith Brill, led the organizing of the Boy Scouts in Slaterville Springs. He did so soon after some boys climbed over Mr. Barrett's fence and killed the swans on his pond. As I look back, I believe that those boys didn't have enough to do until the Scouts engaged their interest. The year was [April] 1937.

"During the first 20 years of scouting in Slaterville, 140 boys were members of Troop 44. My father was Scoutmaster for about four years, then he took on the Cubs, the under 12 boys. He also served at Troop Committee Chair and was active in the Louis Agassez Fuertes Council, the parent organization for Boy Scouts of our region.

"I remember a time, during my father's tenure as Scoutmaster, when the boys were trying to start fires with flint and steel in metal dishpans in our living room. I giggled as they tried and tried, with little success. This must have been wintertime, as I can't imagine their doing

this indoors any other time. Our old living room rug got older and older while boys tramped in and out of our house during those years. My parents only replaced the rug after my father's active life with the Scouts had ended.

"Charter members of the troop were Walter Allmandinger, James Barnes, Henry Crace, Jr., Joseph DeLong, Ralph Fuller, Ray Leonard, Albert Martin, Jr., William Payson, Henry Payne, Donald Slater, and Rolland Snow. Richard Putney was the first Scoutmaster, with Hugh Howarth and John Lounsbery as Assistant Scoutmasters. My father, G. Meredith Brill, was first Chairman of the Troop Committee, and Leslie Crispell, Captain H. B. Moore, Reverend Ralph L. Williamson and Roland C. Brill, my uncle, were Committeemen. Troop 44 was part of the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Council, the regional organization of Boy Scouts. The Cubs began to meet in 1937 also, and the Explorers were created as our older boys needed more challenges.

On June 28, 1938, the Cubs (under 12 boys) held a parade and circus in Slaterville, stopping traffic on Route 79 for the parade, believe it or not! I remember being jealous of my cousin, Bobbie Brill, who got to ride in the pony cart with Ralph Fuller, the supervising Scout and owner of the pony. Ralph wouldn't let me ride, in spite of my hopeful hanging around. This event, with lemonade served under our apple tree by Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Williamson, Den Mothers for the Cubs, raised \$4.15. Children paid 3 cents, grown-ups 5 cents for lemonade, according to the sign which my father saved.

"Three Scouts from Troop 44 were part of the Council World's Fair Troops of 1939 and 1940. My father was Assistant Scoutmaster of that Troop in 1940. A Boy Scout Circus at the Drill Hall (now Barton Hall) at Cornell, was held in 1939 and mentions our Troop and its "Parent Institution" as the Ladies Aid Society and the Methodist-Episcopal Church.

"This church building, in the center of the village, was the site for most of the Scout meetings until it burned in 1957. After the M-E Church merged with the Brooktondale Methodist Church, the building became, with much work by many volunteers and contributors, the Slaterville Springs Community Center. By 1948 it was functioning as the virtual heart of the town. What a loss when it burned! My father had led the struggle to create a Community Center, and was to go on with the Scouts and the Community Council, which by then was sponsoring many activities. After our school building was abandoned in the 'centralization' moves in 1959, volunteers again worked to rehabilitate that building as a second Community Center, with athletic activity to take place in the new Caroline School gymnasium. The Scouts and Cubs were closely linked with these buildings and with the Community Council which oversaw local activities for all ages. Scouts raised money, worked on the buildings, and used the facilities.

"Three of our charter member Scouts were killed in World War II: Roland Brill, Jr., Henry Crace, Jr., and William Payson.

"The troop took part in many local Council and regional Scout events throughout the years, as well as the World's Fair. The 'Panjandrum' at Barton Hall in 1947 and the Scout-O-Rama of 1958 at Cornell saw them as participants. They also contributed much to our community, working on paper drives during the war [WW II] for the Tompkins County War and

Community Fund, and helping to remodel the Church in the mid-40's and the old school in the late 50's.

"By 1950, the Scouts and Cubs were receiving financial support from the New York State Youth Commission through money given to the Town of Caroline and thence to the Slaterville Springs Community Council. The 'state aid' also supported other community programs such as athletics, musical, theater, and social activities for youngsters ages 5 to 21, and public services such as pre-school clinics and bloodmobiles.

"Ithaca College students were recreational supervisors for activities at the new school. Letters I found show that once a student failed to appear, and there were problems, as you might imagine, for the youngsters were left unsupervised that evening.

"A newly organized Youth Council, representing various groups in the Town of Caroline, aided the supervising students as needed. The Youth Council also sponsored a softball team which competed in the Caroline Valley League, and at whose games I became proficient in yelling "Glass eye, Ump!"

"Civil Defense first aid meetings during the war were also held, and a schedule for March 1951 at the Comuntiy Center shown not only activities for youth, but also public dinners, square dances, the St. Thomas Sunday School, and play groups.

"Meredith Brill, whose life continued to be closely linked to the Scouts, the Community Center and Council, won the Silver Beaver, Scouting's highest award in 1953. It was the pride of his life. He served on the National Council of Boy Scouts from 1955-1963, and in 1969 was recognized by them for his more than 30 years of Scouting work.

"In 1954, Roland Brill, Sr., gave Chestnut Ridge Farm, originally my great, great, great grandfather's farm, to the Scout Council for a camping site, and for "Camporees", annual events with many troops participating in outdoor skills and crafts competitions. (At this date, 1993, the farm is back in the family, as my cousin, Robert Brill has bought it from the Council.) My grandfather, George Mackenzie Brill, and my father together gave funds to build a shelter at Chestnut Ridge. A flagpole, with a plaque in memory of my cousin, Roland Brill, Jr., was erected and formally presented to the Scouts in 1958.

"Other whole families became involved in Scouting, including the Crispells, the Joseph White's, and the Clarence Stephens's. A picture from the Ithaca Journal dated 1957 shows Advisor Francis Hamilton, Scoutmaster Joseph White, Cubmaster Clarence Stephens, and Harry Crispell, who was at that time a 15 year veteran of the Troop Committee.

"An agenda for a Charter Scout meeting in 1961 speaks of presentations, merit badges and awards given, and at the end, "Games and Eats". That's my father!

"As I look back, I'm proud of my father who, through his leadership and commitment, helped to create a town that was a real community, a good

place to live, with important services and fun things to do right up the street."

On May 17, 1957, the Charter for Pack, Scout Troop, and Explorer Post 44 was presented at a 20th Anniversary meeting. Stanley Kordziel was the Chairman of the Pack Committee and Clarence Stephens was Cubmaster. Mr. G. Meredith Brill was Chairman of the Troop Committee and Joseph White was Scoutmaster. Dennis Ryan was Chairman of the Post Committee and Francis Hamilton was the Post Adviser.

Brooktondale, also had an active Boy Scout unit. Troop 26 was especially active in promoting "Clean Up Day" within the Town. The Scouts from Troop 26 and Troop 44, along with trucks and drivers supplied by Tompkins County Department of Public Works, and Town of Caroline Highway Department, conducted a clean-up campaign along miles of Town roads. They initiated the "Boy Power" project in 1964. A few years later it was called "Boy Power Plus" when Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls joined in the campaign.

By April of 1970, the clean-up campaign had "mushroomed to include 12 units around the county and five within the City of Ithaca." The April 21, 1970 article in the Ithaca Journal also states: "It is a little ironical, perhaps, that the man who has successfully promoted the litter clean-up from a neighborhood scouting effort to a project of the size and scope of the one this year is Lawrence Woodin.

"Woodin can't see the mess.

"He has been blind since 1958."

In October 1970 Larry Woodin coordinated the Organized American Energy Conservation clean-up project with the help of John Blizzard, head of the Ithaca unit of the Johnny Horizon program of the US Department of Interior, Rocco Jaconis, Al Vogel, and Paul Menzies, Town of Caroline Supervisor. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H groups, Camp Fire Girls, The Sierra Club, the Cornell Conservation Club, The Gem and Mineral Club, and Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity were some of the participants. Trucks and volunteer drivers were provided by the Town of Caroline, Tompkins County Highway Department, New York State Highway Department, City of Ithaca, and Town of Ulysses. The Carl Yengo Distributing Company of Ithaca provided 500 large heavyweight plastic bags, and McDonalds and other groups provided free lunches for the workers.

By the April 29, 1972 the entire county was involved in the clean-up effort. It was estimated that more than 1,000 people participated in the clean-up day, along with every highway department in the county.

MUSIC, ART, AND LITERATURE IN CAROLINE

Pioneer life was a hard existence and any expressions of art were private. They often were expressed in the refinement of the pioneer surroundings, a quilt, embroidery or other "fancywork" on an item of clothing, an unusual basket or woven material.

Music was often self-taught on portable instruments. Pianos or harpsichord were only for the very rich and special lessons were needed to master these instruments.

As the Town of Caroline grew and developed, music became more a part of daily life. The students of music were being taught by someone, but it is not until the 1875 New York State Census that the term "Music Teacher" is listed in the column for Occupations for J. Patch (female) and Mary Tobey. In 1892 George B. Harris is listed as a "Musician" and Mable L. Webb, Clarice Jones, and Maran (Marian) H. Tobey are listed as Music Teachers. The Federal Census of 1900 lists Marion H. Tobey as a piano teacher and Catherine Bull as a violin teacher. The 1905 Census found Maude D. Clark, Lucinda M. Scott and Mary R. Halmer listed as musicians (Halmer was also listed as a teacher), Mable L. [Webb] VanDyke and Marian H. Tobbey [Tobey] as music teachers, and Chauncey L. Gifford as a piano tuner. In 1915 Elizabeth Phillips, Cressie L. Conrad and Bessie J. Johnson were giving lessons (Bessie J. Johnson still gave lessons in the 1960's), and in 1925, the last census that is available, Mary J. Robinson and Cressie L. Osmun are listed as music teachers.

In 1865, Arnold James was listed on the Census as a "painter" but it is believed that he painted buildings, not works of art. Miss Marian "May" Tobey was known for her artistic talent, as well as her musical ability. A drawing of the "Big Bridge at Mott's Corners" is at the Tompkins County Museum, and was completed 13 November 1897. Many people in the area have "done a little" painting or drawing, but mostly for their own enjoyment or as gifts. The historical watercolors of Carl English have been enjoyed by the members of the community for many years.

In 1917, Harry Boyce of "Brookton" wrote a number of poems and songs in a bound composition book. They include "Where the Chicken Got the Axe" and "The Brookton Oil Well Song".

Mr. Boyce was not the only resident who wrote poetry. Songs and poems about the Town of Caroline include CAROLINE HILLS by G. E. Smiley and THE FARMER AND ROOSEVELT by Floyd Steenberg.

THE FARMER AND ROOSEVELT

by Floyd W. Steenberg - Caroline

To the Editor of the Journal:

As I rise from my humble bed just at the break
of day,

I look upon the budding trees, they do look
fine I say.

And as I don my overalls that I wore all last
year,

I try to solve the problem how I'll get another
pair.

I note the patches on the knees; The seat is
getting thin,

But just the same I'm thankful they still cover
up my skin.

And as I hike me toward the barn, I ponder,
more and more,

I see my shoes are nearly gone, my feet are
getting sore.

I think who we elected just back in thirty-two

And the many things he promised for the poor
man he would do.

He said he'd cut expenses and the taxes "I'll
be darned"

That we should have fair prices for the produce
of the farm.

We tilled the fields, and sowed the grain; of
swine, we raises a few,

You will wonder, when I tell you, what this man
did really do.

He called his friends all to him and gave each
one a job,

To go out among the farmers and take away their
hogs.

The hogs went to the packers, then to people
out of work,

And when they reached their tables, they had
all turned to side pork.

The ham and shoulders disappeared completely
out of sight,

Tho' spoken of real quietly they never came to
light.

They decided they would leave the corn there as
the farmer's lot

But he had no hogs to feed it to, so it did
mould and rot.

Then when the tax list did appear, it was sure
some surprise,

Instead of being lower, there was a nice big
rise.

But just the same we like it, and we'll imitate
his grin,

Ev'n tho' the winter blasts do now have access
to our skins.

We will still be true and faithful, of good
courage, and much home,

And we'll hold our mouths wide open while he
fills them full of soap.

When thirty-six does roll around, if we're
still on this earth,

We will see that he's elected and has a nice
warm berth.

CAROLINE HILLS

by G. E. Smiley

Oh! the fond recollections of the days of our
childhood

Bring to our hearts the greatest of thrills -

That wandering stream with its pools and its
brambles

And the broad panorama from those Caroline
Hills.

The old covered bridge with those willows
around it

Its shade and its mint held a perfume so rare

That no poet or seer can describe its sweet
fragrance.

If you would know its aroma, just journey out
there;

Or if you would listen to music truly celestial

Of robin or blue-bird, the finch or the thrush

Just sit on the banks of that old Six-mile
brooklet

And allow its cool water before you to rush.

If a scene for your canvas in art you are
longing

You need seek no further, what I am saying is
true;

Look out on those valleys, from Caroline
hilltops

On a sunset at evening that is waiting for you.

But as I sit in my musings with affections I
treasure

My eyes fast are filling with memory's tears

For I see through the mist many faces are
missing

What a weird solemn truth is the passing of
years.

But again if you wish for a scene that's more
somber

Then hold my hand tightly as onward we stroll

For we now must tread softly as we read the
inscriptions

Of loved ones departed in that court on the
knoll.

So with tender affection and love all enduring;

Our hearts overflow as our tributes we pay

To Caroline Hills with her woodlands and beauty

When soon we shall be a part of her clay.

But as we awake on the "morn" in its marvelous
glory

And view once again our garden of thrills

We shall pause for an instant to thank our
Creator

He fashioned for us, OLD CAROLINE HILLS!

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Early medicine and surgery was "a far cry" from what we know today. There were no antibiotics or man-made drugs, only herbs and natural ingredients were used for healing. Various chlorine solutions, carbolic acid, oil of tar, alcohol solutions, and balsams were used for dressings. They did not do much to prevent infections.

There was no oxygen available, there were no blood transfusions or laboratories. There were very few precision instruments, although in the 1880's there was the stethoscope and a thermometer that took three minutes to register.

Operating equipment consisted of a plain wooden table for the instruments, linen or oakum dressings, unbleached muslin bandages (there was no absorbent cotton) and a large tin basin. In this basin were one or two sea sponges, and instructions were to have them so clean that no sand or bits of shells could get into the wound because such foreign bodies were irritating! Sponges were to be squeezed out over a slop jar in the course of an operation in order to avoid changing the water in the basin too frequently.

If the metal parts of surgical instruments were clean and free from previous surgery, the wooden handle didn't matter so much. Most of the surgery was done in the private home after all rugs and carpets were removed from the floor, and the window soaped (so the curious could not see inside, but light could still enter).

The surgeon carried a large bag with a special compartment for gown, towels, sponges, bandages, antiseptic solutions, catgut and silk ligatures, and his instruments.

To avoid soiling his clothes, the surgeon donned his gown which was a clean kitchen apron or a linen duster. He washed his hands after the surgery rather than before. If his knife was too dull, he might give it a slash or two across the sole of his leather shoe to keen its edge. While tying a tourniquet, he might hold it between his teeth.

After supplying the pan, pail, pitcher and hot water, the whole family often would go into conference on the advisability of a surgical procedure. It was customary to use one basin of water, with one or two sponges, but the water was changed between each case. It was poured from the pitcher and the sponges rinsed only when it was necessary.

The majority of doctors would examine an obstetrics case and then go on to the next without any sort of preparation. Although some physicians felt that childbed fever and other diseases were contagious, they could not understand how they were transmitted.

From the beginning, there was a need for physicians. Daily life was hard and dangerous, and accidents were frequent. There was little knowledge of sanitation or hygiene, and both typhoid and tuberculosis took their toll of the rural neighborhood. Diphtheria, measles, and pneumonia were common killers, and seemed to rage through neighborhoods unchecked. The New York State Census for 1865 notes that "Diphtheria

caused 2/3 of the deaths" in the Town. The 1875 Census states that in District 2--"50% of deaths from Typhoid Pneumonia a disease heretofore unknown to this section". Early doctors admitted that their education was limited, and luck played an important part in the healing of their patients. Also, with a frequency which today seems incredible, new babies were being added to the community.

Families had to rely on home remedies, often handed down from generation to generation. The book, "The Peoples Common Sense Medical Adviser" by R.V.Pierce, M.D. published in 1895, lists some such remedies.

Most medicines were extracted from the roots, leaves, bark, petals and buds of plants. Pumpkin and watermelon seeds and the ashes of some trees were also used. The three most common classifications of prepared medicine were, Tinctures, Infusions and Decoctions.

A Tincture was made by bruising the fresh part of the plant, covering it with good strong whiskey, corking it tightly and letting it stand for about 14 days. It was then filtered and ready for use. Infusions were made by adding one-half ounce of the prepared plant to a pint of water. It was tightly corked and left to stand in a warm place. Decoctions were made in the same was as infusions except they were boiled in a tightly covered dish.

DOCTORS

The Town of Caroline has been fortunate to have been served by some outstanding doctors. Dr. Peter Gott, M.D., in his book No House Calls, describes them, as "these extraordinary doctors, like those before them, had great presence. They used their experience, judgment and phenomenal knowledge to diagnose an astounding array of ailments. They had charm, understanding and self-discipline. They were, at times, ferocious in their own gentle ways. They expected intellectual honesty in themselves and in others...We were (sometimes) terrified of them, but at the same time, we were drawn to them because of their greatness.

"They were never rude to patients. They were compassionate and understood the meaning of disease and discomfort; the meaning to each patient as a unique individual. In addition to dealing with difficult diseases, they helped patients cope with fear, hopelessness and loneliness...

"They showed perspective. They taught by example...Their own personal lives may have been in disorder - we never cared and never asked. They were committed to the conviction that what they had could achieve meaning only by being given and shared...

"Many of their qualities seem to linger in the most unlikely places: everyday Clark Kent physicians who carry on the honorable traditions of the healing profession, without the recognition and appreciation of anyone other than their own patients."

Some of these well loved, dedicated, medical people include Dr. Joseph Speed, who trained under Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; in 1850--H. W. Bull, James Ashley, William Burr, L. H. Davis, James Deland, Edward Eldridge, Daniel Mead,

Richard Middaugh, Bulin Robins, Cornelius Stillwell; in 1860--Henry W. Bull, T. S. Armstrong, S. H. French, and Jacob Hillany or Hillary (listed on the census as "negro"); in 1865--Joseph L. Walters, George W. Northrup were also listed. We can add to that list from the 1868-69 Tompkins County Directory, Town of Caroline: Dr. C. H. Gallagher, Ransom Johnson, and John C. Wall.

District 1 of the Town of Caroline reported on the 1875 New York State Census--"very healthy just now as I find but 4 deaths in the last year we have a very good Doctor just now". The Doctor living in that district was Dr. Ransom Johnson.

Other doctors were :Isaac W. Gay, Thompson C. Straight, Abram Watkins, William B. Christopher, DeForrest T. A. Reid, Albert G. Watkins, Deforest E. Reid, and in 1870 two men were listed on the census as "student of medicine", Gardner Gallagher and A. P. Rounsville.

Let us not forget our more modern day healers: Dr. Howard Besemer and his father Dr. Martin Besemer, Dr. William C. Gallagher and his son Dr. Charles H. Gallagher (died in W.W. I), Dr. William W. Root, Dr. Edward L. Bull, Dr. Benjamin Lockwood, Dr. Mary Ridgway Tinker and her husband Dr. Martin B. Tinker.

BOARD OF HEALTH

On 18 March 1907, a meeting of the Board of Health of the Town of Caroline, held at the Town Clerk's office, Brookton, resolved that:

1. Whatever building or cellar is dangerous to human life or health because of overcrowding, insufficient support, ventilation, sewer, drainage, lighting or cleanliness; and every person having aided in creating or contributing to the same shall be liable for the expense of the remedy required.
2. Every head of family in a house where there is any case of infectious disease shall report it to the board of health or health office within 12 hours. No clothing or other article shall be removed from the house or can an occupant change his residence.
3. A quarantine card will be placed on the house, no person shall leave or enter the house thereafter. No child or teacher residing in the house will be allowed to attend school without written permission. The diseases included: "Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus and typhoid fevers, pulmonary tuberculosis, cerebrospinal meningitis, smallpox, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria and ophthalmia neonatorum."
4. No person or article "liable to propagate a dangerous disease" can be brought within the limits of the Town without permission.
5. Caregivers or patients, (or articles belonging to them) affected with contagious or infectious diseases, cannot be moved from one building to another. (This includes dead bodies)
6. School books or books from a public or circulating library cannot be taken into a house where "smallpox, typhus fever, diphtheria, membranous croup, scarlet fever, measles or whooping cough" exists. The

books must be destroyed or properly disinfected before they are replaced into circulation.

7. No church or public funeral of any person who died of "Asiatic cholera, smallpox, typhus or typhoid fever, diphtheria, cerebrospinal meningitis, scarlet fever or measles". The family "will limit the attendance to as few as possible".

8. The health officer is empowered to execute and enforce all sanitary regulations.

9. Violation results in arrest, penalty, fine, action and punishment.

George R. Peck, Supervisor J.C. Bennett, Town Clerk

F. A. Snow, Justice F. M. Bull, Justice

E. H. Mitchell, Justice E. H. Mitchell, Justice

Gardner K. Doughty, Justice F. N. Patch, Citizen

C.H. Gallagher, M.D., Health Officer

The "quarantine card" when placed on the door of a home kept the disease somewhat localized, but could cause problems with everyday life. One man was in the barn when the doctor came and placed the card on the door. He could not go back into the house. Groceries were delivered to the porch, and those within had to retrieve them from there.

In 1893 Lyman and Phil Legg drank from a spring in Speedsville which was infected with typhoid, and contracted the disease. Lyman died the same year, but Phil survived only to die three years later of a ruptured appendix. The last cases of typhoid in the area were in Richford.

Medicine has seen tremendous changes since the 1900's. Dr. Lockwood saw the last case of diphtheria in Speedsville. Polio, which struck those of younger ages in warm months, has almost disappeared completely, thanks to the Salk vaccine. Tetnus, which once was deadly, has been controlled. The original anti-toxin, which was a "horse serum" could cause allergic reaction, but has been improved and a human serum is now used.

One of the biggest changes in medicine has been the discovery of antibiotics. Before penicillin was discovered, pneumonia was a common cause of death. Dr. Mary Tinker tells of taking a man to the hospital in Ithaca who had pneumonia. It was the first time she had given the penicillin treatment, and had to give injections every three hours, but the recovery was so rapid it seemed a miracle. She said, "It was marvelous with the coming of penicillin, just marvelous. It was an exciting time." Now, of course, we take for granted the wide range of antibiotics that can take the place of that first "miracle drug".

The sickness and loss of a child can be the most devastating experience for a family. In early days, children died frequently of disease or

injury, and the cemeteries are filled with their sad graves. Thankfully, the rate of childhood deaths in the Town of Caroline has fallen in recent years, and that is due in large part to the WELL CHILD CLINIC. The Tompkins County Health Department set up the well child clinic in Caroline, through the aid of Dr. Mary Tinker. Here the child is given a routine physical and immunizations against childhood diseases. The clinic is held monthly and were first held in Mrs. Ward's house, 535 Brooktondale Road. They were then moved to the Community Center in Slaterville Springs (the Methodist-Episcopal Church). When that building burned in 1957 the clinic was moved to the school in Slaterville (now the Town Hall) and then to the Slaterville Springs Fire Hall. After a while, the clinic was held at the Caroline Elementary School, and has since moved to the Caroline Valley Federated Church on Valley Road in Brooktondale. Dr. Tinker conducts the clinic with the aid of a Public Health Nurse.

NURSING HOME

Not everyone could care for his or her family at home, and after 1900, nursing homes came into being. They gave non-hospital care to elderly in a home like setting. Ithaca Journal, May 28, 1926 mentions the death of a Newfield gentlemen "at the Sunny Side Nursing Home in Caroline"... "his condition became so much worse he was obliged to leave his home and be cared for at a nursing home by Mrs. M. C. Black."

Mr. & Mrs. Max Black lived in "the old Nathaniel Tobey house" which has since burned. A small house was built on the site at 3300 Slaterville Road.

The house at the corner of Caroline Depot and White Church Roads also served as a Nursing Home.

NURSES

Nurses, whether professionally trained, or those who had on-the-job training, were a mainstay of the community. They often lived in the home and not only took care of the patient, but looked after the rest of the household, also. Their services were called upon when new life, injury or illness entered a household. Each community had nurses or mid-wives who were much in demand, and had to be booked in advance to attend a birth.

The 1892 New York State Census is the first to list "nurse" as an occupation, even though women had been fulfilling that calling for ages, and many never referred to themselves as such. Mary Eliza Vermilya is the first to be listed as a "nurse", while in 1900 Susie M. Thayer is listed as a "trained nurse". By 1925 Isabella Davis and another 60 year old female (whose name cannot be deciphered) were listed as nurses. "Prue" Ridgway was a nurse in Germantown, Pennsylvania working for Dr. Mary Ridgway when she met the doctor's brother, Walter. They married and moved to Caroline and became the parents of "our" Dr. Mary Ridgway Tinker.

For many years, Mable VanDyke was much in demand for "lying in", or birth. Other nurses of the Town of Caroline include Edith Snow, who served in the U.S. Army, and Mrs. Ruth Besemer who was known as "Dr. Mary's Nurse". In March 1971, while the roads were blocked with snow, the snowplow tried to get unstuck, and the wind blew, two nurses in

Caroline managed to reach the home of a woman who was about to give birth. Mrs. Leslie Maust walked and Jeanette Mix was taken by snowmobile by her aunt, "Dotty" Mix, and arrived in time to deliver Gary John Brown. The comment was made that "It was just like in the olden days. Thankfully, there were no complications!"

CLARA GOODMAN was known in the Town of Caroline, as well as the rest of Tompkins County as "our County Nurse", even though she lived in Ithaca. She came into our homes, schools, clinics and hearts with a friendly smile and a willingness to help. Many elderly and disabled were able to stay in their homes because of the kind of care she gave. When she received the Tompkins County Medical Society's Health Citizen of the Year award, she was lauded with developing the county's home health care program which she "administered with compassion, understanding, friendliness and with efficiency....Now the bureaucracy of the state and nation has just begun to realize the need for the kind of home care that has been available to our community for 40 years. Their problem will be that there aren't many Clara Goodmans." (Ithaca Journal)

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLING

Education was one of the first priorities of pioneer life after the physical and spiritual well being was established. This was before the day of certification of teachers, and any person desiring to teach school was at liberty to do so, provided he or she could find someone willing to employ him. So it was that almost anybody who so desired could teach. Sometimes a clergyman was sufficiently educated that he could claim two occupations - clergyman and schoolmaster. Sometimes wise and understanding housewives and mothers of families became teachers because in their girlhood they had enjoyed a term or two of instruction in some primitive "academy" back in New England, where, as everybody knew, scholars were made. In many cases, the schoolmaster was a farmer who somehow or other had picked up a working knowledge of "reading, writing, and the rule of three" and thereby was qualified for his profession. These farmer-teachers might consider themselves farmers by vocation, but were happy to assume the role of teacher in the winter when the schools were functioning and the farm work was not too pressing. In the primitive schoolhouses a now-vanished race of schoolmasters who had never heard of child psychology taught at least "the three R's" more soundly and thoroughly, some oldsters will insist, than now.

The first schoolhouse erected in the Town of Caroline, was a small addition to the residence of John Robison in Slaterville in 1802, just seven years after the Earsley and Rich children arrived in town. Levi Slater, a "Yankee schoolteacher", arrived in what became known as "Slaterville" in 1801. In 1808, after the Mulks family had built a frame house, school was taught in the Mulks log cabin by John D. Bell.

Early schoolhouses were heated by fireplaces, and later by a stove. A block of wood, sawed off and placed in the front part of the schoolroom where all the pupils might see the unfortunate one seated upon it, was called the "dunce block". A less embarrassing use of the dunce block was as an elevation for small pupils when they were reciting. They were mounted upon it so they might be seen as well as heard.

In 1812 the state Legislature passed an act that established the "common school". Levi Slater, Joseph Speed and Augustine Boyer were appointed commissioners and by November 13, 1813, they had divided the town into 9 school districts. Their size was usually determined by what was regarded as a reasonable daily walk for a five-year-old child. Around this time there was a small frame school house in Tobeytown near where 3316 Slaterville Road is now. Mr. Benjamin Walter taught there in 1820, but within a few years, a new school was built at 3271 Slaterville Road. Mr. Mandeville kept school in Caroline Center.

Districts were altered as time went on and in 1820 there were 19 districts. In 1835 there were 17 districts, 925 students, and total teachers' wages \$560 exclusive of \$138 State aid. In 1840 there were 13 schools and 861 students. In 1850 the US Census listed one male teacher, James Northrup, even though there were more districts in the Town. (In that census female occupations were not generally listed). The 1860 US Census listed one male teacher--Moses Higgens (Higgins) and 16 female teachers: Elizabeth Hedyer, Matilda Freeman, Margaret Bush, Esther Wolcott, Elizabeth Higgins, Amelia Wolcott, Harriett Curtis,

Maria Cantine, Melissa Miller, Malvina Slater, Mary Winchell, Hannah Lewis, Frances Hart, Mary Andrews, Sarah Clark and Mary Grant. The 1875 New York State Census states that Moses Higgins, age 40, was "near blind", the average pay per day for a "Lady School Teacher" was \$1, and for Male teachers was 20 pence. (This same census tells us that a teamster with 2 horses averaged \$5 a day pay).

The "little red schoolhouse", so famous an institution in American life - was a place on which the children lavished no undue affection. In spring and fall the classes were largely composed of the younger children since the older ones were needed on the farm. It was during the winter term, with the classes crowded to the limit, that the so-called district school was at its best. Teachers in the districts were often "boarded" in the homes of the students. Each term would find the teacher "boarding" with a different student. Some homes offered comfortable rooms and hearty meals while others did not.

Times have changed, and today the "schoolhouse" in the Town of Caroline is often a residence. The Caroline school is 3271 Slaterville Road, Morris Chapel school is 1489 Coddington Road, and Caroline Center school is 713 Buffalo Road. The Brooktondale school burned in 1963 and in its place is the Brooktondale Community Center. The school in Speedsville is now the Parish Hall for St. John's Episcopal Church. The original Blackman Hill school (corner of Fire Tower Road and Blackman Hill Road) burned and there was quite a dispute as to where the replacement school should be built. Each man in the school district was asked to vote if the school should be built upon the same site as the one that burned, or a new site. The vote ended in a tie, so the directors asked the women in the district to vote also. This vote also ended in a tie so six families from out of the district were asked to vote and break the tie. The second Blackman Hill school is gone now and a trailer stands in its place at 131 Blackman Hill Road.

Children today are whisked into town by the school bus to a larger and much better-equipped institution of learning. The teacher of today who drives to school in her own car, misses the adventure, as well as the boredom, of "boarding around" among the families of the district.

In the early 1800's, there was no consistent way of spelling, and many of the educated, including Daniel Webster, tried to rectify that. Lyman Cobb taught at the school house, which stood on the Charles Mulks farm in Slaterville, for about two years. During that time he compiled Cobb's Spelling Book, which was issued in 1819. He later revised the speller, and compiled other school books, including Cobb's First Book, or, Introduction to the Spelling Book, Cobb's Expositor, Cobb's School Dictionary, a reading course, and an arithmetic course. The Cobb's Sequel to the Juvenile Readers was comprised of a selection of prose and poetry from American and English writers.

Most of the grade schools were of the one-room variety. Many of these were still in use until 1956 when the Town of Caroline School District consolidated with the Ithaca School District. The school at Slaterville Springs was a two-room grade school and a high school. Grades one through four were held in one room downstairs, grades five through eight in the other room downstairs in what is, in 1994, the Town Hall and Town Court Room. The high school was taught upstairs in what is now the Historical Room. At one time there was a teacher who was losing her eyesight and instead of pensioning her, she was allowed to continue

teaching. She would sit in the "recitation room", listen to the high school students recite their lessons, and give them oral exams.

One of the most unusual schools in the Town of Caroline in the late 1880's was the "Gab School", believed to have been District #1. Students did all of their work while talking to themselves. The theory was that hearing the information, as well as seeing it would help a student retain it, and students would also be taught to concentrate on the subject at hand. One of the drawbacks to this system was the noise generated by thirty students all talking at once. This method of teaching was not used more than a year or two.

There have been many teachers who have made a significant impact upon the lives of their students. The amount of education they had varied from "not much more than their students" to college graduates. Today, when speaking with residents who attended school in the Town of Caroline, you will hear the familiar names of favorite teachers: Mrs. Overbaugh, Lena Fuller, Sue Earsley, Cecil C. Keane, and Miss Williams (later known as Mrs. Whittaker). The lessons they taught were not limited to reading, writing, and arithmetic. They taught honesty, fair play, compassion, work, and the joy of learning.

THE LOCAL STORE

The country store, however small, must have been a bright spot to the farmer. Days spent behind the plow or the cultivator, looking at the rear end of a horse - or even a team of horses - can become monotonous. The eye craves a change of scene, a new face, another voice. Almost any excuse will do to get away. Perhaps a part for a machine, and why not take along a basket and bring back some fresh supplies.

A "shopping trip" to the crossroads store was something quite different. That was an occasion for dressing up. Mother took her basket of eggs in place of spending money, and father had a chance to talk with his old cronies, or perhaps to listen to them and find out what was going on in the world. The children, too, enjoyed the change of scene made memorable as well as adhesive by a stick of candy and perhaps some licorice drops.

As self-sufficient as the pioneers may have been, the general country store was none the less a sound part of community economy. Always, there were certain items quite beyond the productive skills of the pioneer or his neighbors, and yet it seemed hardly possible to do without them. The store-keeper's list of commodities was very brief as compared with the almost infinite variety of today, but there was at least this incomplete assortment: brown sugar, molasses, salt, spices, tea and coffee, saltpeter (for curing meat), various kinds of salt fish either pickled in brine or dried, indigo, saffron and other dye-stuffs, gunpowder, flowers of sulphur, and various drugs supposed to have medicinal value. Flour and meal were ground in the local mill for sale to those people unfortunate enough to have no land of their own, as well as being ground for those who brought their own grain to the miller...imported textiles...a certain line of hardware...there would be axes, grass scythes, cradle scythes, and tools for the carpenters...nail rods, along with iron and steel rods and bars of various sizes...certain utensils of kitchen use. (The Golden Age of Homespun, p.10)

The first store in the Town of Caroline was opened by John James Speed, Sr., in a log house in 1805. A ledger of a Slaterville store (1855) records that women had accounts at the store and were given the privilege of credit regardless of whether they were widows, maiden ladies, or wives. In return they paid their accounts by some cash or by use of the barter system; they brought items to the store for which money value was applied on the account. Some of the items exchanged for payment were: sharing of ponies, quantity of brick, work, working for people of the community who in turn paid cash to the store to apply on the account, pork, washings, butter, apples, tallow, oats, eggs, chickens, rags, socks and other homemade items and also board and/or room for the store clerk.

PRICES IN 1892/1992

Brooktondale store prices recorded in a small 3 x 5 account book for a Dry Goods and Grocery Store operated by Mr. FRANK C. VORHIS--1892--were

compared to prices at the Brooktondale "T n T" store operated by SCOTT and JENNY LOU (CLEVELAND) LOVEJOY in 1992.

ITEM 1892	ITEM 1992
matches \$.08	matches \$.49
1# lard .10	1# lard .79
5# sugar .28	5# sugar 3.19
pkg of tacks .05	pkg of tacks .59
cinnamon .02 1 oz	cinnamon .43
cloves .02 1 oz	cloves 3.79
fly paper .05	fly ribbon .45
1/2 # cheese .07	1/2 # cheese 1.45
1/2 # figs .10	1# figs 1.25
1 qt. molasses .08	1 qt. molasses 2.89
2 lemons .04	2 lemons .80
1 pie tin .05	1 alum. pie tin .63
1 doz eggs .24	1 doz eggs 1.05
1 cake soap .08	1 cake soap .89
1/2 # tea .25	1/2 # tea bags 4.69
1/2 # crackers .04	1/2 # crackers .89
1 cake of chocolate .23	1 cake of chocolate 1.79
2 oz vanilla .16	2 oz vanilla 4.10
1# rice .08	1# rice 1.59
soda & salt peter .01	salt peter .69
1# salt .01	1# salt .59
1 can salmon .20	1 -7.5oz can salmon 2.39
1/2 # coffee .15	1/2 # coffee 1.40
7# butter 1.13	7# butter 17.25

2# oatflakes .12	2# oatflakes 2.80
cayenne pepper .05	4 oz cayenne pepper 2.89
1 corn cob pipe .10	1 corn cob pipe 1.29
6# sweet potatoes .25	6# <u>canned</u> sweet 6.19 potatoes
1 gal oil .10	1 gal. oil 8.25

These items were available at Jo-Le Fabrics on Central Chapel Road in 1992:

thread .04	thread .85
5 batts .60	5 batts 25.00
1 ball yarn .08	1 yarn .98
14 yds calico .98	14 yds. calico 42.00
4 yds ticking .56	4 yds ticking 16.00
white lace .03 1 yd.	white lace .25
ribbon .09	1 yd. ribbon .25
13 1/2 yds muslin 1.35	13 1/2 yds muslin 27.50

The following items were not available in the local stores in the Town of Caroline in 1992: 1 # starch--.08, 1 funnel--.03, tobacco pail--.10, 3 milk pans--.36, 1 lamp chimney--.10, 1# codfish--.10, 1 doz corks--.06.

The early pioneer could not always find a store nearby, so the peddler's visit was a bright spot in the quiet life of the rural districts. For weeks, the household saved its rags, "coin", and other items of barter in anticipation of the event. The peddlers carried kitchenware, needles and thread, thimbles and buttons, piece goods and notions, as well as a hundred other household indispensables. Some of them even carried medicines for man and beast. They were real traders and seldom insisted on seeing any money in a deal. Always they were looking for a chance to swap horses, or they would make an offer on anything you would show them, old or new.

The 1850 U.S. census for the Town of Caroline lists 9 men with the occupation of peddler/trader. One was a "peddlar-dentist". Only 3 persons claimed to be "merchants". By 1860, there were only 2 peddlers and by 1865 only 1, but there were 9 "merchants" in the Town by then.

The new methods of transportation and manufacture associated with the Civil War brought about a change in the way people bought and sold. New industries were springing up during the Civil War and they were important not only as examples of American business acumen and sources of income for stockholders and tycoons, but they made for a new and

better life for the average family, giving them modern comforts and conveniences. The Railroads brought ready-to-wear clothing, shoes and boots, packaged food, utensils, household machines and other goods to the depots for the merchant to pick-up and sell in one location. The day of being completely self-sufficient on the farm had come to an end.

The 1875 New York State Census for the Town of Caroline shows 3 "small" retail stores in District 1 and 4 retail stores in District 2. Three persons listed their occupations as "grocers", seven as dry goods clerks and five as merchants. By 1892 there were 14 merchants, 7 clerks, 1 peddler, and 1 produce buyer listed for the Town of Caroline. The 1900 Federal Census shows us that there were more small specialty businesses in the Town besides the 15 merchants and 8 salesmen. There was a baker, milliner, 3 butchers, and 2 peddlers. The 1905 N Y State Census added a water vendor and a meat market, but the number of merchants fell to 9 while the number of salesmen/clerks stayed the same.

World War I made some change to the shopping habits of the Town of Caroline inhabitants. Rationing of some goods made some items difficult to come by in the local stores, but because of train service and the automobile, the trip to Ithaca became easier. Many people lived by the old adage "Make do or do without." By the time the 1925 New York State Census was taken, 29 persons listed their occupations as "merchant", "dealer", "cashier", "storekeeper", or "salesmen-saleswomen". Most of these did not practice these occupations within the limits of the town.

The depression era found more people living by that old adage. Many people in the Town were still farming and could raise most of their own food, or barter for what they needed. The mill in Brooktondale was still in operation and people could still receive credit or barter at the local store.

World War II rationing of gasoline still kept much trade at the local store. The 1944 Caroline Telephone book lists ads for:

"WILLIAM DINGLER, Caroline Center, Groceries, Meats, Gas and Oil, Soft Drinks, Beer and Ale on Ice"

"I.G.A Store, R.C. TUCKER" (Brooktondale)

"JESSIE BREWER, Dry Goods, Notions and Blankets, Greeting Cards, Brooktondale"

"A.A.SINSKI, Caroline, N.Y., General Merchandise and a Choice Line of Groceries"

"RED AND WHITE STORE, A.C. Ferguson, Choice Line of Groceries, Ice Cream and Candies, Baked Goods (Fresh Every Day), Colonial Gas and Oil, Slaterville Springs"

"I.G.A. GROCERIES, Quality Merchandise and Meats at Fair Prices, Socony Gasoline, CHARLES HENRY" (Slaterville Springs)

"BLACKBURN'S GAS STATION, Texaco--Tydol--Rota-Zol Gasoline, Groceries, Tobacco, Cigars, Candy, Slaterville Springs"

Guy and Mable Blackburn and their daughter, Leona W. Knapp, operated "Blackburn's Trading Post" in Slaterville for more than 22 years. Leona died in 1966 and John Barnes bought the store which he operated for a number of years. The Charles Henry IGA Store was owned later by Delbert and Edna Hansen, then Ronald and Elaine Lampman and Herbert (Sr.) and Mary (Lyme) Schutt, then Harold Phoenix Aug 1975-Jan 1981. In 1982 IVER JOHNSTON bought the building, tore it down and built a small "convenience" store. It was located at 2668 Slaterville Road (at the corner of Rt. 79 and Midline road) and was known as "the lower store", even after Blackburn's and Ferguson's had closed.

FERGUSON's store was located at 2704 Slaterville Road (now the Slaterville Post Office). DINGLER's store was located at 470 '76 Road (where '76, Buffalo and South Roads meet) and was originally built by Ed and Addie Lasby.

"Anyone who was ever in the Caroline hamlet from 1919 through 1952 likely visited Mom Sinski's country store. Patrons of the store remember standing in front and shouting "In the store," this was instinctive to all Carolinians.

"Anthoni and Alexandra Sinski bought their property in Caroline in 1919, having come with their five children Paul, Gertrude, Carl, Theresa and Daniel from Staten Island. The property housed a store, large house, barns and a deep lot which ran back past a stream [West Owego Creek] to what was referred to as "Round Top" mountain. Mom and Dad, as they were called by many, operated the store for approximately thirty-five years.

"Within the store, atop a square glass bread case stood a mouldy, cobwebbed, stuffed great-horned owl who looked down on a collection of canned goods, candies, a cheese wheel, gloves, thread, library books, horse whips, soda pop, motor oil and much, much more. An interesting counter ran down the center of the store. This counter was stacked high with cloth bags of flour, sugar and salt. The store was heated by a large pot-bellied stove where the regulars warmed their hands on cold winter days.

"Mom Sinski ran her store as a shrewd business woman. Some families used the barter system to buy goods from the store, others she carried "on account", but for the most part her business was on a cash and carry basis.

"World War II was hard on the business as Mom didn't always ask for coupons for sugar, coffee, canned goods, etc. and therefore couldn't re-stock her supplies. She said she felt sorry for the people who didn't have the coupons and would let them have the groceries anyway.

"About the mid '20's Mom decided she needed a hired hand and a New Yorker, Isaac Rex came to live with the Sinski's. Ike, as he was called, was a quiet man who loved to pick berries and make wine. His wine press was upstairs over the store behind a section once used as a dance hall. Ike was the general caretaker for the property, clipping the massive hedge that enclosed the house and lawn, mopping floors and feeding the animals.

"Anthoni, or Andy or Dad, as he was generally known, had an ice house near the stream. Nearby was a large maple grove where he tapped trees

and made syrup in his rustic syrup house. At one time Cornell students observed his syrup operation in conjunction with the Home Economics School. Syrup was sold in the store and firewood and ice were delivered by Dad to neighboring homes.

"Andy, a carpenter, saved all the sawdust to spread in his ice house. The early 1940's saw the demise of the ice business.

"During the late '30's and the early '40's Cornell built a ski trail in the Caroline hills where students would come to ski on the weekends. Often these "lads", as Mom referred to them, would seek her house for food and warmth. Mom would often serve eight or ten of them a Sunday dinner of goose, duck or chicken and to a cold, hungry skier these meals were well worth the 50 cents they paid her.

"The cry "In-n-n the store" is gone, the Caroline cracker-barrel era ended when the Sinski's sold their property in the early 1950's. The Sinski's and the country store were an important and necessary part of the life in Caroline."

("In-n-n-n The Store!" by Ann Marie Doyle and Dora Hymes)

Another Mom Sinski story is told by a local resident who worked on the Town highway crew. One day, while working on Level Green Road, he split his pants. During his lunch hour, he went to Sinski's store to buy some safety pins to hold things together until he got home. Mom Sinski said, "I have sewed lots of boys trousers," and had him lean over her lap while she sewed his pants together.

MODERN CONVENIENCES

Early settlers situated their houses to be convenient to water. "Running Water" often meant they "ran after it." "Water in--water out" was the goal of nearly every housewife. Some solved the problem by driving a well in the cellar of their house with the pitcher pump attached to the sink. Others used "pump logs" to bring water to them. Pump logs were tapered logs, 4-8 feet long, with a hole augured through them, lengthwise. The tapered end of one "log" was anchored in the wider end of another, and the log water pipe could then be run from the source of the water to a more convenient spot in the farmyard. The Earsley farm had at least two springs that had been "laid-up" or "boxed", and found in recent years.

The outhouse, or privy, was one of the first "out buildings" to become obsolete when running water came into the household. Water closets or bathrooms became an early convenience. Until a bathroom could be installed, young and old alike made the trip to the outhouse in good weather and bad, day or night. Chamber pots eliminated the middle-of-the-night trips, but they had to be emptied and cleaned each morning. A few houses had an "indoor-outhouse" attached to the back of the house or woodshed and accessible without going outside. They were still cold in winter.

The one item most people over 90 consider in their list of "Miracles In My Lifetime", besides airplanes, is the automobile. These wonderful machines changed life in the 20th century from the speed of one horse to the speed of hundreds. It is hard to imagine that it took an hour and a half or two (in good weather) to drive to Ithaca, a half hour to go to Brooktondale from Slaterville or Caroline Center, and almost an hour to go from Brooktondale to Speedsville. It is said that a good team can go seven miles in one hour, a mule would go about three miles an hour, and if urged he reduced that to two and a half. If urged too much, he would stop and look at you as if asking what you were going to do about it. The story is told that one local farmer, Mr. Shaw, was milking his cows when a neighbor ran in to tell him that a car was coming down the road. Since he was nearly done, the farmer said he would be out as soon as he finished that cow. When he got to the road, the car had already passed and was going up the hill a mile away.

In 1915 cars were still an uncommon experience in the Town of Caroline. There were, at best guess, only about 20 within the whole Town. Three women, Esther Shaw, Ida Shaw, and Helen Earsley went together and bought a car, which they drove.

Distances diminished, and people were willing to take advantage of this, even though they recognized the new dangers involved with such speed and the inconveniences of repairing the machine themselves. One lady commented that microwaves were wonderful, but the electric starter on automobiles rated high with her. She always had problems cranking those early cars to get them started.

In 1900 there were 8,000 automobiles in the United States and 10 years later, there were 458,377. 1992 saw 63,000 vehicles registered in Tompkins County. There are now hundreds of mechanics and garages in the

area, fuel is sold nearly everywhere, and the automobile is here to stay.

The children who went to Newark Valley or Ithaca to school were familiar with electricity, and William Mix decided he wanted his father to sign up for it when it came. William went "on strike" from doing chores until his father, Norman, signed. Electricity came to the hamlet of Caroline April 15, 1936. It was turned on about 5:45 p.m. and one family ran through the house turning on the lights to see if they worked. Lights came with the signing up, as well as a flat monthly fee, but it wasn't long before farmers added water pumps, water buckets, and milking machines in their barns. Mother added an iron as soon as possible and a radio followed shortly. Electricity had come to Slaterville Springs about 1930.

"Long distance telephones have been placed in A. J. Slater's store and the houses of Dr. Gallagher and O. D. Mulks." (Ithaca Daily News, October 10, 1900)

The 1944 CAROLINE FARMERS TELEPHONE COMPANY book shows that the President and Manager was CHARLES M. JONES, while E. H. HEAD was the Secretary and Treasurer. The book lists 231 subscribers along with these directions:

"TO CALL CENTRAL give one long ring.

SUBSCRIBERS can call stations in Dryden, Harford or Freeville without toll charge.

BILLS for SERVICE will be rendered monthly in advance. Please pay promptly to avoid suspension of service.

TOLL BILLS and BILLS for telegrams will be included in your regular statements.

REPORT ALL TROUBLE PROMPTLY so your service can be restored without unnecessary delay.

MOVING EQUIPMENT. Kindly notify the company several days in advance if possible. A reasonable charge will be made for such work.

PLEASE LIMIT all calls whenever possible to five minutes."

"Reporting fires in the district was probably an adventure in the early days of the (Slaterville) Company. If you needed the Company, you had to call the Chief or Assistant Chief. They would then go to the station and blow the siren. Progress was made in 1952 when the Chief negotiated a deal with the Telephone Company in Slaterville. Wires were strung between the station and the telephone switchboard. When a call for help was received by the operator, the operator could blow the siren, then call the Chief and Assistant.

"In the early sixties, the phone company installed a "fire phone" system. By dialing a special number, six phones rang at once. The siren

could be activated from any one of those phones. Now, instead of only one or two people knowing the problem, as many as six people knew. This resulted in a better response, since not everyone would have to report to the station to find out what the problem was." (Slaterville Springs Volunteer Fire Company, Richard White, 1994)

F I R E !

THE BROOKTONDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

On March 18th, 1946, the Brooktondale Volunteer Fire Company was organized. Thirty-six men signed the roster and paid dues, thus becoming Charter members.

The Fire Company's first purchase was a trailer pumper from War Assets Corp. All funds for the first purchase came from donations, dances, and BINGO parties. The next step was to mount this pumper on a second hand truck chassis. This work was done entirely by the volunteer labor of the community men. This truck was stored at the Frank Vorhis garage on what is now Valley Road.

In November 1946 the company was incorporated as a non-profit corporation. This enabled the company to enter into contracts with out-lying districts. The company began serving a portion of Danby, Dryden, and Caroline, as well as the Brooktondale Fire District.

The first officers were: President--Robert C. Tucker, 1st Vice President--Royal Hine, 2nd Vice President--John Lounsbury, Secretary--John Brock, Treasurer--Howard Stevenson, Chief--Stephen Kish, 1st Assistant Chief--Merrill Teeter, 2nd Assistant Chief--Egbert McMaster, 3rd Assistant Chief--Ray Lattin.

The area was examined and a Fire District was laid out to include the territory which could readily be served. Taxpayers were petitioned and approval was granted by the Town Board and by the State of New York.

The first Board of Fire Commissioners were Robert C. Tucker, Paul Drake, Stephen Kish, Royal Hine, John Brock and Howard Stevenson.

On the 8th of July 1947, the Board of Fire Commissioners floated a Bond Issue for \$10,000 for a modern piece of equipment. The first truck was purchased, a 1947 Chevrolet pumper. The Company now has five pieces of equipment: a 1993 tanker, a 1993 pumper, a 1966 engine, a 1982 Rescue truck and a 1984 all-wheel drive brush truck.

In 1950 the Board of Fire Commissioners floated another bond for \$25,000 to build the present fire station. It was completed in 1951 and the equipment was moved from quarters rented from Frank Vorhis.

The Company has produced a County Fire Coordinator, a Deputy County Fire Coordinator, and three paid members of the Ithaca Fire Department. These men were all past chief officers of the Brooktondale Fire Company.

Further community service was undertaken by the company by becoming the sponsors of Boy Scout Troop 26 and by developing an Explorer Scout Troop dedicated to learning methods of fire fighting. The company now has Junior Fire-Fighters who are learning fire fighting skills and who help around the station and with fund raising.

In addition to the Fire Company, wives of the fire fighters were formed into an active Auxiliary on August 23, 1949. Estelle "Bobbie" Drake was elected president and held that position until September of 1952. The Brooktondale Ladies Auxiliary was the second auxiliary to be formed in Tompkins County. McLean was the first. The Ladies Auxiliary assisted the fire company in many ways. They purchases equipment for the Fire Hall and the Fire Company, manned the radios during emergencies, served food and drinks during emergencies and helped with fund raising. The Ladies Auxiliary disbanded in 1986 because many of the ladies became active members of the Fire Company.

In 1976 an addition was built on the front of the building in order to accommodate the more modern equipment. Other additions have been added to give more room.

When the Ithaca School District sold the two room school in 1959, the Fire Company bought the building and land. It was used as a Community Center. After the building burned in November of 1962, the Fire Company donated the land and \$5,000 to the Skip and Joe Club to build a new Community Center.

The Fire Company continues to grow. They are involved with rescue services along with the Slaterville Ambulance. Many members are state certified EMT's, AEMT's, and First Responders. Over half of the calls answered by the Brooktondale Fire Company are now related to medical emergencies.

SLATERVILLE SPRINGS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

In 1949 a group of interested citizens banded themselves together and organized what is now known as the Slaterville Volunteer Fire Company. During the first year of operation the Company owned no building or equipment as it was not authorized by the state as a fire district.

Land for the original building was donated by Glenn Shaft in 1949. Additional land was purchased in 1957 and the Grange Hall property in 1963. Construction on the original building was begun in the Spring of 1950. The kitchen was constructed between 1952-53 and an addition was built for community activities in 1968.

In October, 1950 the Company was brought in to the Civilian Defense Plan. As such, members of the company were asked to be available for the air observation post and the fire station would be used as an emergency first aid post.

In 1951 the Board of Supervisors and the State approved the Slaterville Fire District. A Board of Commissioners through a bond issue appropriated sufficient funds to purchase one piece of fire apparatus. This apparatus was a John Bean "High Pressure Fog Fire Fighter". Four men, each paying part of his own expenses, went to Lansing, Michigan. There, they spent one week training in the Company's fire training school. At the completion of this school they drove the truck back to Slaterville Springs. The Crispell Brothers graciously housed the apparatus the first year.

In September 1951 it was decided to purchase a used 1950 Chevrolet chassis and install a tank on the chassis. The purchase of a tank was

negotiated with GLF (now Agway) for a used fuel oil tank. The truck was completed and placed in service in December 1951. Since that time new equipment has replaced old, but one essential part of fire-fighting was the first self-contained breathing apparatus purchased for the company in 1959.

Before 1973, when the county instituted the present system of one county-wide telephone number, fire calls were an adventure. At first a person had to contact the Fire Chief or Assistant, later the telephone operator could sound the siren at the Fire Hall. In the early sixties a "fire phone" system was installed where six phones were called at once to report a fire. After the county-wide one number system was installed, the company began purchasing monitors for its active members. By October 1974, a total of fourteen monitors had been placed in the hands of ambulance and fire personnel. These monitors were for use in houses only. Today, every member has a monitor that can be carried with them.

The Labor Day week end in 1951, the Firemen of Slaterville held their first Carnival. The Carnival together with contributions from inside and outside the district provided enough funds to erect a building. This structure was entirely erected through volunteer help. Other carnivals have since been held to help provide additions to the Hall and equipment. Over the years the Fire Hall has been used by the community for various purposes. During floods, bus crashes, and other emergencies, the hall has become emergency housing for many people. The hall has also been used by the Caroline Senior Citizens for its meetings and is still used to hold flu clinics. Before the Slaterville School was converted into the Town Hall, voting took place in the hall. The Economic Opportunity Corporation regularly holds clothing give-away in the building. The company has also sponsored Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other organizations that regularly held or are holding meetings in the station.

In January of 1959, the company began talking about an ambulance service in the Slaterville Fire District. Members of the company conferred with Newark Valley and Lansing fire companies about the operation of their ambulance services. It was found that everyone who would be operating the ambulance would need to be certified in first aid. Seventeen members volunteered to take the required first aid course.

Enough money was raised in a door-to-door campaign to buy a 1952 Cadillac ambulance and it was put into service in May of 1959. The Brooktondale Fire District was added to the Ambulance District in 1959. In May of 1972 the Ambulance Corp and the Town of Caroline reached an agreement that enabled the Corp to obtain a new ambulance and provide service to the entire Town.

In March of 1973, the Corps was formally organized into the Slaterville Emergency Squad and responds with the Brooktondale Rescue and Speedsville Rescue squads for calls in their territories. This enables the citizens of the Town of Caroline to receive the best emergency medical care possible.

In August of 1959, it was reported that the ambulance was responding to "approximately one call every 14 days" (around 26 calls for the year). In 1980, the ambulance responded to 119 calls, and in 1992, the

ambulance and its crews responded to 270 calls, 126 of which were Advanced Life Support. This represents over 2,000 hours of emergency calls. The members of the Ambulance Squad also spend many more hours in training to assure that they are providing the best service available. Most members of the squad are EMT certified, many also have advance certifications as Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, Intermediate EMT, and Critical Care level EMT. Two members are involved in paramedic training.

The Ambulance is a fully equipped emergency room on wheels, with direct access to the Tompkins Community Hospital Emergency Room by radio. They have Advanced Cardiac Life Support Equipment and the capability to administer medications and drugs by injection or interveinously. They operate directly under the control of Emergency Room Physician. If they are on the scene treating patient and Doctor or Nurse comes, the Ambulance Squad has control of patient over the Doctor or nurse, unless the Emergency Room Physician states otherwise.

EXPLORER POST #44 is a Fire-fighter/Emergency Medical Services organization sponsored by the Slaterville Springs Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Squad.

The post was re-formed in March, 1990 for two basic reasons; 1) to allow the young adults in the community to become involved in the community, and 2) to teach responsibility and self-confidence to the young adults of the community.

Prior to the formation of the post, only those over the age of 16 could become involved with the fire fighting portion of the Fire Department. The person had to be 18 years of age to become involved with the Ambulance Squad. Both of these limitation were forced upon the Department by the insurance carrier. It was found that, by the time the young adults reached the age of 16 or 18, they had lost interest in becoming firefighters or emergency medical persons.

By involving them through the Boy Scouts of America, the Fire Department was able to reach the young adults that would be needed in years to come, at a time when they are anxious to learn and become involved.

The organization has grown from 5 members in March 1990 to approximately 15 members in the Fall of 1993. Six members have joined the Fire Department upon reaching the age of 18. Many of the members have become Certified First Responders and are serving on the Ambulance Squad. One of the former members is now a Certified Emergency Medical Technician and is in training to become a Critical Care EMT. Still another former member has just completed Paramedic training in Pennsylvania.

Every member is allowed to participate in Fire and EMS training as if they were a member of the Fire Company, and every member is encouraged to do so.

SPEEDSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Speedsville has had many fires that destroyed homes and barns, but there were three major fires that destroyed most of the buildings bordering the north and west sides of the park.

In 1888, the Speedsville Hotel (known as the Temperance House) and barn, and a store and home owned by D. B. Gilbert were destroyed by fire.

In 1902, fire again swept through the town destroying two stores, a house, barn and meat market. After that fire, a store was built for Dr. Watkins by Robert Rouse, and on February 27, 1928, fire destroyed the store, the Patch House, and a home owned by Walter Osburn.

In 1961 Speedsville residents began planning to have their own Fire Company. They organized and in 1965 were incorporated. Used equipment was purchased and stored in Beebe's Garage.

In October 1966, a metal building and furnace were purchased. A foundation was laid and the Fire Hall was built.

Fund Raising events in Speedsville were a bit different from the other communities of the Township. Fun nights, dances, field days at the Commons and at the Ball Diamond; sale of Community Calendars, Spaghetti Suppers, Pancake Suppers, Chicken Suppers; serving food to Deer Hunters in the Fall; and donations from residents who are not active Fire Fighters.- All such events involved the entire community by soliciting the materials for the dinners and volunteer workers to assist the Auxiliary.

In the spring of 1973 the company purchased one new truck. In 1976 it had 3 trucks and 1 tanker. Groups of the members attend Emergency Training Schools and other Fire Training Workshops that are held in the County. A First Aid Course was given at Speedsville in 1976 with many men and women and young people attending.

The Women's Auxiliary sponsors many fund raising events - large and small - but all adding to the Funds to pay operating expenses of the Fire Company.

The PADLOCK FIRE TOWER was located on Blackman Hill at an elevation of 1920 feet, on a site purchased from Lewis G. Rich of Slaterville Springs. Russell J. Boyer was appointed as observer and was on duty daily during the spring fire season. Max Deyo later was the observer.

The tower was of steel construction with stairway from the base to a glass enclosed cabin on top. It was 68 feet high and erected by the Slaterville Springs CCC Camp in the 1930's. Originally, fires detected from this tower were to be reported to the CCC camp and all fires occurring on or near state owned reforestation areas would be extinguished by the camp. The camp would assist in extinguishing fires in cases of emergency when called upon by the supervisors or fire wardens.

A map of the area covered by this tower was mounted on a table and in conjunction with a special sighting device fires could be located quite accurately.

The tower was purchased by the family of Daisy Kirkpatrick at a state auction in 1977 and the family donated the tower to the state to be reconstructed at the state fairgrounds in Syracuse. At one time, there were about 100 fire towers in use in New York, but the state now uses airplanes to spot forest fires.

After the forest ranger was notified of a fire, he could telephone a number of fire wardens to help fight the blaze. The wardens, in turn, could call upon local residents to help, also. These wardens kept an "Indian Fire Extinguisher" filled and on hand. They could carry it or strap it to their back and pump water onto the blaze. One warden said "they weren't much good". The volunteer fire companies soon took over the job of fighting forest fires. Same people, different equipment.

Thus, property protection from fire came to the Caroline Township. The companies cooperate to meet the citizen needs and the citizens in return support the various fund raising activities.

In reviewing the development of the Town's Fire Protection, it becomes evident that the attitudes and methods of the Pioneer Settlers still operate in the Township. The people decide that something is wanted or needed; they start raising money for the project; the skilled workers living in the communities volunteer their skills, energy, and time; and the decision becomes reality.

It is interesting that no consultants, other than citizens with the necessary knowledge, were called in to determine what need there might be, how to meet it, or whether it was possible to meet it. The costs were kept to the minimum for the local group had to raise the funds.

The CAROLINE FARMERS INSURANCE COMPANY, Slaterville Springs, N.Y. was established in 1886. It covered the Towns of Caroline, Danby and Dryden in Tompkins county and Richford, Berkshire and Candor in Tioga county. Their motto was "INSURANCE AT COST". In 1944 the directors were: L.C. Snow, Charles M. Jones, Herbert Whittaker, Charles Thomas, and D. B. Bull. In 1944 the telephone book also lists "Phoebe Moore, Insurance", and "Jay Phillips, Slaterville, Local Representative" of the T. H. Davenport Co. of Ithaca.

HOTELS, TAVERNS AND INNS

"The old taverns (or inns or coffee houses) were located to accommodate the greatest number of travelers but, it sometimes seemed, more to benefit mine host than his guests. Food was seldom a major attraction and privacy was almost unknown. Many passengers were usually housed in the same room and, sometimes, the same bed even though they may never before have met. Sleeping on the floor was the alternate choice and that not always a choice.

Dirty bed and table linen and a variety of crawling and flying insects were quite common. Of course, there were some exceptions.

Some taverns were primarily for drovers, the men who drove sheep, hogs, horses, cattle and fowl either to a market or to a shipping point. Drovers' taverns sprang up, spaced about a day's drive apart."

"DeWitt Clinton left this description of an experience at a local stage coach story in August 1810.

'Fourteen miles from Ithaca, in the Town of Spencer, Tioga County (now Town of Caroline, Tompkins County) is a settlement of Virginians called Speed; they are all Federalists. An old man by the name of Hyde belonging to it, spent at least five hours in the tavern today, and went off so drunk that he could hardly balance himself on his horse.

Behind him was a bag, containing on each side a keg of liquor, and his pockets were loaded with bottles. In the barroom he abused Jefferson, Madison, and a number of other leading Republicans.'" (Ithaca Journal--"Glance Backward" by Barbara Bell)

The first tavern in the Town of Caroline was a "blockhouse" built by Richard Bush in 1801. For many years it was known as "Bush's Stand". He died during the War of 1812, and his widow continued to conduct the tavern. This tavern was the scene of many dances and parties in the old days. A celebrated violinist of the locality furnished suitable music for these social affairs. The tavern stood on the south side of the Catskill Turnpike (2505 Slaterville Road--a historical marker marks the spot) and on the farm across the road, were kept in the early days, a large number of horses which were used as stagecoach teams on the Catskill Turnpike. The change of teams was made here at Bush Tavern. Many of the droves of livestock which passed daily over the turnpike were also pastured there for the night, on land that was part of what was later Bull Tavern.

BOICE'S INN or the BOICEVILLE TAVERN was built by Abraham Boice, Jr., who came from Ulster County in 1816. He built a tavern on the present site of the vacant lot with a flowing spring. After the removal of the old tavern, a house was built to be used for a hotel. Part of the original tavern was moved to a farm somewhere north of Slaterville. This tavern was famous for its "spring" dance floor.

The RAWSON HOLLOW INN is situated at 702 Blackman Hill Road near Goodrich Road. Early Town Board records tell that the LYMAN RAWSON was fined for selling "Speerits" without a license in 1816.

RICH'S TAVERN was established by Captain David Rich after his arrival in March 1795 -- one week before the Earsley family moved into their cabin. It was situated at 3416 Slaterville Road.

TOBEY TAVERN is marked by a "Tobeytown" Historical Marker across from 3204 Slaterville Road. The tavern was torn down when Cornell University established a ski slope on the hill at the back. The property is currently divided into housing lots. The elm tree that is still standing (1993) was located near the barnyard. The VICKERY TAVERN, kept by George Vickery about 1808 was also located on this property.

The CASS or BULL TAVERN was built after the closing of the Bush Tavern, across the street, in 1815. Today, it is 2490 Slaterville Road. Josiah Cass conducted the inn for three years, then it changed hands to Aaron Bull and was run by him as a public inn for thirty years or more. Aaron Bull closed his tavern about 1848.

Dr. William Gallagher in 1871 established the curative properties of the magnetic spring waters at Slaterville. The next year William J. Carns purchased the SLATERVILLE HOUSE, converted it into a health resort and named it the MAGNETIC SPRINGS HOUSE. It had several proprietors. The hotel also had been owned by James Hall, Richard Freer, George Clark, Samuel Edward Green, Josephus Bullman, and Sophar (or Zophar) T. McLusky was probably its first innkeeper. Harrison Halstead, formerly of Elbridge, Onondaga County, purchased the tavern of Josephus Hasbrouck. It was also known as GREEN or HALSTEAD or CARDS HOTEL. The building, dating back to a tavern on the Catskill turnpike, burned 23 December 1895. It was rebuilt and the SLATERVILLE HOUSE again served as a hotel in the hamlet. It was bought by _____ Lyme and known as LYME'S HOTEL. It later became the Grange Hall, then was bought by the Fire Department and removed to have space to build an addition to the Fire Hall.

Another health resort at Slaterville was the FOUNTAIN HOUSE, erected in 1872 by the Hornbeck & Benjamin brothers, later greatly enlarged and made three stories high. It was conducted by Moses Dedrick (Diedrich) in 1875 and then by others until about 1891 when W.J. CARNS (1827-1908) purchased it from Harrison Halstead, who conducted it in connection with the Magnetic Springs House, and popularized it as a sanitarium. Mrs. MARTHA CARNS (d.1915) conducted the Fountain House as a summer hotel for many years. On the afternoon of 22 December 1911, the building was destroyed by fire. It stood between 2729 and 2743 Slaterville Road.

The HOFFMAN TAVERN is mentioned in an article about early Brooktondale by Cantine Lounsbery. He said that Benjamin Hoffman had a log tavern, near where now stands the Honor Roll on White Church Road, before Peter Lounsbery built his house in 1820.

The COLE TAVERN passed through many hands until owned by James E. VanDeMark about 1870. He, with his brother Valentine, ran it as a hotel, with post office and store. James and his family were living there in January 1891, when it burned. It stood where 555 Brooktondale Road is today.

The SHURTER HOUSE was built by William Mott about 1840, and is said to be the first house in the town with a coat of paint. It was sold to Mr. Schutt, and later owned by Willis Shurter. It was used as a hotel and

after Mr. Shurters death, his wife ran it as a boarding house. It sat near the bridge in Brooktondale, and was moved three times. Twice floods undercut the land on which it stood, in 1901 and 1905. In 1966 it was moved down the road, to make room for the new road and bridge. It now sits on the opposite side of the road, near the site of the old trestle.

The ELM TREE HOUSE was built by "Calf Charlie" VanDeMark about 1901 after his meat market was damaged by the flood of 1901. He had his meat market in the eastern end, and a public hall upstairs. The building burned in 1908. Bucket brigades were formed to save the building, and they sent to Ithaca for help, but it was too long coming, and several other buildings caught fire. All but the Elm Tree House were saved. Levi Davis built a store, with living quarters upstairs here about 1939-40. It is a private home at the present time, located at 502 Valley Road.

The SPEEDSVILLE HOTEL or Tavern is now the farm home at 2 Mill Street, directly across from the Speedsville Common. It was originally the Legg Homestead and is said to have a "spring floor" upstairs like the Rawson Hollow Tavern has.

The SPEEDSVILLE TEMPERANCE HALL was built in the spring and summer of 1850 on the west side of the Common through \$5.00 subscriptions. By 1853 a barn, outhouses and fence had been built.

The purpose of this building was to provide rooms for holding meetings, the school and a place to hold dances and other social functions. The Hall was to belong to the subscribers and each share entitled the subscriber to one vote. The building was "rented out" to the Methodist Church, the school, The Sons of Temperance, The Masons, and many individuals.

Benjamin Wade, a Civil War soldier with the 109th Reg't., purchased the hall and with his wife Louisa, ran it until his death in 1885. The Hall was destroyed by fire in 1888.

The first distillery of which there is historical record was erected by Levi Slater in 1810. In 1825 there were distilleries operated by Spencer Hungerford, John Mulks and Lyman Rawson. There is only one distillery listed in the 1835 NY Census.

The 1850 census records INNKEEPERS in the Town as being: Abram Boice, Samuel Green, John Hardenburgh, Martin Merrill, and Caleb Olney. In 1860 the only INNKEEPER listed was Edward Reed. The 1865 New York State Census records "Intoxication greatly on the increase especially among the young men". It was recorded in the 1875 New York State Census that "local ophin [opinion] shut up" the taverns, hotels or inns in District #1, the Speedsville area.

WATER AMBERED GLASS

Once popular and great health resorts were located in the town of Slaterville Springs, Tompkins County, New York , on what was once known as the Catskill Turnpike.

In the late 1800's Slaterville Springs had three large hotels: The Fountain House, Magnetic Spring Hotel, and the Card House that catered to the elite of the day. With the magical waters from the springs and wells, many people believed the waters were beneficial to their health. The curing powers of the waters were regarded with high esteem. In 1893 the Slaterville waters were awarded a premium at the Columbian Exposition for it's clarity and excellence. The waters sold for \$2.50 a gallon during the spa era.

The water ambering of glass was discovered by accident. The MULKS - MIDDAGH - VAUGHN FARM was the first place where coloring of glass was done commercially and items were sent to the Rothschild Store in Ithaca and Macy's in New York City for many years. As the story has it, a child had taken her mother's glass slipper from the house and had dropped it in an open spring in back of the house. In a few days they discovered that the slipper had turned amber color with an iridescent luster. This excited everyone and thus started the "Ambering of Glass." It was a profitable business thanks to the clientele of the health spas, and a joy to the elderly Mrs. Middaugh who had people come to her house to buy and see how the glass was colored.

At 2743 Slaterville Road, along the banks of Six Mile Creek, where the Fountain House once stood, there is a "magic" well that also will color glass. The neighbor's well is about 150 feet from this "magic" well, but the neighbor's well will not color glass. The "magic" well is where the overflow from the Artesian well is located. There is no taste, color or smell to the water used in the ambering process. The waters of the creek will not color the glass. The only pressure used in processing is the pressure from the well and there is no pump required. 35 - 50 pieces at a time can be colored, depending upon the size. It requires 6 to 8 weeks of processing to get the desired shade of color. It is necessary to wash the glass every other day while processing or the finish becomes cloudy, streaked and dull. It takes 2016 gallons of flowing water to color one piece of glass.

Muriatic Acid is the one agent that will remove the finish. One story tells of someone who wanted to "amber" a diamond. It did amber, but in the setting process, the muriatic acid removed the coating, and the hoax was discovered. Pieces of glass have been tested by soaking them in vinegar for 24 hours and they did not loose their color or finish. A piece of glass was soaked in commercial "Sony Sol" for four hours and the finish held up. The amber finish does not permeate the glass. It is a coating on the surface.

The well at 2790 Slaterville Road and one 147 feet deep at 188 Brooktondale Road can also color glass.

THE POOR MASTER

The Poor Master, the Overseer of the Poor, or the Welfare Officer was charged with paying the maintenance of those in the town who were not able to be provided for by themselves, their families or other means. These were usually orphans, widows, or the infirm. Occasionally the notation of "tramp" occurs.

The earliest record book is for the year 1815. On December 18th of that year, a meeting was held in the home of John Robinson, Esq. by the officers of the town. The Poor Masters accounts were audited, and a ledger was started. Before that time accounts were kept on loose scraps of paper and these were transferred to the 1815 Poor Masters book. The earliest shows a reimbursement to Thomas Higgins for \$2.50 in 1809. In 1811 the Poor Master, Benjamin Hoffman, was reimbursed \$8.05 and in 1815 the balance carried forward was \$150.62.

Persons in the Town were reimbursed for supplying board or rent, clothing, attorney fees, burials, food, transportation, medical services, and fuel.

The Welfare Law of 1930 replaced the Poor Law, and the Poor Master's title was changed to Town Welfare Commissioner. In 1932 this was changed to Welfare Officer. This 1930 Welfare Law was administered by the State of New York Temporary Emergency Relief Administration through arrangement with the State Department of Social Welfare.

The Grand Army of the Republic was created "in pursuance of Section 3 of Chap. 706 of the laws of 1887, New York State; [an] Act to provide for the relief of indigent soldiers, sailors and marines and the families of those deceased passed June 25, 1887." There were two G. A. R. posts in the Town of Caroline; the Henry Wilson Post #68 in Slaterville Springs, and the David Ireland Post #158 in Brookton.

The Brookton G.A.R. post filed a "notice of intent" on 29 Aug 1887. The officers named in that document were: John W. Gass--Commander, Spencer H. Jansen--Senior Vice-Commander, Sol. (Soloman) Honniss--Jr. Vice Commander, Charles Personius--Quarter Master, Edward Lounsbery--Chaplain, John Hoover--Surgeon, Samuel Whited--Officer of the day, Willis Shurter--Adjutant, Don C. Hanford--"Sergeant" Major, Moses Roe--Officer of the guard, and the Relief Committee: Edward Lounsbery, Samuel Woodhull, Charles Personius. Later records indicate that

other members were: George Wolcott, Fenton Huson, William Wolcott, Fred E. Bates, Leroy Gleason, Moses Hurlburt, John J. Roe, Calvin Deputron, Bennett Landon, Dennis Mullachy, and W. P. Richards.

On 6 Nov 1896, the Slaterville Springs G. A. R. Post

filed with Town Clerk, B. Van Demark, a "notice of intent" showing the officers of that post. They were: Commander--Emanuel Davis, Senior Vice-Commander--John E. Bull, Junior Vice-Commander--George Barnes (or Barnes), Chaplain--Preston Darling, Quarter Master--Isaac Lynch, Adjutant--Henry D. Lock (or Locke), and the Rifle Company consisting of: Leonard Griffon (or Griffen or Griffin), Preston Darling, and Isaac

Lynch. Later records indicate that other members who held positions were: George E. Harris, Joel Percell (or Purcell), John Personius, John Randall, John Huslander, Henry S. Krum, David B. Hammond, George Matson.

The last recorded reports from the posts were on 31 October 1899. In that time period, the "Notice of Intentions" that were filed show that Post #158, (Brookton) paid \$284.07 for the care and maintenance of veterans and their families and they asked the Town Board for \$150.00. Post #68 (Slaterville Springs) paid \$168.98. Some of the items that were provided were: board, fuel, clothing, food & tobacco, Doctor and nursing care, transportation to the Veterans Home in Bath, and burials. In February 1912, the David Ireland Post #158 was charged with payment to Fred Warriner for \$7.00 worth of goods, and paid.

SLAVERY IN CAROLINE

Negro slaves were owned almost from the first settlement of the Town of Caroline to the day slavery was abolished in New York State in 1827. It appears that Matthew Jansen, a blacksmith, brought the first slaves into Caroline in 1802. Mrs. Catherine Dupuy, a daughter of General Cantine, brought at least two negro slaves with her when she came about 1802 from Ulster County named Catherine, and "Black Tom", who lived many years with J.J. Besemer. The 1865 N Y State Census shows a (negro) Thomas Workman, age 67, born in Ulster Co., a "servant" of Mr. Besemer.

The first slave brought from the south to Caroline was Jerry Blackman. He came with Augustine Boyer in the summer of 1803. He became free with the other slaves in 1827. He died in Ithaca aged nearly one-hundred years, in 1879. A tradition about Jerry Blackman runs that once he was left alone at the Boyer block house with the strict injunction not to let the fire go out, and should it do so to stay in bed until his master returned. Becoming tired of lying in bed, he went four miles to "Tobeytown" and asked for live coals, which he received. But in returning with them his feet were very badly frozen, crippling him for life.

On 27 April 1803, John Brooks, Town Clerk of Owego, records:

"This is to certify that Matthew H. Jansen has delivered to me a negro boy named "Tom" that was born of a negro wench of said Jansen in the year 1802 on the 12th day of September and the said Jansen has also delivered a certificate to me that he doth abandon the service of said child."

Col. John J. Speed, Sr., who had been a small dealer in slavery in the south, in 1805 brought four slaves, two men and two women, when he came from the south. He continued to own slaves until slavery was abolished.

Dr. Joseph Speed, in the year 1805, brought seven negro slaves from Virginia and John F. Petillo brought one slave, a young man named Peter, aged twenty-two. The next year William J. Petillo brought in five slaves of both sexes, ranging in age from seven to thirty-eight years. John and William Petillo were from North Carolina. Robert Hyde brought eleven slaves in 1807 from North Carolina and Henry J. Speed brought seven slaves from Virginia in 1808.

Robert Hyde gave a statement that said: "I, Robert Hyde, an inhabitant of the County of Tioga and Town of Spencer, had some time about the middle of June, 1807, two children born entitled to service, one a male child named Richard, the other a female child named Judy."

Catherine Dupuy, daughter of "General" Cantine and grandmother of J.D. & J.J. Besemer, certified: "TO THE POORMASTER OF THE TOWN OF SPENCER IN THE COUNTY OF TIOGA: This certifies that a female child, Nancy, was born on the 17th of February, 1807, of the body of my female slave, Catherine, and I do hereby deliver up the above-mentioned Nancy to the poormaster of the said Town of Spencer as witnesseth my hand this 20th day of September, 1807."

In 1808 Congress forbid the importation of slaves to the United States. However, slavery itself was not forbidden and the "breeding" of slaves was a common practice to insure the slave population. The old New York State slave law required persons bringing slaves into New York State from another state to file an affidavit that they had owned said slaves for a year before bringing them into the state and that it was the owner's intention to reside permanently in New York State. They were allowed six months after coming in which to file this affidavit. If they failed to do so, their slaves became free. These affidavits present the above data on early slavery.

The 1820 US Census reports 18 male and 14 female slaves in the Town of Caroline. There were no "Free Colored Persons".

The first recorded Manumission of a slave in the Town of Caroline is found in the town clerk's book, as follows:

"This to certify that I have this day agreed to discharge my man Peter, known by the name Peter Webb, from all further servitude as slave; that he is free to act for himself as a free man from this time forward. Witness my hand the above date.

"Jno. Jas. Speed.

"Witness:

"I certify that the above is a true copy of the original in all respects.

"Moses Cass, T. Clerk.

"March 20, 1822"

Peter Webb bought his freedom by paying his owner \$384. When he was not needed on the Speed farm he was permitted to work for others and receive payment. One of his employers was the management of the Ithaca Hotel. It is not known whether Webb was aware of the fact that by law all slaves in New York would be freed in 5 years. (SEE WEBB - BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES)

The law for the gradual abolition of slavery in New York State prohibited the removal of a slave from the State for the purpose of sale. Three slaves, Liza, Lukey, and John (called Jack) had been given to Polly Speed Hyde by her father, Henry Speed, in his will, "and after her decease I desire that this estate above...be given to her child or children that may arrive at lawful age. I give unto Robert H. Hyde my good wishes, and pray that his soul may rest happy with God, and desire him to treat the negroes committed to his care with lenity and try to teach them the fear of the Lord." About 1 December 1823, Robert Hyde and his mother-in-law, the widow Julia Speed, had gone to their former home in Virginia for a visit and had taken with them the slave, Liza, whom it was believed they intended to sell. Hyde had not complied with the law in getting the consent of a magistrate to take the slave away temporarily, and when he returned without her, he had not proven that his failure to bring her back was from any unavoidable cause. The following summer, when Hyde came back without the negro girl, curiosity and suspicion was aroused. Farms with slaves were watched day and night

to prevent masters from leaving the state with their slaves and a possible repetition of the Hyde incident. Popular feeling ran high.

The indictment was brought about by Abiatha Rounsevell, who was a staunch abolitionist. Ben Johnson, a lawyer of Ithaca, conducted the defense. Hyde's mother-in-law, the Widow Speed, was brought into court by the prosecution to give testimony which would be detrimental to Hyde. She sat near the door of the court room and just before she was called as a witness, she slipped out of the room and disappeared. This was an unexpected piece of strategy, but as the case could not be put over, the judge gave directions to the jury and the jury found the defendant not guilty. Widow Speed was later fined \$50 for contempt of court. Mr. Hyde was tried a second time on five other counts the following December, before Samuel Nelson, but was acquitted. Mr. Hyde bore the reputation of being a good citizen and a kind man, but the excitement and animosities connected with this trial ran high and only ceased with the passing of that generation.

In the edge of the woods, on the Ellis Hollow Road, coming from N.Y. State Route 79, is a slave burial ground. There are fourteen graves and at one time there was a stone wall and panel fence as part of the original enclosure. A "historical marker" points the directions from the road.

Some of the slaves of Dr. Joseph Speed were buried in the family plot near the homestead (Springfarm). A little way north of the Dr. Speed homestead is an abandoned hilly road (Webb Road or Bailor Road Extension) which leads west; tradition also says that up this road about a mile is an old slave cemetery.

Also, according to tradition, two slave or freedmen's graves are at the south east corner of the Garret Mandeville Cemetery, next to lot 60.

MINORITIES AND ALIENS

In the 1825 New York State Census, there are 27 negroes "not taxed" and only Peter Webb "Taxed & Qualified to Vote". (5 of the "not taxed" are in Peter Webb's family). (see SLAVERY IN CAROLINE)

By the 1830 U.S. Census, there were 25 "free colored" listed, 7 in Peter Webb's family, 7 in Jeremiah Black's (Jerry Blackman or Jeremiah Blackman) family and 8 in James Habin's family. Two men lived with Abram Pugsley's family.

The 1835 NYS Census lists 22 "Persons of Color" who were not taxed and 4 who were taxed. (9 "not taxed" were in Peter Webb's household). By the 1840 U.S. Census, there were 10 families with a total of 36 persons. In 1850 there were 21 "persons of color" living in the Town and 2 had died within the preceding year. The 1860 U.S. Census shows 22 "negroes" living in Caroline, and lists Jacob Hillany as a physician, born in Virginia. He was not found on the 1865 NYS Census, but 24 others were, including his daughter, Susan.

Daniel Bailor and his family first appear on the 1880 U.S. Census and Lemuel VanDyke, husband of Mable, first appears in 1900. (see BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES). Until the 1892 N.Y. State Census, there appeared up to nine different families at any time living in the Town. In 1892 there were only the Webb-Bailor and the Eugene Williams families.

There were other minorities in the Town of Caroline. They may have been "citizens or aliens", but they were born outside the United States. They were usually spread throughout the Town, and in every community, but some nationalities tended to live near one another, such as those from Finland living on Connecticut Hill, Italians in the Speedsville-76 or Depot Road area, some from Germany, Switzerland and Austria lived on Bald Hill. Nearly every "long time resident" of the Town can claim the privilege of being descended from "international parentage".

The 1830 U.S. Census lists only 4 "aliens" in the John Taylor family. By 1850 there were 70 people from England, Ireland or Scotland in the Town, one from Canada, and one from France. Those numbers drop to 50 in 1860 and 42 in 1865. (none from France).

By 1870 there are 44 "persons born outside the U.S." (one each from "Baden", Norway, Sweden, and Island of St. Helena). There were 36 persons listed on the census who had one or both parents born elsewhere.

The 1875 New York State Census asks if men were aliens or naturalized. (Women and children were not cited with either). There were 60 persons born outside the U.S., 15 were naturalized, 24 were aliens. There was one person from Poland and two from Germany. In 1892 there were six who were listed as aliens, four had nothing written in the blank. Three people were from Germany, one from Italy.

By 1900 there were seven Italian "Rail Road workers" living in the Town of Caroline and eight in 1915. There were also five people from Austria (one was "Slav"), three from Switzerland, three from Germany (one was

listed "Pole"), two from Russia ("Russian Pole"), one from Norway, and six from Finland.

The 1925 New York State Census shows 89 persons not born in the United States -- 32 aliens, and 21 who were naturalized who listed the date and place where their naturalization took place.

They came from Austria, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Finland, Germany, Prussia, Greece, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Today, 200 years from its settlement by a woman from Holland of English parentage, the town is truly a cross section of the world. Besides those listed above there are people from Thailand, China, Cambodia, other Asian countries, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia and other Europeans who came, for a variety of reasons, and enjoy the blessing of liberty in the Town of Caroline.

ARCHITECTURE IN CAROLINE

"Both tradition and the examination of the few authentic log houses still surviving in the Northeast agree as to their general architectural features. Typically, they were small, low, rectangular structures. Sixteen by twenty-four feet was the average size. Most commonly, the lower story was one room with a big stone fireplace, which served as a central heating plant. This ground-floor apartment was living room, dining room, nursery, and master bedroom as well. Above was a loft, reached by a ladder set against the wall, and here the older children slept; on occasions it served as a guest chamber as well.

"Many of the log cabins had only dirt floors. Some of the pioneers, however, laid wooden floors. These puncheon floors were made of riven slabs of wood laid as nearly level as possible. The boards were then smoothed down with an adz. There were certain free-splitting trees - best of all the big, old, white pine - which could be riven into plank-like slabs that needed only a little smoothing. The log construction did away with the studding and plastering (or wall boarding) which we think of as necessary part of a house.

"The roof, supported by pole rafters, was, in the beginning, sheets of bark. Probably the best bark for making roofs came from basswood, elm, and ash. Either pine or hemlock, if the trees were young and the bark not too thick, furnished satisfactory roof covering. Since most trees slip their bark very easily during the summer it was not difficult to obtain a sufficient amount of bark for a roof. The bark sheets could be laid into a roof that would remain tight for several years. Later, as the urgency for extreme haste had passed or as the family fortunes improved, the bark could be replaced with shakes--big, board-like shingles riven from free-splitting timber. Not infrequently, in after years, the owner would wish for additional space and convenience, and because sawmills and lumber were now available, he compromised by grafting a new frame addition to the old log structure which had served the family in earlier years. Also, he sometimes covered the logs with new siding, and when this was painted, the casual passerby would not notice that it was anything other than the conventional frame house.

"There still remain enough authentic log houses scattered over the later-occupied regions of the Northeast to establish the fact that there were currently in use two fairly distinct types of construction. The more common, and surely the simpler and easier, method was to cut smooth logs of the required length with a diameter of ten or twelve inches on each end. Almost any kind of wood could be used, but white pine was the best because it was soft, easy to work, light in weight, and resistant to decay, and more often than most species it furnished logs that were smooth and of uniform diameter.

"First, the logs were peeled, and then the builder, with sure, skilled strokes of his ax, cut a notch or "saddle" near each end of the log. If this notch was just half as deep as the diameter of the log, and if its companion log had a notch of the same depth and width and slopes of the same angle, it formed a rude right-angle dovetailing so that they might be laid up securely in cobhouse fashion. If the logs are approximately one foot in diameter, about fifty logs of various lengths will suffice

to form the four walls of a house with one room seven feet high and with a sleeping loft above. Of course, even if erected by a skilled workman, a wall of logs was far from tight. To plug the larger openings the builder used lengths of wood split in triangular shape. The remaining crevices were sealed both inside and out with a puddled clay or, if time, funds, and materials were available, with mason's mortar of burned lime. In the more elegant homes, the interior was whitewashed.

"Such essentially was the log house in its most primitive form. Such scanty commentary as we have indicates that such a shelter could be "rolled up" with astonishing quickness. Dr. U. P. Hedrick, in his "A History of Agriculture in the State of New York", estimates that a "log house with two rooms below and two above could be built by hired labor for \$100.00." Considering the exceedingly low wages of that period, the primitive character of the construction, and the free raw material at hand, this figure is probably too high.

"If the settler was a skilled axman he could, if necessary, cut his logs, haul them to the selected site, and notch them without any help." Usually, however, when "he came to the actual building he needed assistance, plenty of it. At least four good men would be needed, and a dozen could find employment. To assemble this help was easier than might be expected, because mutual assistance and neighborly co-operation was a firmly established code of the new country. When a new house was to be "rolled up," there was no labor shortage. Within an astonishingly short time following his arrival, the new comer had four walls about him and a roof above. The big stone fireplace with its chimney, however, must have constituted a major problem and a strain upon his resources. This then was the typical and most primitive type of log house built on the advance picket line of the invading pioneer. It was a definite architectural style which may properly be designated as primitive American.

"The log home has in eastern America a long and honorable history. During more than two full centuries, from the Atlantic seaboard to the grassy plains beyond the Appalachians, the hearth smoke of the log dwelling in the clearing marked the utmost west of the whiteman's march. As no other one thing, it symbolizes the American pioneer." (Golden Age of Homespun, p.50-54)

William Osburn of Speedsville describes the labor involved in the building of shelters in his paper "Pioneers Worked With Simple Tools."

"For fitting timber in building construction, there were broadaxes, chisels, augers, mauls, froes, drawshaves as well as other hand tools. Sawmills operated up-and-down saws until the coming of circular saws and steam power by the mid-1800's.

"Until after the Civil War, when "balloon" construction became commonplace because of the availability of sawn lumber, framed buildings prevailed. So-called "country carpenters" needed no blueprints.

"To begin construction of a framed building, a log of proper length was placed upon a skid; then a man standing upon this log scored four sides with ax strokes about every four or five inches. It was really

remarkable how even this line of strokes was though the distance between them was gauged by his eye.

"After the log was scored, along came the hewer, a man equipped with a broadax who smoothed the sides of the log. This ax had a head mounted at a slight right angle to the handle and a cutting edge of twelve or fourteen inches wide. When his work was done, a four-square timber was ready for framing.

"On both ends of a crossbeam tenons were cut with a saw and then fitted with a hand chisel. In a corresponding position on both ends of side beams, mortises were cut by first boring large auger holes in a row and then chiselling out the wood. Both mortise and tenon had to be accurately cut as the tenon must fit squarely into the mortise.

"Thus the four sills were fitted together, then two-inch auger holes were bored clear through sill and tenon and two roughly rounded hardwood pins were inserted and driven home. Under stress of wind, pine sills and beams might give but oak pins held and the structure remained firm and true for many years.

"These pins were made of oak or other hardwood, a block of which was stood on end and with a froe split into desired thickness for pin making. This was called "riving" and the pieces split off were known as "shakes." Shakes were split into rough plugs that were somewhat rounded and pointed with a hand ax, and then driven into the auger holes with a large, wooden mallet or maul.

"The froe was a cleaving tool made by a local blacksmith. It had an iron blade, thicker on the top and beveled to a splitting edge; a wooden handle stood straight up. An operator grasped this handle, placed the blade upon the block to be rived, and then with a mallet struck the back of the froe with heavy blows. Froes were used in this manner in making early-day barrel staves, and shingles until well after the beginning of the twentieth century.

"In the usual building, barn or dwelling, there were four "bents," as the framed cross units were called. One bent formed the skeleton for each end, and the other two were erected near the center of the building. On a frame for a barn 36 feet long, one of the center bents might be erected 16 feet from the end to 20 feet from the opposite end bent, this to provide for a barn floor 10 feet in width and a cowstable of the same width. Space over both the barn floor and the stable was used for mows of forage.

"These bents were framed on the ground, with the tenons cut on each end of the uprights to fit into the sill or roofplate. The center bents were moved into position and one after another was raised into position by means of pike poles manned by members of a neighborhood "raisin' bee". As each bent was raised and tenons fitted into the sill mortises, it was braced. When all four bents were up and securely "stayed", the rafter plates were raised, fitted and permanently pegged in the same manner as had the other posts.

"Dwellings were constructed after the same pattern and much the same proportions. Space between the two center bents formed a hallway with stairs leading to the second floor, and underneath these stairs another set led to the cellar. Customarily, to one side of the hall was a large

room called the parlor; to the rear of the parlor was a seldom-used bedroom for guests. On the opposite side of the hallway was a living room-kitchen where the family spent most of its indoor time. To the rear of this room were two smaller rooms that might afford bedrooms, and further to the rear of these was a summer kitchen that in winter was piled with firewood. Any space not occupied here served for a workshop where carcasses were cut up, harness repaired and shingles made in severe weather.

"Before sawmills were in operation, floor timbers for dwellings were usually hewed square, but for a barn logs were merely hewn flat on one side. This was true for rafters for barns, also. Sheathing covered these rafters and hand-shaved shingles completed the roof of house or barn. Such roofs were framed for long service, even 60 years or more.

"Water-powered sawmills until well along in the 20th century used up-and-down saws that were both slow and inaccurate; timbers in old buildings may be identified as so sawn by straight kerfs and great variations in dimensions. To even fittings necessary, as in flooring timbers, much handwork was called for. Such surfaces might be evened by a plane, and adze on coarser work, or a shim hoe to smooth a place over a joist to let the surface down even with an adjoining thinner board.

"Shaving shingles was another skill needed by the pioneer. Tools required were few and simple; a froe, mallet, shaving knife and shingle horse. Shakes were rived with the froe from pine or hemlock butts, then placed in the shingle horse where a wooden clamp depressed by the operator's foot held the shake firm. The fore end of the shank was then shaved thin on both sides, and the two edges smoothed by the shaving knife in a dexterous movement while the shingle was still in the clamp. A slow process, but time was compensated for by the long life of the product."

The first log house in the Town of Caroline was erected by John Earsley in the fall of 1794, but the first log house that was occupied was built by Capt. David Rich in the spring of 1795.

The first frame house was the old "Mansion House" erected by John Cantine in 1801. It stands at 573 Brooktondale Road. There has been discussion on how a frame house could be built before the first saw mill. It was a very common practice to use "pit saws" where a squared timber was hoisted up on seven or eight foot trestles, or placed over a long "pit" or part of the cellar, and sawed by men with either an "open pit saw" or "frame pit saw". One man stood above (or on) the timber, one under the timber and they would saw the boards or framing that was needed. At one time the attic of the Cantine house housed the first Masonic Lodge to be established in Tompkins county. The house retains much of its Federal simplicity, despite structural changes and additions.

The only known "carriage block" or "mounting block" still in the Town of Caroline is in front of 3262 Slaterville Road and was "put up" by the Higgins family during the time they owned the farm.

Stained glass windows are found in many of the homes in the Town of Caroline. Examples are found on front doors or in bay windows at 3316 Slaterville Road, and 2710 Slaterville Road.

"Finials" were used in conjunction with "gingerbread" as the "finishing touch" to a house. Houses with good examples of these "finishing touches" are 2693 Slaterville Road and 1476 - '76 Road.

The PAGODA in Speedsville Park was built was originally built by George Washington Osburn, and was rebuilt by the people of Speedsville in 1976.

The Peter Lounsbery (or Lounsbury) home, 2 White Church Road (corner of White Church and Valley Road) was built in three sections. The right side of the front door was built first, the left side of the front door was second, and the wing at the rear of the second section was built last.

It is believed that 506 Valley Road may have been the second frame house in the hamlet of Brooktondale, built perhaps in the early 1820's. At that time most of the hamlet was located on the opposite side of the creek, and this house was one of the few on Valley Road (known then as Crawford Road).

The fantail light above the front door of 212 Brooktondale road is unusual in this area of the Town. William Roe bought 400 acres in this area and settled here in 1800. There was still uncleared wilderness between the "Roe Settlement" and "Cantine's Settlement" when Roe built his house and two nearby ones.

William Mott built the house at 447 Brooktondale road in 1840. At that time it was across from the store and was moved to its present location when Rte. 330 (Brooktondale Road) was straightened and "improved". This house is noted as being the first painted frame house in the hamlet and was operated as a hotel by Willis Shurter and known as the "Shurter House".

William Mott built the home at 570 Valley Road in the early 1830's. It is said to have been the fourth frame house built in Brooktondale and built in the "Southern style" to please his wife, and then added the New England style widow's walk. This tradition may be more romance than truth, since Greek Revival houses like this were as popular in the North as in the South.

The house at 3 White Church Road was built by Peter Lounsbery for his son Edward. Because of its small scale, this house is often called the "doll house."

The house at 480 Brooktondale Road is originally a Victorian of simple design, and is a nice example of the results of an extensive remodeling. The front half of the house was built in the 1870's and purchased in 1908 by Dr. Benjamin Lockwood when he took over both house and medical practice of Dr. DeForest Reed. In 1929, Dr. Lockwood hired John Steenberg to construct a completely new set of window and door frames, doors, lowered Gothic arches, and various moldings--all in chestnut.

Due to the easy availability of lumber in this area, there were not many brick houses built here. The bricks for 389 Brooktondale Road probably came from John Mandeville's brickyard near 341 Brooktondale Road. This house was financed and probably built by Mandeville in the

late 1800's as one building, though it was separated inside into two living areas.

THE OLD MILL

Early milling devices consisted of mortar and pestle, the saddle-stone, and the quern. They were all hand-powered, but were adapted to be used with animal, water or wind power. The first white men in America must have been overjoyed to find the existence of many swift streams, and plenty of lumber with which to build their mills and, except in the north, could operate virtually all year.

It is impossible to determine exactly how many mills existed in North America during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but it must have been thousands. There were very few hamlets without a mill of some type, and many had more than one to perform varying chores. Some mills did double-duty. The Earsley mill in the hamlet of Caroline was a grist mill and a saw mill.

At one time or another there have been 23 millsites along a 16 or 17 mile stretch of Six Mile Creek and its tributaries. Landmarks of Tompkins County states that "there have been fifteen saw mills, seven grist mills, two or three woolen mills, a gun factory, and a few small cider mills operated at sundry times". The first grist mill was built for General John Cantine at Brooktondale in 1800 by Benoni Mulks. The first saw mill was built for General Cantine, also.

Brooktondale was an industrial center having saw, plaster, and grist mills, a woolen mill, cider mill, gun factory, two blanket factories, tanneries, blacksmiths, cabinet, tin and carriage shops, all dependent on the flow of the water of Six Mile Creek. William Mott owned six saw mills along the creek, including the lower mill, built by him, which burned. He later bought the old Cantine Mill at the falls and built a large grist mill on the north side which he operated for many years.

The horizontal mill survived here and there along with its heir, the tub mill, until modern times, but the mill that is most remembered is the vertical variety, standing by a millpond, its great wheel splashing and dripping, its solid oak shaft carrying the power to one or two pairs of stones inside. When we think of "The Old Mill" in this area, we usually picture the grist mill in Brooktondale that can be found in paintings, photos, etc.

"These water wheels were of four main types--(1) overshot; (2) pitchback; (3) breastshot or breast (low, middle, or high); and (4) undershot--the names indicating the point on the wheel at which the water was fed to it. If the wheel is regarded as a clock face, with the water coming to it from the left, then the overshot wheel is fed at about 12:30 or 1:00 o'clock, the pitch-back at about 11:00 or 11:30, the breastshot at between 8:00 and 10:30, and the undershot at about 7:00 o'clock. In these examples, with the water coming in from the left, the overshot would revolve clockwise, and the three other types counterclockwise." (The Mill, Howell & Keller, p.32)

"...It became apparent that the quality of the millstones themselves could play a major role in the quality of meal ground by them...The most famous early quarry was at Mieder Menting in the Mayen district of the Rhineland, where the stone was a dark bluish-gray lava with even pores. Stones cut from this quarry were known as "Cullin" stones, a

corruption of the word Koln, the German name of the city called Cologne in English...With the Hollanders' merchant fleet serving most of the then-known world, the stones naturally followed Dutch trade and culture to many areas..so these German stones were often called Holland stones. Less frequently they were known as Blue stones, Rhine stones, and Cologne stones.

"English settlers in the New World naturally favored stones from the motherland with which they were familiar. Their stones were cut from quarries in the Peak District of southwest Yorkshire and the northeastern perimeter of Derbyshire. The rock in these quarries soon came to be known as Millstone Grit and British millers referred to them as "Peak" or "Grey" stones.

"...The cost of transporting such heavy items across the seas must have been nearly prohibitive, so men went exploring for stone that could serve the many mills springing up along the streams of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolina. Within a few score years several sources were found.

"New York millers found stones near High Falls in Ulster County at a place called The Traps; the material was Shawangunk Conglomerate Grit and the stones were called Esopus Stones. The Esopus Millstone Company, which was a successor to the Bell Millstone Company, had its headquarters at No.8 Wall Street in Kingston, New York....

"...Millers usually could find usable stone near at hand to meet their needs. But this was not good enough for many of the best millers...The French burr stone is the best and most popular stone ever discovered for grinding wheat into white flour...French burr (or burh) stones produced a whiter flour from wheat because the extremely hard surface of the stone was far less abrasive than any other stone used. Abrasive stone tended to shred the outer part of the grain of wheat, the bran, into powder. This fine powder bran sifted through the bolting cloth of the flour-dressing machinery or bolters, together with the white part of the wheat meal. and the flour thus produced was of a darker color.

"Another reason for the superiority of French stones was their high porosity. Some pieces were simply a mass of porous cells; as the stones wore away, new cutting edges appeared. The fact that they could be worked for a long time without being refaced or redressed accounted for their wide popularity with the millers. Some remained in normal use a century or more, but these, of course, were periodically dressed throughout their working life." (The Mill, Howell & Keller, p. 67-73)

"Bottom Mill" was a saw mill built in Six Hundred in 1808 by Elijah Powers. It was at the "bottom" (or beginning) of the creek and was one of the first saw mills on it. In modern days, the name has been switched around to "Mill Bottom" and was used as a "swimmin' hole" by generations of fun-seekers.

The Slaterville Roller Mills were located behind 2790 and 2784 Slaterville Road and back near the creek. It was powered by the mill race with water from six-mile creek and "Thomas R. Reed Brook" (the stream flowing south of Harford (formerly Curran or Speed) road. Isaac Bush conveyed to Solomon Robison the "privilege of carrying Thomas R. Reed Brook across the South West corner of said land in a blind ditch or aqueduct to be one foot below the surface of the ground and

commencing far enough east to carry it to the mill race at any point Jacob Hiles may choose, also reserving the privilege of entering upon the land at any time for the purpose of making or repairing the said ditch, however, that the said Hiles shall not injure or destroy the crops growing thereon." Even yet you can usually feel a "bump" in the road between 118 and 134 Harford Road where the ditch crossed.

In an Ithaca Democrat advertisement of August 8, 1889, the Roller Mills were said to be "second to none in the state. These mills have recently been reorganized and refurnished with the latest and most approved machinery, under the direction of Messrs. Munson Bros. of Utica, N. Y. The system of separations introduced by Munson Bros. are of late origin and far excel those of mills of earlier construction. By their method of separations...a better quality of flour can be obtained than is possible by Roller Mills using a system of separations adopted at an earlier date...Messrs. E. C. & W. S. Shoemaker of Montrose, Pa., have purchased an interest in these mills and take possession of them Aug. 1st, and will operate them under the firm name of John Bull & Co." On September 30, 1891 "fire broke out in the mills belonging to John Bull & Co., and they were burned to the ground. The fire also communicated with two adjacent barns which were also burned. There was an insurance of \$8,000 on the mills and \$2,000 on the barns. The fire is supposed to have caught from the engine."

Mrs. Edna Wells Westbrook tells how her father, Winfield "Winnie or Dick" Westbrook owned the sawmill known as Wells' Mill at 600. Mr. Wells and his father built a large "lumber camp" and also a smaller one for the Wells Family. The family later moved to Slaterville and lived at what is now 2756 Slaterville Road. This saw mill was at the end of 600 Road in about 1911-12. Although it was in the edge of the Town of Dryden, the outlet was through the Town of Caroline and Slaterville.

The 1825 New York Census lists 5 grist mills, 15 saw mills,

4 fulling mills, and 1 woollen factory. Mills in 1835 were listed as 4 grist mills, 10 saw mills, 1 fulling mill, and 1 woollen factory.

The 1850 US Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline shows

1 mill wright - Hiram Hayes and 3 millers - Matthias Ault, Albert Keeler, and Christopher Warner. The 1860 US Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline lists 9 millers - Peter Halmaker, Daniel E. Heart, Jacob Heiles, Josiah Besemer, Henry Pulsipher, Abram Beebe, Adam Ault, Thomas Griffit (or Griffith), and Albert Keeler.

The New York State Census for the Town in 1865 shows nine men who listed their occupations as "miller" and Jane Ault, who was also listed as a "miller" with her husband Adam. Only five men list "lumberman" as an occupation. Ten years later, in 1875, only George W. White is listed as a "millwright". The 1900 census lists two millwrights, five millers, and eight sawyers. The last census available, 1925, shows 13 men listing "lumbering", "saw mill", or "lumberman" as occupations and four men listing "miller" or "millwright".

There are presently (1993) three saw mills in the Town of Caroline, powered by gasoline engines, and in operation only part-time: Ken Mulnix in Speedsville, Ed Maynard on '76 Road, and William & Matthew Mix in Caroline.

THE FAMILY FARM

It is hard for us to imagine just how the pioneers managed to survive the first year following their arrival on the extreme frontier. Pioneering in the eighteenth century must have been, at best, a desperate adventure. If the newcomer's holding, as must usually have been the case, consisted wholly of virgin wilderness, it would be at the very shortest a full year before his farm could make any important contribution to the family food supply. The best he could hope for was that a clearing chopped down in spring or early summer might be burned over in September and winter wheat scratched into the still warm ashes. Then if all went well, the next July he might have a patch of wheat with the blackened stumps standing like tiny islands in a golden sea.

In some of the less fertile regions of the area, and particularly in those with inherited New England traditions, it was corn rather than wheat that held the larger place in pioneer economy. Part of the settler's very first clearing would probably be sown to wheat and part of it would be reserved for corn, and the next May it would be planted with the Indian grain, not in regular, orderly rows, but in haphazard fashion wherever room could be found among the stumps and roots. Such cultivation as it might thereafter receive was with the hoe. One advantage was that the pioneer did not have to contend with weed control. Nearly all of the troublesome weeds of the northeastern countryside are introductions from Europe.

It is evident that even with the greatest resourcefulness and industry, the settler for at least a year after his arrival must depend upon such food as he could bring with him, supplemented by supplies obtained from Owego and later Ithaca - a good days travel away.

In his paper, "Pioneers Worked with Simple Tools", Bill Osburn writes, "When it came time for the pioneer farmer to harvest his hay, he mowed it by hand with a scythe and raked it with a hand rake. Machines were not available, and had they been their use would have been limited. Stumps and other obstructions and uneven surfaces defeated machines for many years. Grain was first cut with a sickle, the grain cradle being unusable until field obstructions were overcome. The straw lay in a regular swath which was raked by hand into sheaves that were stacked in shocks to ripen fully. Each shock wore a "cap" made by spreading a sheaf and inverting it over the shock to protect the grain from rain. Sheaves were bound by scythes made by twisting the heads of a small bundle of straw from the sheaf in such a manner that the heads held firmly. Making the band and capping the shock required clever skill.

"The grain cradle was a scythe equipped with a four-fingered "hand" above the cutting blade. After the straw was cut, it lodged against the fingers in an orderly manner and was deposited in an even swath that permitted raking into sheaves. It required a strong back to swing a cradle all day, especially when the straw was short or particularly dry.

"Before the grain was ready for milling into meal or flour, it had to be threshed out from the straw. This was done by setting up the sheaves on the barn floor, tops up, and threshing out the grain with flails swung rhythmically by a crew of six or eight men. When the grain had been

pounded off the straw forks were used to shake out the grain and throw the straw aside. Before the fanning mill came into use about 1825, barn doors were opened on a windy day and the grain was tossed into the air to permit the chaff to be blown out. In early days this grain was frequently pounded into a course flour in a hollowed out stump by a pestle, or carried long distances to a water powered gristmill.

"All the early tools were primitive; few were brought in with the migrating pioneers and those made were largely of wood fabrication. Hay forks were fashioned from tree branches, grain scoops were gouged out of blocks of wood; hoes, metal forks, hammers and other tools were shaped by blacksmiths on their anvils. These tools were heavy and cumbersome, and costly as a pound of iron bought into the new country from Hudson River furnaces cost 17 cents."

The 1835 NY Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline showed 12,473 improved acres, 3090 cattle, 741 horses, 8847 sheep, and 2266 hogs.

The 1850 US Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline tells us there were 293 farmers and nearly as many "laborer's", while the 1860 US Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline shows

335 listed "Farmer" as occupation and 206 listed "Farm Laborer" as occupation.

In times past, the "hired man" could be found on nearly every farm. He is no longer found in the tenant house, the spare bed in the attic, sitting down to dinner with the family, or in the family cemetery plot. In the past, they came to the family, sometimes as young boys, and stayed with the family permanently. During hard times, the hired man worked for his bed-and-board. Good times could see him paid a wage on top of room and board. A good saver could leave the farmer with enough for a down payment on his own farm or thresher.

There was also the hired man who was one step up from common tramp, he was a migrant worker. He traveled from place to place, was not always reliable or trustworthy. He could pick up his pay on Saturday night, and be gone Sunday morning, leaving the haying, threshing, or silo filling to be done by someone else. Some farmers wouldn't pay the hired man until the "season" was over and the work was done.

In 1950 there were 142 farms with 21,597 acres listed in the Town of Caroline. The 1990 Federal Census 103 persons working in agriculture in the Town (7% of the population) with 136 living on farms (45 of the population).

Officially known as the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, the Grange was one of the first fraternal organizations to stress family membership and the participation of women as equals with men. It was organized to help unite farmers from the North and South following the Civil war and provide a family-oriented fraternal organization to improve the economic and social position of the farm population.

Almost immediately, it began to push a legislative agenda that would chalk up some impressive successes: rural electrification, rural free delivery mail, the federal highway system and government control over railroad freight charges. It also provided a variety of social

activities--dances, dinners, contests, shows, sales and games--that made the meetings the place to be to have fun in many small communities.

Change came after World War II. Radio, and then television, provided in-house entertainment. Young people began to desert the small towns for the big cities and the farm population began to decline. By the early 1950's the local Grange hall was the focal point of many rural communities in America and the Grange, with 880,000 members nationally, was a prime force in the movement to modernize life outside the cities.

When it was no longer necessary to join the Grange in order to purchase low-cost insurance, members who had joined specifically for the insurance left and membership began to fall. The steady decline has left the Grange with about 365,000 members nationally and only about 25,000 in New York state, where the problem is intensified because many of the remaining members are senior citizens.

The Union Grange of Mott's Corners, No. 239, was organized 29 September 1874 with 34 charter members.

The Grange Hall in Slaterville was the old Slaterville House. The Slaterville Fire Company bought the property, destroyed the dilapidated building and built an addition to the fire hall on that property.

The Dairymen's League started about 1921-22 in the Town of Caroline.

The Town of Caroline is fortunate to have a number of farms that are still being farmed by members of the same family for more than 100 years. These "Century Farms" include the Crispell, Hildebrandt-Crispell, Snow-Taft, Yapple, Maynard, Whittaker farms, and in 1995 the Shaw-Mix farm will be added to the list.

HOME FRONT & THOSE WHO SERVED

The bloody story covering war has been told and retold. Its personalities who have enriched our national past have become well known to us through their large two-and-three-volume sets of memoirs they themselves produced, and latterly through the large and extensive biographies by which they have been explained, interpreted, evaluated, and assessed by others.

Tough and debatable subjects such as taxes, land acquisition, slavery, liberty, and justice have been covered and recovered in a multitude of learned treatises. Stories of camp life and battlefield have been repeated by the returning soldiers. Tactics and strategy of every battle are better known and understood today than they ever were by the generals who directed them, all these engagements having been analyzed and studied at West Point for more than a century.

We are not now concerned with marching men, however, their strategy, their victories, or their defeats. These have been dealt with. Our main emphasis, in this chapter, is on the men of Caroline and those who "maned" the "Home Front". We face the first and most painful meaning of war - men go and fight. They must put on uniforms, part with their loved ones, and leave behind all they hold dear. They learn to subsist on Government Issued rations, sleep on a plank or on ground as hard as one. And they must march and march and march.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Many of the early settlers to the Town of Caroline served in the Revolution with the Militia or The Line and Levies. The Town has at least 22 of these veterans buried in the cemeteries of Caroline. Others may have fought with units from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island or Pennsylvania and their records have not yet been found. New York and New Jersey veterans have been documented with information from "New York in the Revolution" and "Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War".

The 1840 US Census lists 5 men who received Military Pensions or were Revolution Veterans. They were: Salamire(?) (or Solomon) Dunham--age 82, James German--age 78, Lawrence Johnson--age 83 (buried in Quick Cemetery), Solomon Middaugh--age 83, and Francis Norwood--age 85 (buried in Yates Cemetery)

Other Revolutionary War veterans in the Town of Caroline include:

Gen. John Cantine--Ulster Co. Militia (bur. Quick Cemetery);

Ebenezer Seeley--Albany Co. Militia (bur. Morris Chapel Cemetery); Jesse Bailey--The NY Line, John Freeman--Dutchess Co. Militia, David Rich and Capt. David Rich of Mass., and John Vickery--18th Mass. Regulars (all buried in Caroline Grove); Abraham Boice--The NY Line, Isaac Hollister and Benoni Mulks--Ulster Co. Militia, James Meddaugh (or Midagh)--Dutchess Co. Militia, and Benjamin Thomas--Dutchess Co. Militia are buried in Mulks Cemetery; John Cromb (Crumb) and James McMaster--Ulster Co. Militia, James Personius--The NY Line, and

Benjamin Genung are buried in the Garret Mandeville Cemetery; Samuel Steavens (Stevens) and George Vandemark--The NY Line are buried in Caroline Center; Isaac Bush--Dutchess Co. Militia and John Robinson--Ulster Co. Militia are buried in Yates Cemetery; William Roe--Orange Co. Militia is buried in Roe Cemetery; and John Cantine, Jr.--Ulster Co. Militia is buried in Ithaca.

The WAR OF 1812 came at a time when settlers in this new land had made a good start with their farms or businesses. More than 40 Town of Caroline residents, along with Chief Wheelock, who served as a scout and was killed during the conflict, armed themselves and went to drive the British from our shores, once again. More than 2/3 of those who submitted requests for reimbursement to the State of New York never had their requests processed. There were 19 from the Town of Caroline who were fortunate enough to receive their reimbursements.

James Robinson, John A. Bois (Boice)--#8,330, Matthew Krum, Levi Slater, William VanInderstine--#8,326, Peter Bush--#9,225, William Hedger--#9,270, David Personius--#5,627, James Personius--#8,333, Barnabus Genung, Robert W. Dean, John Doty--#8,332, Col. Simon Ashley, Dr. Elisha Briggs, John Higgins, John A. Huslander (d.1874), Nicholas Huslander, David Paine, John Payne, Cornelius Turk--# 621, Alexander Lewis--#1,434, William D. Ennest, Sampson Janson, Jonathan (John) Taft, William Perry, Ephraim Personius--# 619, John Linch (Lynch)--#1,870, Robert E. Muir, Capt. William Scott, Jesse Smith, Maj. Hemon Landon, James Cooper--#16,272, Sampson Jansen--# 720, Howard Edmister--#14,953, James Paine--#8,344, Frederick Quick--# 633, Samuel Ripley--#7,749, William Schutt--# 618, and Daniel Slater--#8,327

The various CIVIL WAR records for the Town of Caroline show that 344 men who lived in the Town at one time or another or were buried here, served their country during this devastating conflict. Many of the family names are still in the area, and a walk through the local cemeteries will remind us of the great number of men that were involved. The comments from the enlistment book are very sobering: "killed at Fair Oaks", "killed 2nd Battle of Bull Run", "killed at Spottsylvania Court House", "killed at Petersburg", "died at Harpers Ferry", "killed in action in the Wilderness" and "captured and not heard of since".

At least eight men were Prisoners of War: William Henry Johnston, John Woodbeck Quick, William H. Quick, George Washington Evans, Orlando B. Preston, Job Norwood, John James Personius, Ira Stoddard, and Abram Lane. Charles Earsley was Tompkins county's last veteran of the Civil War when he died at age 93.

There are three SPANISH AMERICAN WAR veterans who are buried in two of the cemeteries in the Town of Caroline: Fred Bacon and Joseph Ledger buried in Cooper Cemetery, and Oscar Baker, buried in Caroline Grove Cemetery.

When "The War To End All Wars" came, men from the Town of Caroline enlisted. _____ Dr. Charles Gallagher, son of Dr. William C. Gallagher of Slaterville Springs, died of pneumonia while serving in France.

Mrs. MARTHA LATTIN of Brooktondale called together a group of young women and formed THE BROOKTONDALE BUGLER ASSOCIATION in 1943 for the

purpose of publishing a bi-monthly paper to send to servicemen of the area, to give them news from the home community. It disbanded at the end of the war in 1946, and a CAROLINE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION was organized in 1949. THE BUGLER association had some funds left in its treasury, and they suggested that these funds be used for erection of a memorial to those from the area who were killed during the war. Residents of the area supported the idea and 280 members met twice a year to maintain the Monument until the Brooktondale Fire Company assumed the maintenance of the Memorial. The Memorial is now under the care of the Caroline Town Board.

One of the largest volunteer efforts in the Town of Caroline was the Ground Observer Corps. The Caroline Post was on Buffalo Road, at the top of the hill. The volunteers spent three hour "tricks" skywatching for possible enemy planes. This was later reduced to two hours for each ground observer. William Page was the post supervisor. Many today remember the call sign, "Papa Nectar 3-2-Red" that prefaced any call to the regional Civil Defense air control.

More individual awards were presented to the Caroline post than at any other in the county. David Terpening received the Merit Award Badge of the U.S. Air Force with the 500-hour bar for his 535 duty hours. Margaret Decker received an award for 419 hours; Jackie Terpening, 393; Judy Terpening, 381; J. LeRoy Decker, 360; Cynthia Terpening, 333; William Page, 298; Priscilla Decker, 293; James Whittaker, 272; and Oscar Beam, 255.

Certificates of Honor, representing 100 hours or more at the post were given to: James Burckes, George Bush, Charles Caveney, LeRoy Decker, Nellie Durbon, Glenn Ellison, Maurine Fuller, Bernice Hall, Delbert W. Hanson, Arthur Harris, Leona Knapp, Virginia Kobasa, Ann Leonard, James Markowitz, Jane Markowitz, Daniel Matychak, Annette Maynard, Bertha Metz, Harold Mitchell, Prudence Mix, Hugh Munch, Edward Newhart, Lewis Oliver, Nancy Shearing, Robert Stout, Charles Terpening, William Thompson, Thomas Thompson, Charles Vorhis, Mary Westfall, Charlotte Whittaker, Phyllis Whittaker, Ann Willard, Marjory Yapple, Florence Starr and Martha Brown.

Silver lapel buttons were presented to: Walter Arsenault, Clinton Baker, Margaret Baker, Bonnie Baker, James Burckes, William Barbe, Russell Boyer, John Brock, Ann Caveney, Charles Caveney, Robert Cornell, Mildred Crispell, Richard Crispell, Ruth Dean, Teena Decker, Collins Fenner, Kenneth Fiero, Dora Fox, Clarence Griffin, Luella Griffin, Gerald Hamilton, Blanche Hamilton, Delbert Hanson, Linden Harris, Alton Henry, Rosetta Jursick, Bjorn Kallstrom, John Kallstrom, John F. Keane, Roland Kellogg, Carol Knapp, Harold Lattin, Frances McKenzie, Jane McKenzie, Edward Monroe, Bessie Moon, Phoebe Moore, Roy Munson, Edward Newhart, Dwan Page, Robert Page, Edward Prouty, Herbert Schutt, Myrtle Shaff, Harold Snow, Hattie Stevens, Robert Stout, Arthur Volbrecht, H. A. Whittaker, Fred Woodin and Ruby Woodin.

(Ithaca Journal)

VIET NAM

The Caroline Good-Will Club sent packages at Christmas time to the men from Caroline who were in the military. The packages contained: wash cloths (dark green), Fels Naptha soap, toilet soap, dry milk, Kool Aid,

Chocolate (in envelopes \$.05 each) mints, writing paper, envelopes, pens, gum, shaving cream, toothpaste, shampoo, and deodorant.

According to the Club record books of 1967 and 1972 packages were sent to the following: David Moesch, Kenneth Westfall, Charles Terpening, David LaPoint, Sandra Delmage Hynes, William Dean, Richard White, Douglas Caveny, Peter Brown, Thomas Leonard, James Raponi, Melvin Stowell, Clifford Rich, Jr., Michael Watson, Charles Snow, Phillip Tewilliger, Robert Parlett, Alex Keleman, John Hilker, Robert Hamilton, Fred Ink, David Drake, Edwin Brown, Carol Caveney, David Liddington, Gerry Shevilar, Billy Starr, Wil Kone, Bill Grover, Richard Ucelli, Fay Jordan, Pete Munch,

Roger Murphy, John Kelemen, Lelsie Dean, Richard Bordnett,

Tom Brown, Charles Barnhart, Paul Crumb, Glenn Jones,

Charles Benjaman, Daniel Alfreds, Charles Morse, Kenneth Mulnix, Robert Tutton, Herbert Schutt, Thomas Jones, Jack Jordan, James Lovejoy, James Sloughter, LeRoy Miner, Richard Zimmerman, Robert Rich, Hugh Ink, Richard Blackman, Duane Prince, William Petrolise, Doug Knapp, and Gary Wheeler.

Charles Hamilton was killed in action in Viet Nam on 7 September 1969.

DESERT STORM

More than twenty Town of Caroline military personel served during the Desert Storm crises in 1991. They were: Terry Clary, Jonathan J. Short, Edward Kirtland, Kelly Martin, Andrew Dunlop, Donald Short, Susanne Murphy, Dale Scriber, Wayne J. Watson, Charles A. Gehres, Mark Herrick, Robert Tutton, Scott Fairbank, David J. Hamilton, Jack F. Jordan, Shane Sloughter, Brian Joshua Horan, Michael D. Watson, Dan Moesch, Charles Barnhart, Scott A. Phoenix, Raymond Smits. The following had Brooktondale home address even though they lived in the Town of Richford: Tommy Prince, Dean A. Prince, and Scott Keith.

CCC CAMP

During the Great Depression, when President Roosevelt set up the Civilian Conservation Corp, thousands flocked to the many camps scattered across the 48 states.

They entered the "C's" without the slightest idea of what they were getting into. Some came from small family farms, some from the large city, some from the small city. This was a venture which would reap tremendous dividends for not only the boys, but all America.

The CCC venture was for a good purpose. Statistics revealed in the early 1950's that every dollar spent on CCC activities had paid a return of one dollar and sixty cents.

What the CCC boys did during their tenure, from March 1933 through March 1942, will live on into infinity. At its height in the mid-30s, the CCC had more than 500,000 enrolled. They built dam projects, cut fire lanes in the huge forests, worked on soil erosion projects,

quarried stone and built state parks. (Most of the stone work you see in the area parks are a result of the CCC boys.)

The CCC was dedicated to reclamation projects throughout the 48 states. Millions of tree seedlings were planted by them. Many of these projects are still paying dividends today.

Not only was land and waterway changed through reclamation, the boys themselves gained tremendously. They entered camps around the nation somewhat bewildered by economic conditions. They found a new source of hope that rekindled the spirit.

They learned to shoulder responsibility. Some were chosen for leadership positions, some learned a trade for future use. Character-building was an ongoing process of development from the day they entered camp.

In their operations they used the pick, shovel, double bit axe, crosscut saw, hoe, rake, fork and other pieces of equipment which are antiquated by today's standards. Their works have gone down into the history books, there to remain for future generations.

The boys had been partially prepared for military service when World War II broke out, for camp life was under the Reserve Officer rules and regulations. This was a training session for the War Department in the movement of large companies of men from North to South, East to West.

Our local CCC camp was located at what is now 337 Harford Road. The boys printed a camp paper called "The Plowboy". There are a number of local families that originated with "the dances" that were sponsored by the community. Boy and girl met, fell in love, married and settled down in the area.

CAROLINE ANIMALS

Mosquitoes and myriads of gnats that thrived in the moist, wooded country made life miserable for the early settlers. Animals of the new country, too, were a pest. Bears, wildcats, foxes and wolves raided the farmers' livestock, and had to be eradicated by trapping and shooting.

Pelts were a source of income, and the bears supplied meat and oil as well as pelts. In autumn a three-year-old bear would be so fat that he weighed from 250 to 300 pounds. Called a "blanket," the fat layer on the rump might be five inches thick and, when "tried out," produce ten to fifteen gallons of bear oil that sold for as much as \$6 a gallon. At home, the farm family used it as a substitute for butter and lard, its sweet taste making it highly palatable. In commerce, bear grease was an ingredient of medicines and hair tonics and a base for perfumes. Bones were made into buttons, combs, knife handles, knitting needles and similar domestic items.

"By Burnett C. Rawley, Richford Folklorist:

"In 1828, wolves in the area became so numerous that the towns of Richford, Berkshire, Candor and Lisle held a conference at which it was resolved to appoint two men from each town to organize and conduct a great drive to force the animals out of the country. As plans progressed, many other men and boys joined the drive.

"The outfit for each of these participants was made up of a gun, dog and a cowbell. At night sentinels stood guard, ringing bells and firing guns occasionally so the wolves would not run back past the line of the drivers.

"The march began just north of Slaterville on a line eastward to Hunt's Corners and westward to near Slaterville. Every man on the line advanced, firing his gun, yelling and ringing his bell. At night dry trees were set on fire at frequent intervals to frighten the predators.

"It was the second Tuesday in February (-- Feb) when the drive opened. Every man had his knapsack full of victuals and he got a fresh supply at each house he passed.

"The line was kept in the shape of a semicircle so as to drive the animals into the center of a narrowing circle. Some wolves were slain, but most of them kept well out of the way so that there were many of the beasts collected ahead of the line. On Thursday night, when the line halted at Gaskill, the hungry wolves killed and consumed six large sheep near there.

"Friday was the last day of the drive, by which time the animals had been driven across the Susquehanna River. After that wolves were far less numerous on the Tioga-Tompkins border than they had been for a long time, but residents of the section south of the river and down into Pennsylvania long held a bitter grudge against the group for driving the pests over on them."

On wilderness farms there were few fences and farmstock was likely to roam. a co-mingling of cattle made it difficult for an owner to decide which were his, so a system of earmarks was developed and recorded as the first entry in the new Town Clerk's book. Under each settler's name was entered a brief description of the mark he used to distinguish his livestock. To make certain the description would be understood - and perhaps because some of the settlers could not read - the Town Clerk drew a pen sketch of the head of the animal and indicated the markings on the ears. Registration of earmarks with the Town Clerk continued as late as 3 June 1845 when Peter Meddaugh's mark was entered.

Roaming livestock caused laws to be passed in town meetings. At the first town meeting it was "Resolved, That swine shall not run on the commons." (the area used by all residents). Again in 1812 it was "Resolved, That hogs shall not be free commoners." The first law evidently did not keep the pigs at home. A law was passed in 1812 to place boars and rams under control. It was "Resolved, That a fence shall be six feet high to be lawful."

Free livestock remained a problem and in 1813 it was "Resolved, That the supervisor raise money to build a pound 30 feet square of oak or chestnut timber and the supervisor to let said pound to be built by the lowest bidder." It was also "Resolved, That Joseph Chambers, Laban Jenks and John J. Speed be a committee to fix a site of said pound..."

Fence Sitters were those citizens called to pronounce judgment against the owners of stray animals.

When President Grover Cleveland rode down Pennsylvania Avenue in his inaugural parade in 1893, he was in a carriage drawn by two seal brown rangy horses born and raised in the Town of Caroline. One of the horses was raised by Levi Goodrich at his 500 acre farm atop Blackman Hill. The mate was raised by the uncle of Chauncey S. Goodrich, the only surviving son of Levi Goodrich. The uncle, Stephen Boyer of Speedsville sold the horse in New York City. Mr. Goodrich, who lives at the foot of Blackman Hill stated that his father sold the horse of the Syracuse Blackhawk strain to a Mr. Ellis, an Ithaca merchant, who later disposed of it in New York City. Late in the fall of 1892 after election, Grover Cleveland wanted a team in Washington from his native state of New York for his own use at the White House. He paid \$10,000 for the Tompkins County horses.

Many years ago, a man named Mr. Lawrence, who lived and farmed the land nearby, was driving by Bammie Wilber's shop when he heard a dog whining. There by the side of Mr. Wilber's shop, was an old well covered with old, rotten boards. Mr. Lawrence stopped to investigate and found a puppy afloat on a piece of wood in the well. He rescued the puppy and the two became inseparable.

Mr. Lawrence died in 1881. His dog lay next to the casket in the family parlor and followed behind the casket laden wagon to the cemetery in Speedsville. After the grave was covered, the dog lay down upon the grave and no amount of coaching could convince him to leave. Food and water were left, but to no avail. Mr. Lawrence's dog never left the grave. He died there, close to his master.

On the last day of school, in May 1971, Lester "Eb" Conrad was taking his daughter Pam to DeWitt Middle School in Ithaca. While driving near

the airport, Eb noticed a pack of dogs dragging a full grown deer. Ed stopped and ran toward the dogs. They dropped the deer and ran. The deer was a young doe that was in the process of giving birth. One fawn had been born, but the second was still unborn. Eb started to drag the doe towards the road so she could be picked up by the Conservation officers, when Pam heard a bleating. Eb and Pam searched through the swamp and found a newborn baby fawn.

Eb picked up the fawn, put it under his coat, and took it home. They got some calf formula powder from "Curley" Watson, next door, and with a baby bottle, fed Bambi, three times a night and during the day. The family had been planning a vacation, but they cancelled it. Bambi grew and learned to eat grain and hay with the cow and horses that Conrad's owned. She lived in the barn, but learned how to open doors, come into the house, walk up and down the stairs, and made herself one of the family. She was never penned or tied, but was free to roam when and where she liked.

At about three months of age, Bambi climbed in the red Volkswagen Bus and went for a ride with the family. She loved traveling and visiting the neighborhood. She always knew who would allow her to "visit" and who did not. She was especially attached to D.J. Austin, a child who suffered from a serious illness and could not play with other children. At seven months, Eb placed a wide, bright orange, collar on Bambi. With the collar, she could be seen from quite a distance. She ran free, even during deer season, and deer hunters have been known to bring her back to Conrads.

One year, just before Christmas, the neighborhood children were sledding on a knoll near Slaterville Road. Bambi liked to sit on a plastic sled and ride down the hill, also. At the bottom, she would get off and run around and kick up her heels. A greyhound bus came around the curve, saw the deer riding down hill on a sled, and nearly skidded off the road. The driver stopped, the people got out and lined the road taking pictures. After a while, they loaded back on to the bus and finished their journey. Years later, people would stop at Conrads house and share their photos and movies of Bambi riding down hill.

Every day, Bambi made her "rounds". She would go to Slaterville and visit Barnes store, looking for Marshmallows, sugared cereal or chewing tobacco. After Barnes' she would walk down the sidewalk to Lampman's store. She walked into barns during milking time to be petted by local farmers, or help herself to some feed. She was seen in Speedsville, Slaterville, Dryden and Candor, but no matter where she was during the day, at 4:30 in the afternoon she would be found waiting in Conrad's driveway for Eb when he got home from work.

As time went on, Bambi matured, and one day, while in the house, she saw a herd of deer on the sidehill. The family grabbed her before she jumped through the picture window, and got her out the door. After that, they would not let her upstairs of the house, even though she would knock to get in.

The wild deer would smell the human scent on her, and ran from her. This prevented her from mating, and it was decided that she should be given to the Cornell Game Farm in 1975. The game farm had other domesticated deer there, and Bambi settled in very well. She had two babies during her lifetime there. Conrads visited her weekly until her

death at age 12. Bambi brought much joy and happiness to the lives of those who knew her in the Town of Caroline.

On Sunday, 18 September 1988 "Harry", the four-and-a-half foot, five pound, Monitor lizard was caught on '76 Road by Carl Corey, who rolled a 55-gallon oil drum across the road and shoveled the lizard in with a shovel, then just stood it up and waited for the police to arrive. It was first spotted on Saturday on Brooktondale Road, and residents did everything they could to catch it. It disappeared into the woods Saturday night and began to walk onto the road again at night probably to keep warm. It was taken to Cornell University and made a brief appearance in his cage at the Brooktondale Apple Festival on October 25th, then went to live at the Buffalo Zoo. The lizard was named "Harry" "...because it was a little hairy getting him."

INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES

"Any well-ordered pioneer economy demanded that resources and skills of a supporting corps should be available to the settler within a distance not greater than could be traversed by slow team, going and returning within the hours of a single day. These arts and handicrafts were so many and so diverse that it is difficult even to enumerate them without grave omission and oversight. But these at least are remembered: Blacksmith, carpenter, cooper, cobbler, cabinetmaker, sawyer, miller, fuller, dyer, tailoress, tanner, mason, brickmaker, shingle shaver, wagon, sleigh and carriage builder, millwright, harness maker, charcoal burner, lime burner, and distiller." (The Golden Age of Homespun, p.6)

The 1825 NYS Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline tells that there were:

4 Fulling Mills--owned by: Silas Hutchinson, Jr., Aaron Bull, James Schutt, and James Wiltsey;

3 Carding Machines--owned by: Silas Hutchinson, Jr., Aaron Bull, and Abram Boice, Jr.;

5 Grist Mills--owned by: John Mulks, John Cantine, Solomon Robinson, John James Speed (Sr.), and Lyman Rawson;

15 Saw Mills--owned by: Isaac Hollister, Silas Hutchinson (Sr.), Harry Middaugh, John Mulks, CATHERINE BUSH, Aaron Bull, Charles Mulks, Jacob Schoonmaker, Solomon Robinson, Jonathan Norwood, HANNAH ROUNESVILLE, John James Speed (Sr.), Aaron Curtis, and John Cantine;

1 Woollen Factory--owned by: Silas Hutchinson, Jr.;

3 Distilleries--owned by: John Mulks, Spencer Hungerford, Lyman Rawson;

1 Asherie--owned by: Levi Slater;

1 Triphammer--owned by: Samuel Whiting;

The 1835 NYS Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline, lists only: 1 Fulling Mill, 1 Carding Machine, 4 Grist Mills, 10 Saw Mills, 1 Woollen Factory, 1 Distillery, but 5 Tanneries in the Town.

The 1840 US Census for the Town of Caroline lists the following:

65 people involved in "Manufactures & Trade"

6 - "Learned Professions & Engineers, etc." (Richard Meddaugh, Ira Holmes, Joseph Speed, James Ashley, James Deland, Gerrit Mandeville)

4 - "Commerce" (Isaac L. Bush, Bartholemew Green, Hiram Jones, Leroy Kingman)

1 - "Navigation of Rivers, Lakes & Canals" (Aaron Bull)

The age of industrialization brought changes. There were still the majority of men who listed their occupation as "Farmer" or "Laborer", but as seen in the 1840 Census, more and more were listing their main occupations as something else. The most numerous were carpenters - made necessary in a young community whose whole economy, especially in construction, was rapidly expanding.

Blacksmiths were possibly the most absolutely indispensable craftsmen of the pioneer era. The smith with his hammer and anvil and bellows came marching in almost abreast of the first settlers, and he was the last craftsman to disappear before the resistless impact of the machine age.

Wagon and Carriage makers supplied the vehicles needed. Cabinetmakers along with joiners made the tables, chairs, bedsteads, hope chests, baby cradles, and such other gear as the pioneer needed. Tailors and tailoress often traveled from home to home among their clients in order that the farmer and his wife and children might be clad. Tanners represented tiny establishments in which local hides and skins were turned into leather for the use of the community shoemaker and harnessmaker.

There were millers, masons, peddlers, innkeepers and tavern keepers, and gunsmiths - this in a day when flintlock, muzzle-loading rifles and shotguns were the almost universal firearms of the frontier.

"The cooper made an amazing variety of necessities. He made flour barrels, cider barrels, and pork barrels. He made the meat tubs, the wash tubs, and the butter tubs. He made the sap buckets, and the old oaken bucket that hung in the well. He made the pails the farmer held between his knees when he milked his cows, the pails from which the calves were fed, and the kitchen pails. He made the oaken dash churn found on every well-ordered farm. In a word, he made everything formed of staves drawn together with wooden hoops." (The Golden Age of Homespun, p.106)

The work of the pioneer carpenter was characterized by its massiveness. The posts, main beams, and cross timbers were shaped out of the log with the broadax and adz. The siding was planed by hand - a job commonly turned over to the young fellows learning the trade. The window frames, sashes, and doors were built by hand on the job. The floors were of broad boards, planed smooth, than tongued-and-grooved by hand. Every house and barn was a hand-tailored job.

The difference between a "carpenter" and a "joiner" was not clear-cut. "Joiner" does not appear as an occupation in either the 1850 or 1869 census for the Town of Caroline. Most carpenters in this area who hewed the posts and beams with ax and broadax, mortised the timbers, nailed on the siding, shingled the roof and in general, did the rougher work on a house or barn, were content to be called carpenters. The man who built the interior finishings, the paneled doors, window sashes, stairs, and railing, and who molded the wainscoting and made the fanlights, these men preferred the status of "finnish carpenter". This work, once done slowly and patiently with keen tools and skill of hand and eye, has universally been taken over by automatic machines.

If the difference between "carpenter" and "joiner" or "finnish carpenter" was uncertain, it is surely hard to say where joinery left off and cabinetmaking began. In common speech, the cabinetmaker was primarily a builder of furniture, but just what constitutes furniture? By general agreement, tables, chairs, bedsteads, chests of drawers, trundle beds, cradles and moveable household equipment were furniture.

The pioneer "wheelwright" or "wagon maker" of the pioneer era made primarily two-wheeled carts rather than the conventional four-wheeled wagon because they were easier to make and the fields were still studded with stumps. Two wheels were easier to maneuver and watch than four. As the farms became cleared and larger, the four-wheeled wagon became the dominate vehicle. The difference between "carriage maker" and "wagon maker" is as fine as that between "carpenter" and "joiner". The fact is that the necessity of "ironing off" a wagon, sleigh or carriage after the woodwork was completed caused wagonmaking and blacksmithing to be joint enterprises. The blacksmith who could not take on also a job of wagon repairs would have been deemed one who had only half-learned his trade. (The Golden Age of Homespun, p.103-121)

The 1850 US Census, Tompkins County, Town of Caroline, lists 31 occupations other than "farmer", "laborer" or "farm laborer". Some of these occupations that are not listed on the 1860 census include:

James Middaugh - Jeweler Samuel P. Ashley - Lawyer Hiram Hayes -
Millwright Chester Braynard -glovesmaker

Ansel Braynard - Tobacconist Heman Shirter - printer

Benj. Legg - Trader Aaron Legge - Stage Driver

Hiram Mayo - Millwright John Litts - Basketmaker

There were also 41 carpenters, 18 blacksmiths, 14 shoemakers, 9 boatmen, 9 peddlers, 9 physicians, 8 wagon makers, 7 masons, 6 gunsmiths, 5 innkeepers, 5 merchants, 5 tailors, 4 clothiers, 3 millers, 3 cooper, 3 clerks, 1 weaver, 1 cabinet maker, 1 painter, 1 carriage maker, 1 harness maker, 1 sawyer and 1 male school teacher. The occupations of women were not recorded.

The 1860 US Census, Tompkins county, Town of Caroline, lists 34 occupations other than "Farmer", "Laborer" or "Farm Laborer". Some of these that are not listed on the 1850 census include:

Sherrard Slater - Justice and Surveyor

John Mandeville - Surveyor Henry Krum - Post Master

William Branard - Cigar maker Sextus Landon - Butcher

Alford Crawford - Brickmaker Otis Legg - Mail Carrier

Selah Benjamin - Harness maker 5 merchant clerks

2 shoe merchants 1 Blacksmith Apprentice

4 Rail Road Men 1 (R.R.) Fireman.

There were also 20 carpenters, 19 blacksmiths, 9 millers, 9 shoemakers, 8 merchants, 6 physicians (1 negro), 5 wagon makers, 3 gunsmiths, 3 coopers, 3 painters, 2 sawyers, 2 stone masons, 2 cabinet makers, 2 harness makers, 2 tailors, 2 woollen manufacturers, 2 peddlers, 1 carriage maker, 1 innkeeper, 1 clerk and 1 male teacher. Female occupations that were listed include: 61 domestics, 16 schoolteachers, 7 seamstresses, 4 milliners, 2 weavers, and 1 tailoress.

The Civil War produced results not immediately apparent, results that were to have wider repercussions in Caroline than the Emancipation Proclamation. Forces only faintly discernible before the war are brought suddenly into the foreground. Industry called for the emergency production of arms and munitions. Almost before the country realizes what is going on it is in the midst of a second revolution, an uprising that is to lead from the civil conflict between state and state to a great reunited industrial domain. Out of the ruins of war a new America is to emerge. From the 1850 census through the 1915 census there were gunsmiths listed in Brookton, although Alva Lull was listed on the 1840 census under "manufactures & trades".

A vast shift of the population begins from the land to the city, from the farm to the factory. The individual craftsman takes a factory job and thus paves the way for mass production; and the city sends back to the farm a machine to take the place of the men it has hired away.

In the new industrial setup little businesses were turned into bigger businesses. Mines, mills and factories boomed. The 1865 census shows us that six "hand-powered" businesses employed nine men and one boy under 18, while the two "water-powered" businesses employed seven men and three boys under 18. Two other businesses did not state whether they were water or hand powered employed and they employed four men. There were also four retail stores, six merchants, two clerks, and four listed as "clothier".

The number of carpenters and cabinetmakers in the Town in 1870 had doubled from 1865. There were nine merchants and five clerks in 1870 and a number of professions appear for the first time. Soliman B. Seager, Hermon Perry and Richard Leonard were brickmakers while George W. Clark was an apprentice brick maker. Isaac B. Yates was listed as a well driver, William H. Lynch was a showman, Jeremiah McLees was a "Tem. Lecturer" [temperance lecturer], Hermon Jenkins a dealer in eggs, Elias M. Phillips a mail carrier, and Perlee Webster a real estate agent.

The 1875 census shows Judson Blackman as a "speculator", Enos Calkins as a "gardener", Mr. ___ Treman as a salesman, and J. N. Osmauder as a "tinner". Nancy Robbison was a postmaster, John Davis was "constable & collector"

Town of Caroline women began to take the place of men in some occupations. In 1860, Widow Aldrich is listed as a "tailoress", and the 1865 census lists Jane Ault as a "miller". By 1892 Caroline Ault was a "baker" and Mary Dodge was a "cook", Emily Mills was a "clerk" in her husbands store, and Georgianna Besemer was a telegraph operator. Women started working in the mills, stores, and as hotel proprietors. Daisy Hoaglin was listed as a "chauffeur" in 1915 while Clara Salisbury was

listed as a "farmeress", Lucy Wall as a US Mail carrier, and BIRTHA Beard as a real estate dealer.

The New York News of September 9, 1895 reported on the skunk farm that was the property of "the Ithaca Fur Company" which was located on Bald Hill. "The only level spot on the farm is the place where the farmhouse and outbuildings stand, about 150 feet above the highway". It was a 50 acre farm whose elevation gave it the quiet and seclusion which was required by the half-wild livestock, while the protecting hills give them warmth in winter, and the rocks, which crop out along the hillside, make it possible to keep the furry inhabitants within bounds and prevent them from burrowing to liberty.

There was a long low wooden building called the skunk house which was the winter residence of the animals, and consisted of two rooms. The smaller one, about 20 feet square was used as an office and work room. It contained a hugh stove, which heated the whole building. The top of the stove was fitted with a big kettle used for cooking the food of the skunks. Along the sides of the room were stored the cage traps in which the animals were caught, air tight boxes in which they were killed, and other farm implements.

The other room, occupying about two-thirds of the entire building, contained the winter burrows of the skunks. There were tiers of wooden compartments, one above the other, which extended along the sides of the building, enclosing the cement paved court which was the feeding ground. Most of the skunks would come out at night to feed, as they do in the wild.

The skunks were fed a diet of boiled meat scraps (to kill the germs-- the animals needed to be in good health) and a few vegetables. The whole "stew" was spread out on the floor of the central court at nightfall.

To keep the animals from escaping from the compound, a trench more than two feet deep and four feet wide was dug and filled in with cobblestones, "which are one of the chief products of this hillside farm." In the center of this stone filled trench are set the posts which supported a solid board fence four feet high, and running around the lot, a broad board laid horizontally along the top of the fence, designed to keep the skunks from climbing over. A large russian bloodhound kept all strangers off the farm at night. (his presence was explained by the statement that several other skunk farms had been ruined by mischievous persons who let skunks out of the enclosures.

In order to make the skunk's death painless and to prevent injury to the fur, the skunks were put into an air tight box into which a sponge saturated with chloroform has been dropped which rendered the fur free from odor. Pelts were valued in proportion to the amount of black it contained, and it was the aim of the skunk farmers to breed out the white marks found on nearly all skunks. The quality of the fur was improved and the size of the animals was increased greatly by abundant and regular food and care. The objection to the white fur was not solely on account of its color, but because it was rougher and of poorer quality and had to be dyed.

The superintendent of the farm told the New York reporter, "Our furs are handled by a New York firm, and are shipped to London. Many of them, of

course, come back to this country after they have been made up. The fur is used for many purposes, but it is never sold under it's true name, because of the aversion many people have for the skunk. Many a fashionable woman would be shocked if she knew that, when she thought she was buying Canadian sable or Russian seal, she was getting plain, ordinary skunk skin, which by the way, is every whit as good...Besides the skin, a fat skunk yields...oil" which was used in medical practice as a cure for catarrh, sore throat and sprains and bruises.

Gunners and Bates owned the farm at one time.

Blackman Hill was one of the sites of "Clarks Seed Farm" in the area. The Town of Richford was the main office for the area. Because the ground would "run out" after three years, the seed stock was rotated between farms. The "Foundation Seed Farm" on Blackman Hill provided foundation stock for planting.

In the Town of Caroline, on Blackman Hill, were the Tracey Evans, Rich and Smith farms around the fire tower, and Wattles at the end of the road for a total of about 500 acres. On the road from Caroline to Speedsville were the Goodrich, Skapiak and Chenation farms for a total of another 500 acres. The Goodrich farm showed the remains of an oval track once used for horse racing. It was quite an operation in its day.

Mr. Lewis Hardiston, a 2nd cousin of Frank Clark, owner, came to the Clark Seed Farms operation in August of 1945 and took over the sales and business end of the operation. George Osgood was the Production Manager until 1949, Wilfred "Bill" Johnson from 1949-1957, and Erwin "Red" Garrison from 1957 to the end of operation in 1968.

Trees were planted on steep hillsides not suited for potatoes. Some were planted for Christmas trees, but they found that the pruning necessary was too expensive. They had plans to thin the trees when they got big enough for fence posts, harvest some for utility poles and barn poles, leave enough to re-seed, prevent erosion and eventually harvest them for timber. Small ponds were built to give a water supply for spraying and larger ones for irrigation. The plan for these ponds if they ever had to give up farming, was to sell lots off around them for hunting camps, recreation sites, etc, which would give an added tax base.

At one time they had about 700 acres under the plow for all crops, but as they decreased the potato acreage because of labor problems and low potato prices, they eliminated from production some of the fields that had heavy soils, poorest drainage and those furthest from the Richford warehouse. They stopped using most of the land on Goodrich hill, and some of the Wattles place. They continued using the Foundation (Tracy Evans) Farm as it had a potato storage there which was used for the seed they planted. The Caroline farms were 12 miles from Richford, a long ways to haul seed and fertilizer for planting, and moving equipment back and forth was time consuming.

The main crop was seed potatoes with table and chipping potatoes secondary. In rotation they grew seed rye with clover, sold the rye for seed and plowed under the clover to give humus to the soil. They also grew a few beans for the canning plant at Cortland.

During the first years of the operation they brought in the fertilizer by rail in the fall, after harvest, and hauled it up the hill to put into storage. They had a crew at the railroad siding who unloaded the freight cars and loaded the bagged fertilizer onto the trucks. Then they had a crew on the hill doing the unloading of the trucks and storing the bags in different buildings. Later they were able to obtain tractor trailer trucks that would deliver the fertilizer to the farm on the hill which saved one handling.

A different type of equipment was required for each operation, preparing the land for planting, seed cutting, planting, weeding, cultivating, spraying, harvesting, grading, etc. All of this equipment had to be cleaned and disinfected after being used and stored until needed again. When they got the machinery out after storage, there was always problems of getting it adjusted right and operating in a satisfactory manner. They steamed cleaned much of the equipment and sprayed it with oil to keep it in as good condition as possible.

At first they picked rocks by hand and later used a mechanical picker. With fewer rocks they obtained more erosion, so they build many diversion ditches in the fields to divert the water and planted the rows of potatoes on a contour as much as possible. This made for more difficult farming, as it required many more turns of the equipment. After they picked rocks with the mechanical picker in the fall, they planted rye to prevent erosion.

In 1945 they had German prisoners for the harvest. They were housed at the CCC camp on Harford Road. Clarks gave work to all the local people who were interested and many of them did help during the harvest season and some during the year. In 1946 Clarks had British West Indies men for the harvest as well as local folks. In 1947 they had boys from the hills of East Tennessee. The Rich and Smith farms were purchased that year.

Potato Field Day was held on the farm in July 1948. People from Binghamton harvested for Clarks as some plant down there closed. Clarks trucked them back and forth. 1948 saw the purchase of the Blackman and Goodrich farms. That was also the year that a man who was "jacking" deer, shot Lewis Hardison while he was sitting in his truck on the farm, as he thought Hardison was the game warden. Mr. Hardison entered into partnership with his cousin, Mr. Clark on the operation of the farms.

The start of the tree planting was in 1950, and was done by the boys from the Future Farmer Clubs in the High Schools in the area. Boys from the Dryden school did most of the planting. It was also the year they started using Florida migrants for the harvest. They had to change from barrels to bags for handling the potatoes, as this was the method the migrants were used to. In 1952 they brought the electric line up to the "Foundation Farm" in Caroline and built the potato storage there. In 1953 they drilled wells there.

Some years seemed to have more than their share of problems. When Hurricane Hazel went through the area on October 15, 1954, it caused lots of damage to the old buildings. The Goodrich barn burned, there was lots of snow and they had a bad fall. In 1955 a tractor trailer with potatoes wrecked on Rt. 17, a hail storm on June 21 caused damage to some of the fields, the Richford warehouse burned August 27th, and

the harvest was a little late because of lots of problems with a very wet fall.

In 1966 the operation bought a potato harvester because of labor problems in previous years. They put a rock bucket on the machine so they could hold rocks as they picked them out of the potatoes and later dump the rocks in piles. The harvester was not too successful as there were too many rocks. It took a lot of people on the machine picking out the rocks and they got too many bruised potatoes. Mr. Clark had a stroke in 1964, and in 1966 Mr. Hardison was having serious health problems. In 1968 Clarks Seed Farms had a big farm auction in Richford and disposed of all of the machinery. Mr. Hardison later said, "...I never knew how easy it was to make a living until I got out of farming." (notes from Lewis Hardison, Nov. 1993)

HOME SWEET HOME

For many, "a woman's place is in the home" even though according to the dictionary, Women's Rights refers to the rights of women to the same legal protection, privileges and occupational opportunities as men. Looking through the records of the Town of Caroline, it would seem that Women's Rights had a running start in the Town from the very first settler to the present day.

The Pioneer First Settler was the Widow Maria Earsley. She was free to choose her location and move her family even though moving was no easy matter. Another early settler was the Widow Jemima VanDeMark who chose her homesite on Bald Hill. While the Bush Tavern was begun by the pioneer Richard Bush, after his death in 1815, his widow continued operation of the Tavern for many years. Oral history tells that she was really in command of the social events that took place in the Tavern. These events included Ithacans as well as local residents, but all came by invitation and their arrival was formally announced.

The Tompkins County Directory for 1868-69 lists 31 women as farmers who were managing from 1 acre to 125 acres. These women had been left with land when their husbands died and they continued to operate the farm with the help of their children and a hired man. Many women ran businesses such as dressmaking or millinery shops, some taught school or were weavers, MRS MARIA ASHLEY was a Milliner as well as a farmer of 60 acres, HANNAH ROUNESVILLE owned a saw mill, and JANE AULT is listed on the 1865 census as a "miller".

A search through a quantity of directories, diaries, scrapbooks, family records, census records, and old newspapers has shown that women of Caroline have been mothers, grandmothers, teachers, storekeepers, postmistresses, hotel proprietors, hotel workers, household assistants, craftsmen, community workers with church, youth groups and adult education groups, telephone operators, telegraph operators, real estate agents, news reporters, professional nurses, college teachers, members of the Clergy, performers in music, artists, writers, Town Clerks, Councilmen, and Supervisors, political workers, as well as "Good Neighbors and Citizens of Worth".

The 1860 Federal Census shows 16 teachers, 4 milliners, 7 seamstress, 1 tailoress and 2 weavers as occupations among

Town of Caroline women. Occupations among women on the 1865 New York State Census showed 15 tailoress/seamstress/dressmakers, 2 milliners, 2 weavers, 1 MILLER, 9 house keepers, and 10 teachers.

The 1865 Census also states that 2 households produced 35 pounds of stocking yarn, 14 households produced over 567 pair of socks, and 3 households produced 95 yards of carpet. Only the male heads of the households are credited with these products, but it is unlikely that with all of the farmwork they had to do, that the men spun yarn, knitted socks and wove carpet.

The Civil War brought more opportunities for women to show their talents. Many worked outside the home as housekeepers or domestics,

seamstresses, teachers, etc. but many also started other businesses. Between the Civil War and World War I, women in the Town of Caroline were recorded on the census records as being: postmasters/mistress, music teachers, "corsit shop", creamery and woollen mill workers, weavers, bakers, store clerks and salesmen/lady, cooks (in a hotel), laundress, merchants, ministers, nurses, landlord/lady, livery man, paper hanger, "table waiter", bookkeeper, "needle work", stenographer, telephone operator, compositor, "hotel proprietress", artists, "real estate dealer", and "chauffeur".

Another change could be seen in occupations of women after World War I. Minnie Ennest was the only dressmaker; Fannie and Clara Gregrow were laborers in a knitting mill; Clara English and Pearl M. Jansen worked at the "Chain Works"; Mary R. Shoemaker and Minnie Conrad were postmasters; Eva Sinski, Doris McKenzie, Margaret VanDeMark, Eunice Hall, Carrie and Hazel Fox were listed as "saleswoman"; Emily M. Mills was a "merchant"; Marjorie E. Slocum was a cashier; Mary J. Robinson and Cressie L. Osmun were music teachers. There were seven women who were working in the nursing field: Elizabeth M. Thomas, Mable VanDyke, Georgiana Root, Helen M. Silsbee, Mary E. Hull, Laura Stark, and Katherine Black who ran a nursing home. Andrea L. Kanalis was a "restaurant chef"; Esther Head was "telephone central"; Thelma Shepardson, Margaret Marion, Gertrude Sinski, Antoinette Lynch and Helen Stout worked in offices; and Affie Jones, Bernice Munch, Ella Richards, Lucy Weston, Mary Wade, Mable Blend, Bessie S. Johnson, Esther Beard, Grace Roe, Gertrude VanDeMark, Ruth Graham, Edith Snow, Cecil E. Blake, Julia Lounsbery and Martha, Esther, and Elizabeth Middaugh were teachers. Many of these job opportunities were in Ithaca rather than in the Town of Caroline.

No longer was the poem "Grandmothers Day" the normal way of life for women. (Even in the early years there was usually one other adult woman in the household whether it be grandmother, maiden aunt, unmarried daughter and they did not do everything in one day.)

GRANDMOTHERS DAY

Great Grandma got up at
break of day

Milked ten cows and fed
them hay,

Fed the hogs and
saddled the mule

Went in and got
breakfast and the kids
off to school.

Did a washing and
mopped the floors

Washed some windows and
did some chores,

Cooked a dish of home
dried fruit,

Then she pressed
Grandad's Sunday suit.

Swept the parlor and
made the beds

And baked a dozen
loaves of bread,

Split some firewood and
lugged it in,

Enough to fill the
kitchen bin.

Cleaned the lamps and
put in oil,

Cooked some apples she
thought would spoil,

Churned the butter and
baked a cake,

And then exclaimed,
"For heavens sake,

The calves have got out
of the pen",

Went out and chased
them in again.

Gathered the eggs and
locked the stable

Went back in the house
and set the table,

Cooked a supper that
was delicious

And afterwards washed
up all the dishes.

Fed the cat and
sprinkled the clothes,

Mended a basket full of
hose,

Then she sat at the
organ and began to play

"When You Come To The
End Of A Perfect Day."

-Anon-

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

(CAROLINE HALL OF FAME)

ATWATER

Mrs. Amy Atwater of Brooktondale was a writer and local historian.

BAILOR

The estate of Charles Bailor, son of Bradford Bailor, Jr., grandson of Mable VanDyke, and 2-great-grandson of Peter Webb owns "Springfarm" on Level Green Road, the former Speed mansion.

(see also WEBB, VAN DYKE)

Miss Winifred Bailor, sister of Bradford Bailor, Jr., was the first woman enrolled in Cornell's School of Agriculture. After graduating she went south to teach and led a very active life in the educational field. She returned to live on White Church Road next door to her brother's widow and the Nazarene Camp.

BEARD

Bertha Bogardus Beard (1877-1944) of Brooktondale was a World War I Red Cross worker. She was the wife of George H. Beard (1870-1908).

BEARDSLEY

WINIFRED F. BEARDSLEY of White Church was a Postal Clerk in Brooktondale.

BEEBE

JAMES BEEBE (1893-1951) was a well respected and admired Supervisor of Highways in the Town of Caroline. "During Mr. Beebe's 22 years of service to the Town of Caroline, he made many improvements to roads and gave personal interest and kindness to all residents of the town. He often stopped to bring cheer to a shut-in as he was passing by, or he would take an older person with him for the ride. Many young boys rode with him and learned a lot as he talked with them. He stretched road funds so that many roads that used to be so bad in the springtime, were put in good condition. Mr. Beebe has had good men to help him and often helped to earn money for the Town by using machines in bordering Towns. He had such good influence on his workers and inspired them to live up to high standards. On many a cold and stormy day, he and his men cleared impassable roads with hand work so that doctors, milk and feed could be taken where needed. Once a tunnel was dug through the snow near Lamont Snow's home at Caroline Center so food could be taken to a snowbound family. (see WEATHER IN CAROLINE) Once he and his men, with handwork, made the first passage to Irish Settlement and Dusenberry to meet the Dryden Town workers shoveling through the snow from the other

side. Those residents have always greatly appreciated that service. Mr. Beebe was no cheap politician. He was a little man but plenty big for the position he held, a kind and loving father and husband. The world is a better place for his living and we hope there will be more men like Jim. When we are called to cross the bar, we hope we can feel that we have lived after his example and will find him waiting to help us in taking the last step. THOMAS BURNS and HARRY VANDEMARK - Brooktondale."

BESEMER

Dr. MARTIN BESEMER (1847-1916) was born in the Town of Caroline and earned his degree of philosophy at Cornell, class of 1889. Later he graduated at Belview Medical Hospital and Medical College of New York City, obtaining his medical degree in 1891. He later completed a course at Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College. He then returned to Ithaca and for some time was associated with his father, Dr. JOSIAH BESEMER (1814-1894). The young Dr. Besemer was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the Tompkins County Medical Society and its president in 1890. His knowledge of medicine and surgery was far in advance of that of his predecessors. People placed great confidence in him and he was noted for his surgery. His wife was EMMA WOLCOTT (185-1917). Their son, Dr. HOWARD BURHANS BESEMER (1869-1918) was killed in World War I. Dr. MARTIN's mother was JOANNA HUTCHINSON (1812-185_) was a half-brother of WILLIS BESEMER, whose mother was MARY A. (1821-1906).

BLAIR

AUSTIN BLAIR, one of GEORGE BLAIR's sons, was the Civil War Time Governor of the State of Michigan. Austin was born in the house his father built which is still well cared for near the Blair Family Cemetery on Smith Road, a short distance from the 76 Road, between Speedsville and Caroline Center.

GEORGE BLAIR was born in Worcester, Mass. November 29, 1786. He married RHODA BLACKMAN (1790-1874) and they came to Caroline in 1808. Their three sons were AUSTIN, ROBERT, and WILLIAM HENRY. He died December 20, 1869 and is buried in the family plot.

BOICE - BOYCE

see also Wattles

"WEALTHY BOICE, daughter of Abram and Lois Boice, ...lived before her marriage in the "Boiceville Tavern" on the Catskill Turnpike while her father was the tavern-keeper." [Ithaca Journal-News, 30 June 1925 -- by Lyman H. Gallagher]

BOGARDUS

ALVIN BOGARDUS (1845-1942) lived all his life within a few miles of his birthplace on the abandoned Bald Hill Road at a location on the Brooktondale-Willseyville Road. He was descended from old Dutch nobility, the son of MANNING BOGARDUS and ANN PELLAM. His grandparents came to this country from Holland. Alvin rode on the horsedrawn train from Ithaca to White Church. His father was the driver of the two horses used tandem style.

BOYER

AUGUSTINE BOYER, a Huguenot pioneer from Maryland and a company commander and Capt. in the 199th Regiment 18th Brigade, and 20th Division of Infantry on the Militia of the State of New York, came to Caroline in 1803. He was one of Caroline's largest land owners, his farm consisting of slightly more than one thousand, forty-four acres, for which tract he paid \$2,088, or \$2.00 per acre. His farm was between Caroline Center and Speedsville. Mr. Boyer laid out, organized and supervised the building of a tributary branch of the old Catskill Turnpike, from Boiceville through Caroline Center and Speedsville to Padlock, which he named " '76 Road". It is said that at one time Augustine Boyer paid one-tenth of the taxes in the town of Caroline.

BREWER

Mrs. JESSIE BREWER (1881-1974) was a store keeper at Brooktondale.

BROCK

Mrs. EVELYN BROCK of Brooktondale was the first woman Town Clerk in the Town of Caroline. She tells how the Town board had reservations about having a woman on the board, but the old adage "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach" worked as she served apple pie after the first board meeting at her home on White Church Road.

CANTINE

JOHN CANTINE, JR. came to settle in the Town of Caroline, on his fathers lands in 1798. In 1800 he established the first real grist mill for the area at the present location of Brooktondale. Until this time early settlers had to take their grain to Owego to be ground. In 1801 John Cantine built the first frame house in the area for his home in place of the settler's cabin. The house is in active family use today as 457 Brooktondale Road, Brooktondale. He married Jacqueline Marguerite Carte, daughter of Jean Jacques Carte. (He opposed the marriage but later relented.) In 1828 he sold his property in Caroline to his brother and moved to Ithaca where he lived until his death in 1834.

"General" JOHN (Johannes) CANTINE, (Sr.) was born in 1735, son of Peter and Elizabeth Blanjean Cantine. He married Mary Broadhead, 28 October 1761. His children were Elizabeth, Catherine, Maria, John, Charles and Moses. (A diligent search through the volumes of the New York historian's report relating to Revolutionary service and "New York Men in the Revolution" failed to find proof that Colonel John Cantine (or Johannes Cantine) was entitled to the military rank of "General" as he is persistently called locally. Hence the assumption that the title was given him by his neighbors and friends as a mark of respect and distinction, or because of his prominence as a surveying commissioner; if entitled to such rank it was never recorded by the War Department. Their reply is as follows: "The records of this office show that one John Cantine served in the Revolutionary War as colonel of a regiment of New York militia, but nothing has been found of record to show that he held the rank of a general. signed. . .Lutz Wahl, Maj. Gen., The Adjutant General.")

John Cantine, like his brothers, was loyal to the cause of the Colonies, signing the Articles of Association and serving throughout the Revolution. In 1777 he was sent by Marbletown, to the Committee of Safety to investigate the loyalty of citizens. in 1778, in command of the Third Ulster County Regiment of Militia, he was defending the western frontier of Ulster and Orange Counties and later served on the staff of General Washington.

For his services during the War and later, Cantine received several grants of land, among them an allotment of 3,200 acres including the present towns of Slaterville Springs and Brooktondale. There he built the first saw mill and grist mill. He was a delegate to the Convention for the adoption of the Constitution of the United States and served in the State Assembly from Ulster County from 1790 to 1797, in the State Senate in 1798 and as a representative to Congress from 1801-03. He came to live with his son in 1804 and died in 1808.

CRISPELL

Motor Transportation Pioneers From The Town of Caroline

A Reminiscence by Leslie I. Crispell, Jr.

These brothers came from a strong Caroline farm family background. The home farm in Slaterville is designated as a Century Farm and is still in the family. Leslie, born in 1892, and Harry in 19__, both spent their formative years on that farm. There they learned the skills and absorbed the lessons of life that would serve them well in their business and personal lives.

This "upbringing" was a textbook Calvinistic experience that involved hard work, church going and a large loving family environment.

Their first transportation ventures predated the motor truck. It was from the farm that the first "trucking" activities began. These included hiring out teams and wagons on road building projects and included hiring out teams and wagons on road building projects and hauling stone blocks for building construction at Cornell University. The milk produced on the farm was hauled by horse and wagon to nearby creameries. With the coming of the motor truck both Harry and Leslie established service for other farmers in the area to haul milk to Ithaca. They first did this as individual entrepreneurs while also maintaining farming businesses.

A need arose to haul feed from Ithaca to their milk route, and other, customers. This led to other hauling and the business grew to the extent that the trucking business became full time and the farm operations were sold. Telling about feed hauling reminds me of one of my thrills as a little boy. I got to ride with my father when he delivered feed and hay to the circus when it came to Ithaca. This got me an inside look at the circus and some tall tales to tell my friends.

During those early years many people would ask to ride the milk truck to and from Ithaca. Some of these were attending the High School in Ithaca since none was available in the Town of Caroline. This service was formalized in 1928 with the forming of the first Partnership Agreement between Leslie and Harry and the purchase of a bus. It was a

1928 Brockway with a Penn Yan body. This was the start of a regular bus route between Slaterville and Ithaca. From this small beginning, the bus operation grew to be one of the largest charter and school bus operations in Central New York State.

Agriculture also created the demand for the first long haul (for the times) trucking business, transporting eggs from a wide area to New York City. My father related to me that he bought a new life insurance policy before making this long trip to "the city" with a truck. At that time eggs were transported in solid wooden crates that were returned empty to the poultry farmers. This made a built in return load. I can still remember vividly my first trip with my father to the teeming egg market area and the ride up through the city to pick up empties at Glazer Brothers in Upper Manhattan. Early trips included going through the Holland Tunnel and on the Ferry, both heart stopping experiences for a small boy.

The trucking business was growing rapidly in this era and the Crispell Brothers expanded with the times to provide service for many commodities--ladders from Newark Valley, unfinished furniture from Berkshire, processed honey from Groton, raw honey from a wide area, beans from several processors, canned and fresh vegetables and fruits and many products from plants in Ithaca. These items were all going to the New York Metro area so it was necessary to find return loads. One of the best customers was A&P. Sugar was hauled from Edgewater, New Jersey to stores in the Catskills and Central and Southern New York. Other large customers included major oil companies for oil in cans and drums and roofing manufacturers. A major effort during World War II was all the roofing material for Sampson Naval Training Center at Kendaia. I rode along while many of these loads were delivered not knowing then that I would one day go through boot camp at this facility.

The contribution of the Crispell Brothers organization and the difficulties that were overcome during World War II could fill many pages and will be saved for a later episode.

Though they didn't realize it, Leslie and Harry Crispell did the same things that are taught in Marketing classes at business schools today. They expanded by finding new uses for their services. With the trucks this included Household Goods (moving services), for the busses it was charter service.

One of the first charter trips was the senior class of Candor High School to Washington, DC. For many years this trip was a spring ritual for Harry Crispell. Sometimes his wife, Myra, accompanied him as a chaperon. Senior class trips developed into a big business for the charter bus service with dozens of senior classes being shuttled to New York City and Washington during spring breaks.

The charter bus business also provided the means for the youngest of the James Crispell children, Harland B. "Dave" Crispell, to become a partner with Leslie and Harry. For many years Dave was employed at the "Gas and Electric" (NYSE&G) as an accountant. While working there he commuted between Slaterville and Ithaca by driving the morning bus and the "5:15" return in the evening. World War II and its changing priorities was the motivating factor for Dave to change careers and work in the vital transportation business. He and I made many trips together in my later High School years and the months before I entered

the Navy. As all things do, World War II came to an end and it was time for all those dreams and plans to become actions. For Dave this was to form a partnership with Leslie and Harry to create Crispell Charter Service, a bus operation that would become a major player in the Upstate New York market.

As mentioned, another marketing aspect was the development of household moving services. These operations were extensive enough for the Interstate Commerce Commission to grant Crispell Brothers "grandfather rights" to operate in 15 states and DC when trucking regulations started in 1935. Quite an accomplishment for two farmers from the Town of Caroline, since you had to prove you had operated this service prior to 1935. For many years this service was performed on an independent basis. This changed in 1951 when they became agents for North American Van Lines. As the general freight operations were sold and/or reduced, the moving business became a larger part of the business and was the reason for building a warehouse in Ithaca and moving part of the operations out of Slaterville.

That's a very brief effort in relating some of the history of the Crispell Brothers of the Town of Caroline but I cannot end without relating a little more. As mentioned, the Crispell Brothers entrance into bus transportation was the commuter and school bus service between the Town of Caroline and Ithaca. Hard to believe today, but at one point there were seven trips a day between Slaterville and Ithaca. Many drivers were involved over the years. Dave, while he worked at the Gas & Electric, David A. "DA" Chatfield for several years while he also ran a garage in Slaterville, but probably the most remembered will be Les Crispell. Sometime in the later 30's he suffered a long bout with undulant fever and as a result was no longer able to do any heavy physical work. He became the principal driver on the commuter service runs.

These trips were not limited to transporting passengers. Much folk lore exists about the other services performed. The Ithaca Journal was transported on the "5:15" each night to Tucker's store in Brooktondale, Ferguson's store in Slaterville and the Post Office in Brooktondale and Slaterville. For this they were paid the princely sum of one free paper each day. The schedule allowed free time in Ithaca between runs. This was the time to perform "errands". On the trip down in the morning, Alvah "Alvy" Ferguson would send an order to be picked up and returned on the 11:30 AM trip. This brought fresh meat from Knight's market, items from wholesaler J.C. Stowell and others. Anyone on the route could get this personalized service. Simply stand out by your house and when the driver stopped, ask him to drop you shoes at Cosentini's for repair, pick up your prescription at Barrett's Rexall store or anything that you needed "from town".

As I write this I'm in my 66th year. My entire business career was spent as a "trucker" starting with Crispell Brothers and ending at North American Van Lines headquarters in Ft. Wayne, IN. The lessons I learned from Leslie I., Harry T., and Harland B. Crispell and many, many of their employees were an invaluable part of my life and were directly responsible for any success I achieved elsewhere. (Leslie I. Crispell, Jr., 1994)

CONRAD

MINNIE CONRAD (1865-1948) was the postmistress for 28 years at Caroline Depot. She was the wife of DAYTON W. CONRAD (1862-1923).

DALOLA

LAURETTA DALOLA served as a 4-H leader for more than 20 years, worked with Cub and Boy Scouts, was a member of Home Bureau and Home Demonstration Units, and was active in Grange.

DELMAGE

Mrs. BERTHA CLEVELAND DELMAGE of Grove School Road is probably the only lady constable in the area, and the only one the Town of Caroline Board has ever appointed. Mrs. Delmage thinks her appointment came because she was the dog enumerator for the Town. Each October she made a house-to-house survey to see how many dogs there were in the area. It was somewhere between 700-800 at the census before her appointment at Constable.

DEYO

MRS. KATHRYNE E. "KIT" DEYO (1889- 1976) was the granddaughter of the Widow Maria Earsley and widow of MAX D. DEYO (1889-19__). She was active in community life just as long as health would permit. Max was in charge of the "Fire Tower" (see F I R E).

EARSLEY

Maria (or Mariah) Johnson was born in Holland in 1746 and came with her parents to America when 12 years old. They landed in New York and settled in New Jersey, 28 miles from the city. She married Francis Earsley. He was born in Ireland of English parents, who were Protestants. In his youth, before coming to America, he had been a weaver, as his father had been--a linen weaver, of Dublin. He, too, after his arrival in America settled in Jersey and became a farmer. He and his brother-in-law, Zacheus Johnson, served together in the Revolution. He died in 1790, leaving a widow and ten children, five boys and five girls. The youngest were twin girls, nine months old.

Widow Maria Johnson Earsley set out from Essex county, New Jersey with her eldest son, John, and brother, Zacheus Johnson, to find a new home. In wishing to leave Roxbury, she had two objects in view, to better the condition of herself and family and to remove the latter from the temptation of intemperance, which greatly prevailed round about them. As she was meditating upon the proposed change she saw in a dream the vision of a new home by the side of a little brook, distant in the woods. The party met the surveyor, Simeon (or Simmons) Perkins and a company with him. With Perkins as a guide they proceeded to the area described as Township #11 of the Watkins and Flint Purchase.

The party, with Mrs. Earsley, were seven in all, herself and son and brother; Beniah Barney (her future son-in-law); Perkins and two others, who were Perkin's men. They camped out at night, Mrs. Earsley using her saddle for a pillow.

As the party crossed a small brook one day, Mrs. Earsley cried out: "This is my home! This is the spot I saw in my dream." The party camped

overnight and the Earsleys "staked their claim" and bought 100 acres at \$3.00 per acre. She probably took a contract or article for it, as her daughter, who was only six at the time, said she remembers in after years of her mother's making payments to Pumpelly, of Owego, on the land. Nor is Mrs. Earsley's deed to be found recorded in Tioga county in which it was situated, until 1822. Having located and purchased her land, Maria Earsley headed back to New Jersey while her son John stayed and started building a log cabin for the family to come to in the Spring.

In New Jersey, Widow Earsley packed her family and belongings, and hired a man to drive a team of horses and bring the family to Union by way of Great Bend. After four weeks at Union, the family traveled to Major Barney's near Apalachin, where they lived until spring. The eldest daughter, Eleanor (Nelly) married Beniah Barney while there, and did not come to Caroline. In the spring the rest of the family came with two cows, six sheep, one sow and a few pigs, and a yoke of oxen, horses and sled to Caroline. The snow was quite deep, but they arrived at their new home March 4, 1795. The cabin that John built had an earth floor and a blanket for a door. Mrs. Earsley was the first person to locate and make preparations for a home in Caroline although Captain David Rich of Vermont did arrive about one week earlier in the spring than the Widow Earsley.

Mrs. Earsley died in 1836, at the age of 90 years. The burial plot where the body of Widow Earsley was known to rest was found to have been plowed over and made a part of the tillable field originally surrounding it on three sides. All traces of her grave as well as the graves of her sons and the four other persons buried there are obliterated.

EKROOS

Victor and Hilma Ekroos arrived from Finland in the late 1800's and settled in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Between 1900 and 1904, they moved to Reddeer, Alberta, Canada. In 1913, Victor and Hilma moved with their family from Canada to Caroline. They purchases 139 acres of land near Speedsville. The land was broken up into two parcels, one consisting of 30 acres, and the other consisting of 109 acres. In his younger days, Victor was a sailor. His brothers and father, who also traveled to America, were glass blowers and worked in Corning and Clarksberg, Virginia. Victor and Hilma's family consisted of three sons, Leonard, George, and Onnie, and two daughters, Anne and Jinny.

ONNIE EKROOS was born in 1905 in Eckville, Canada. He felt that no one should ever stop learning and was always reading and trying new things, encouraging the young people of Speedsville to do things for themselves and to try anything that they wanted to do. He was assistant 4-H leader, furnished materials for the young people to make bookends, skipjacks, toolboxes and barn boards for decoupage pictures. He help them gather apples for a cider-making party held at his house, and took them hiking on his land. (Onnie died in 1994)

FUDGER

MARY BACON FUDGER, a great, great, grand-daughter of JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK, is a life-long resident of Brooktondale, Town of Caroline, New York, for more than seventy years. One inaccuracy to the account of

"WIDOW JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK" is that it was told to her that Jemima came to Bald Hill with eight children, and not ten.

GEE

Mr. JOHN C. GEE (1866-1942) of Central Chapel was the owner of the abandoned church building that overlooked the intersection of Shindagin Road and Brearley Hill Road, as late as 1939. Each year he had charge of placing flags on graves of the war veterans buried in Central Chapel Cemetery across the road from his home. He had also been a trustee of the Central Chapel School District for many years. He had been known as a curio trader and traveler, widely known as a swapper, watch repairer and antique collector. Since childhood he had lived on a farm at Central Chapel. In the early 90's, Mr. Gee sold and repaired bicycles. Often he pedaled to Syracuse, Binghamton, or other central New York towns to purchase parts. Mr. Gee was well educated, well read, and wrote a fine script. He and three other Township residents attended the Centennial Exposition at Chicago in 1892. This trip started Mr. Gee on a record that probably no other residents of this area held. He attended every large Fair and Exposition since the Chicago Bicentennial. This record included the Pan-American, St. Louis, San Francisco and the World Fairs at Chicago and New York City. He visited the Pacific Coast six times by rail, went to Alaska by boat on the 1200 mile inland waterway. He was father of four girls and five boys and related to the Gee family for whom Gee Hill in Cortland County was named. His wife was LILLIS B. GEE (1878-1938).

GENUNG

BENJAMIN GENUNG (d.1832 at 84 yrs.) built his cabin in the fall of 1799, and returned in the spring of 1800 to settle after a 23 day journey from New Jersey. The family consisted of BENJAMIN, 41 years old, HANNAH BEACH GENUNG (1826 at 80 yrs.) his wife, and 6 children: BARNABAS (d.1833) then 15, AARON 12, Philo 7, CHRISTOPHER PERON 6, RACHEL LOCKEY the only daughter, and TIMOTHY 4 years. BENJAMIN is buried in the Dutch Reformed Cemetery west of Slaterville.

MOSES GENUNG, brother of Benjamin, came to settle about 1814, about 15 years after Benjamin had settled. Moses family consisted of his second wife, MARY, and seven year old son, MOSES Jr. He also had a grown son, ELEAZAR, by his first wife, but this son did not come. There is also a record of another son CHARLES, by the second wife who ran away from home. Moses lived on Snyder Hill for nearly 50 years and buried there.

CORA GENUNG CHAMOT was a singer, vocal instructor and language instructor at Ithaca Conservatory.

GOODRICH

When President Grover Cleveland rode down Pennsylvania Avenue in his inaugural parade in 1893, he was in a carriage drawn by two seal brown rangy horses born and raised in Caroline Township. One of the horses was raised by Levi Goodrich at his 500 acre farm atop Blackman Hill. The mate was raised by the uncle of CHAUNCEY S. GOODRICH (1876-1947), the only surviving son of LEVI GOODRICH (1837-1913). The uncle, STEPHEN BOYER (1841-1908) of Speedsville sold the horse in New York City. Mr. Goodrich who lives at the foot of Blackman Hill stated that his father sold the horse of the Syracuse Blackhawk strain to a Mr. Ellis, an

Ithaca merchant, who later disposed of it in New York City. Late in the fall of 1892, after election, Grover Cleveland wanted a team in Washington from his native state of New York for his own use at the White House. He paid \$10,000 for the Tompkins County horses.

HASBROUCK

JACOB DUBOIS HASBROUCK emigrated from Ulster County to a farm north of the Catskill Turnpike at West Slaterville. (see also Crispell Genealogy)

HEAD

Mrs. ARTHUR HEAD was director of switchboard operations for the Caroline Farmers Telephone Company. She was aided in this work by many of the women of the community...ETHEL DELONG, ANNETTE MAYNARD, BEATRICE MCDANIELS, PATRICIA DYESS, and many others.

HOLLISTER

Deacon ISAAC HOLLISTER settled near the future location of Caroline Depot. His sons were KINNER, TIMOTHY, and JUSTUS.

HOLMES

RHODA MAE HOLMES was the daughter of JOHN A. HOLMES (1854-1907) and FRANCIS L. GARDNER (1857-1950) who was musically gifted. She graduated from the Ithaca Conservatory of Music and studied in France with Mme. Leschetizky. Upon returning to Ithaca she began teaching at Ithaca Conservatory and continued with the school after it became Ithaca College. She was an outstanding teacher and one who aided many students.

JANSEN

Matthew Jansen removed from Ulster County to Caroline in 1802. He ran a blacksmith shop near the "top" of Burns Road in Brooktondale. [see Ithaca Journal-News, 30 June 1925 "Pioneer Families Figuring in the Story of Catskill Turnpike" by Lyman Gallagher]

KEANE

Cecil Casey was born to Michael and Julia Shay Casey on 17 March 1890 in the Town of Ithaca. She had four brothers, two who died of diphtheria, Burk and John. She studied at Geneseo Teachers College and she married Thomas Roger Keane. They had 10 children: Alice, Helen, Thomas, Francis, Jane, Eleanor, Doris, Julia, Robert and a boy who died in infancy. Cecil C. Keane taught school at Canaan, Caroline, Richford Hill and retired after teaching at Bell Sherman School in Ithaca when the Caroline district consolidated with Ithaca City School District. She died in 1970.

LATTIN

Mrs. MARTHA LATTIN of Brooktondale called together a group of young women and formed THE BROOKTONDALE BUGLER ASSOCIATION in 1943.

LEGG

"The Reverend Ward Mosher of this city today married Mrs. ANNA LEGG of Speedsville, a buxom widow, to HARRY SHERER of Lerchville, W.Va. The couple had first met an hour before.

"Six months ago the widow read a matrimonial advertisement describing the charms of a young man. Harry wrote the 'ad' and he said his life was full of promise, he was handsome and rich and he needed a helpmate to spend his money. "My affinity," exclaimed Mrs. Legg and she put a special delivery stamp on her reply.

"Some correspondence ensued and the couple became engaged. The compact was clinched by an exchange of photographs. Words of love and avowals of deep affection followed and at last Harry hastened to meet his prospective bride.

"To guard against any embarrassing error it was agreed that Harry should wear in his lapel a tiny bow of baby blue ribbon. The mark was effective. The pair met. They kissed. In an hour they were married. Shereer is 31 years old. (Ithaca Journal, Nov. 16, ?)

Emmet Legg purchased 192 acres from James Speed Jr. and with his wife Murette and sons Perl, Bert and Lou, moved to the area that is in 1994, Ekroos Road. His farm had a large pear and apple orchard located on it. Emmett was employed as a school teacher in Caroline Center and Speedsville for many years, and was also an auctioneer. Murette Legg died on December 21, 1898 and Emmett died on August 3, 1905.

LIDDINGTON

ANNA VAN GLONE LIDDINGTON was born on Ford Hill, between Speedsville and Berkshire on July 7, 1894. She was about 14 years old when she and her father moved to Speedsville. She married GEORGE LIDDINGTON in 1911 and they stayed in Speedsville because he had a job at a local mill. When her husband died in 1931, she was left with six children. She became a practical nurse, and when World War II started, she got a job at Ithaca Gun Shop, making .45 Colt automatics. Her nursing job paid \$10 a week, and her job in the gun shop, \$39 a week. She left the Gun Shop and worked in the sewing room at the Cornell Laundry for one year when she again took up practical nursing. She never married again. "I just didn't want to remarry. I had two chances. This one man had a lot of money, but I couldn't see sitting across the table from him for the rest of my life." She said she was saddest at the deaths of three of her children - two sons and a daughter. Although she was saddened by her husband's death, she said she had no time to mourn because she had to look after the children. At such times, she turns to God. She is a member of the Methodist Church in Jenksville. (Anna died in 1993)

LOCKWOOD

DR. BENJAMIN F. LOCKWOOD (1862-1934) of Brooktondale was for 26 years a country practitioner. People of Caroline honored the memory of this man with a formal ceremony, and a bronze tablet affixed to a granite boulder in front of the Dalebrook Apartments in Brooktondale.

LOUNSBERY or LOUNSBURY

PETER LOUNSBURY (d.1867), father of CANTINE (1831-1910), EDWARD (1833-1904) and RICHARD (1836-1881), settled on the corner of White Church and Valley Roads in 1820. He built the home for his family in three sections (see Architecture in Caroline). He was a member of the State Assembly in 1884. His wife was HARRIET CANTINE (or SANDERS ?) (d.1880).

JOHN LOUIS LOUNSBURY (1907-1958) was Supervisor for the Town of Caroline. He worked for improving the educational facilities of Caroline. He was active in Soil Conservation work, Committeeman for the GLF Exchange Inc. and was a dairy and poultry farmer. James R. Graves, Supervisor of the First Ward in Ithaca paid tribute to John Lounsbury: "John was one of the finest men I've ever known. His honesty and sincerity were always above reproach. He will be sorely missed by the people of this county."

MARSH

LUCY MARSH was a soprano who became nationally famous for her phonograph recordings between 1910 and 1930. She was a native of Ithaca, sang in the Methodist Choir, attended the Ithaca Conservatory, was a soloist on many concert tours with the Conservatory and also with Patsy Conway's Band. Besides many concerts and tours during her career, she made many recordings of classical, oratorio, opera and semi-classical favorites. Because her voice recorded so well, even on the older style records, songs by "Lucy Marsh" were great favorites. She married Dr. Walter C. Gordon and they lived in Providence, Rhode Island and was the granddaughter of PETER LOUNSBURY of Brooktondale.

MAYNARD

Frank Maynard, the father of Arthur, Cliff and Stanley Maynard arrived in America from England in 1875 and moved to the Speedsville area.

Arthur Maynard was born in 1899 and in 1934 married Annette Atchison, the daughter of William and Mable Atchison of Moravia. She was a school teacher and taught at the Newhope School in Cayuga County in 1927, at Rawson Hollow 1928-29, Blackman Hill 1931-33, and Caroline Center 1934-35. Their first son, Edward was born in 1935, followed by Robert in 1936, Clara in 1940 and in 1945 they adopted a daughter, Bessie. The family makes maple syrup and in 1979 opened a saw mill.

Clifford Maynard was born in 1902 and lives on the family farm, which is a "century farm", having been worked by the same family for more than 100 years.

Stanley Maynard was born in 1906.

MCWHORTER

Miss ELLA MCWHORTER was a native of Brooktondale or Mott's Corners as it was known in her girlhood. Her father was a blacksmith. A picture shows Miss McWhorter working in the composing room of The Journal in Ithaca as a typesetter in 1908. Another picture shows her on her 92nd birthday looking very happy and attractive. She was one of the four organizers of Brooktondale Old Home Day. 23 December 1959 she died at the age of 94 years.

MILLER

REV. HOWARD V. MILLER (1894-1948) graduated from Colgate University in 1917. He was licensed as a Baptist Minister, ordained 5 September 1917, and was married the following week. A few years later he left the Baptist Church and became a member of the People's Church of the Nazarene at Providence, Rhode Island. He had an unusual career in the Church of the Nazarene - serving in many leadership roles until he became General Superintendent and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and the British Isles. He died 28 December 1948 after returning from a visit to the missionary fields in Australia.

REV. "JIMMY" MILLER was the minister of the Caroline Valley Federated Church for many years. He lived in Danby but was closely associated with the Town for many years.

MILLS

MARY EMILY MILLS (1861-1937)

"The death of Miss EMILY MILLS, a long time resident of Brooktondale, deserves more than passing notice. For some 30 years she conducted at this place the general store in which she formerly served as helper to her father.

"Reserved, unostentatious, and kindly, she aided materially the Caroline welfare directory by extending credit for groceries to many needy individuals. Paraphrasing the remarks of ROBERT G. INGERSOLL at his brother's funeral: If everyone to whom Mill Mills extended a helpful hand were to place a floral emblem upon her grave, she would sleep today amidst a wilderness of flowers.

"A devoted member of the Congregational Church at this place, a teacher in the Sunday School, she went about her daily round of duties with Christian fortitude, and faithfulness that were greatly appreciated and will be long remembered by her host of friends who join in this tribute to the memory of one, who, even as her Great Exemplar, went about doing good.

(E.D. SHURTER (1863-1946))"

MORGAN

Mrs. FANNY MORGAN of Brooktondale was a writer and church worker

MULKS

In 1800 BENONI MULKS (1742-1852) came to the area to build the grist mill for John Cantine, Jr. "On a Sunday afternoon walk up Six Mile Creek, passed the flats about Slaterville. A tract of 325 acres was for sale." This land had previously been a part of Cantine's Location. Mulks bought the land September 30, 1800 for \$1000.00 and with his son John's help erected a log house. In June 1801 the Mulks family - a grandmother of 70 years as well as an infant of six months and six other members - arrived. They brought a flock of 30 sheep and other livestock. They were divided into three families: Benoni aged 59, and his wife 70; Charles 25, his wife and two children; John 22 and his

wife. Benoni was a mill wright by trade and followed it during most of his active life. As late as 1819 when he was 67 years old, he built mills for Beaver on the Chenango river, now in the northern limits of the city of Binghamton, NY. Benoni and Nancy Denniston Mulks had four children: Moses, born 26 February 1770; Elizabeth, born 1774; Charles, born 9 May 1776; and John, born 4 July 1779.

MUNCH

Mrs. GRACE MUNCH was a 4-H leader for many years in Caroline Center.

OSBURN

Samuel Osburn was the first of the Osburn family to arrive in Speedsville in 1807. He had served as a Revolutionary War soldier and had built a church in Westchester County, NY. His family of three boys and six girls included Abram Wright Osburn. Abram was the father of George Washington Osburn who was the father of Walter Grant Osburn.

William Osburn was born on March 11, 1906, the son of Walter Grant Osburn, and has been a lifelong resident of Speedsville. He retired from National Cash Register in 1971. He, like his father, grandfather and uncles, is a very good carpenter. Besides being an excellent gardener and "history collector", he is fondly known by all the residents of Speedsville as the unofficial "town historian". He has written many articles for the DeWitt Historical Society and the book The Hills of Caroline.

OZMUN

Mrs. CRESSIE OZMUN was the Caroline Depot Postmistress for 12 years.

PAYTON

SANDRA SANSFIELD married JAY PAYTON. They had one daughter WALLYANN. "SANDY" was the first woman elected to the Caroline Town Board. She was also the first woman elected Town Supervisor.

RICH

Captain DAVID RICH (d.1852) came from the western part of Massachusetts and later from Vermont by way of New Jersey, Apalachin and up the Owego Creek to Caroline in late February of 1795. On September 5, 1796 Captain David Rich's deed for between 100 - 200 acres of land was recorded. DAVID RICH, JR. was born January 18, 1797, the first white child born in the area.

ROBINSON

Mrs. MARY ROBINSON of Speedsville was a news reporter, and a teacher of music and dance.

ROGERS

RUTH BLACKMAN ROGERS was a singer of national importance and a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York. She grew up in Ithaca.

Her father was JOHN K. BLACKMAN who grew up in Speedsville, her mother was a member of the EIGHMEY family - pioneers in the Speedsville area.

ROOT

Dr. WILLIAM WEBSTER ROOT, (19 August 1867 - 1932) was born in Niagara Falls, New York, son of Major E. Volney and Amelia Emily (Root) Root. He graduated B.S. at Cornell University in 1890. After serving two years as instructor in natural science at Peddie Institute, New Jersey, returned to Cornell as a graduate student, specializing in chemistry. He taught for eight years in Chicago (Ill.) and received his medical degree at Rush medical college, University of Chicago, in 1904. He was a First Lieutenant, Medical Corps. U.S. Army, 1912-17. He married 15 July 1895 to Anna Conant, daughter of Benjamin Franklin Bronson, D.D. They had six children, Manly Bronson, George Kennan, Georgiana (wife of Walter E. Westervelt) Hasseltine Chaplin (wife of G. Meredith Brill), Anna Conant (wife of John L. Lounsbery), and William Webster Root, Jr.

ROUNSVILLE

HARRIET ROUNSVILLE was born January 25, 1801, the first white girl born in the area.

CHARLES ROUNSVILLE (d.1872) was Assemblyman from Tompkins County and had married CHARITY BOGARDUS, cousin of ALVIN (1845-1942). Rounsville walked from Slaterville to Albany to attend legislative sessions, paying his expenses by playing his fiddle along the route.

SHURTER

EDWIN DUBOIS SHURTER (1863-1946) was an educator and author. He arrived in Motts Corners in the arms of his parents, MARTIN (1823-1888) and MARY CATHERINE DYBOIS SHURTER (1828-1888). He taught English, public speaking, and was a member of the New York State and Texas Bar Associations.

SINSKI

Mrs. ALEXANDRIA SINSKI was a store keeper for years at Caroline.

SLATER

LEVI SLATER (d.1851), a Yankee schoolteacher, bought 100 acres from General CANTINE at \$3.75 per acre and did surveying in the area. Two men from Chemung ran a Sugar Bush on the flats, later owned by JOHN BOICE The men went away, so Slater took up the work and made a quantity of maple sugar and molasses for himself by using the equipment left by the two men.

SNOW

EDITH E. SNOW of Caroline Center, sister of RICHARD SNOW, graduated from Elmira College. She trained to be a nurse and became a nursing instructor at the Arnot-Ogden Hospital in Elmira. In April 1945 she joined the Army Nurse Corps. She received the Legion of Merit "FOR

EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OUSTANDING SERVICES:"

SPEED

DIANA CAROLINE SPEED was born October 12, 1811 and named for the Town of Caroline (see BEFORE THERE WAS A TOWN OF CAROLINE)

STARR

Mrs. FLORENCE STARR of Slaterville Springs was Town Clerk for 20 years, Temporary Town Supervisor, active in the Republican Committee.

STEVENS

Wilbur Stevens (1856 - 1943) was the oldest active blacksmith in the area in 1939, at age 84, as he had been for more than 60 years. The little grey house and barn perched precariously on the lower slopes of Bald Hill, not three minutes drive from Caroline Depot, served for more than two-thirds of a century as home and blacksmith shop. He shod as many as 25 horses in one day when he was in his prime. He made the nails and the shoes by hand out of crude iron; he fitted both road and draft horses and oxen. He like to shoe oxen better than horses and was the last man in Central New York to shoe one. He had a family of ten children. He saw horse and buggy days give way to the automobile, but he preferred "the good old horse and buggy days for then a man could sit still and take a good look around him, and have time to think things over." He attributed his long life to "hard work and not worrying about things."

HATTIE LYME STEVENS was Slaterville Postmistress.

TINKER

MARY DAVIS RIDGWAY was born in the Town of Caroline, daughter of Walter and Prue Ridgway. She and attended school at the corner of White Church and Coddington Roads during elementary years. She went to Candor High School by boarding the train that traveled through the Brooktondale-Wilseyville valley morning and night. She graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University and from Cornell Medical College, specializing in internal medicine.

After her internship at Mt. Vernon Hospital, Mt. Vernon, New York and St. Mary's Hospital, New York City, she returned to Brooktondale and opened her practice in the top floor of a house where she also had her living quarters. When a neighbor noticed a "For Sale" sign on a small house that was more accessible, "Dr. Mary" put \$20 down to "hold" it for her. Her practice has been there ever since.

After having her own practice for a few years, she married DR. MARTIN B. TINKER, JR., a surgeon but she was still known as "Dr. Mary" or "Dr. Ridgway". She saw patients from Caroline, Speedsville, Slaterville, and parts of Dryden. She made house calls, delivered babies, treated injuries, communicable diseases, and social problems. When a patient required hospitalization, she has been known to be also an ambulance driver, taking her patients in the back seat of her car to the hospital. She and her "Jeep" were said to be "more dependable than the

mailman." (Some might say more daring, also.) One former highway worker told how she drove around the highway crew as they were trying to get the snowplow free from a drift.

After seeing the difference that the Public Health program could make in the lives of people, she became a strong advocate of the Public Health Department in Tompkins County. She continues the monthly "Well-Baby Clinic" that she started, through the Health Department, that has enabled protection against measles, mumps, diphtheria, tetanus and polio. She is an original member and currently Secretary/Treasurer of the American Academy of Family Physicians (Ithaca Chapter). She is a generous supporter of the Brooktondale Community Center, Lane Cemetery and local churches.

She has been a participating school physician in various rural schools, past member of the Board of Directors of Tompkins County Hospital, and the Health Officer for the Town of Caroline. She is a Life Member of the Tompkins County Medical Society, and was awarded "General Practitioner of the Year - 1961" by them. She was also awarded "Outstanding General Practitioner of New York State" by the New York State Medical Society in 1961.

Even though she is quiet and unassuming, she has always worked hard in the background and avoided the applause that was due her. "Dr. Mary" Tinker is respected and admired by her peers for her dedication, knowledge, and skill in her profession, and her diligence in continuing her education. She is loved by her patients and neighbors.

Some of the comments made about her, that we heard while gathering this information, include: "A privilege to work for", "never complains or criticize", "very capable", "humble", "wonderful to work with", "concerned for her patients", "very experienced", "very much appreciated", "I've learned a lot from her", "she is eager to learn", and "We all love her".

TOBEY

Miss MAY TOBEY was a music teacher, organist, choir director, and artist in Brooktondale.

VANDEMARK

JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK -- "The heroine of this historical sketch, JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK was a true "Daughter of the Revolution". Her father JAMES PERSONIUS of New Jersey, had served as a soldier in the Continental Army; and had thereby, vouchsafed unto this courageous woman, and to her children, even unto generations, one of the most priceless heritages that may glorify the life of an American.

"JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK was a widow with 10 children, if correctly informed, when she came to Caroline, and settled on her farm on Bald Hill, which she herself had purchased. There is something inspiring about the courage, thrift and fortitude of this pioneer woman settler, displayed under such adverse circumstances; and we love to dwell upon the patriotism and true Americanism; that marked every forward effort of her eventful life. Here in her primitive country home among Caroline's eternal hills, JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK lived her allotted

time, which closed peacefully with her passing in 1855. Sorrowed by her husband's untimely departure by a short year before her settlement in Caroline, still she had faithfully carried on. And life in 1813, in the "Caroline Hills", years before Tompkins County was established, was difficult in the extreme. So far back in the past were these pioneer settlements that Bald Hill was then in Tioga County; and Caroline Town originally a part of Spencer Town. Forests were primeval in their vastness and solitude; the country was infested with dangerous wild beasts; and the clearing of land for cultivation consumed a generation of the hardest labor.

"A brother of this Caroline heroine, JAMES PERSONIUS, JR., was a soldier in the War of 1812; and her husband met his death through the accidental discharge of a gun, while on his way to enlist in this second conflict with the British, which, on the part of the British, was really a continuation of the Revolutionary War.

"With what exultant pride must this pioneer mother have selected her future home among Caroline's eternal hills, in the "Promised Land", of the Iroquois, within sight of the Lake of the Cayugas, which the patriots of her own family, under the leadership of the immortal Washington, and General Sullivan, had struggled and died to save and deliver free and unfettered to her and her children.

"If the descendants of this Caroline "Daughter of the American Revolution" who now reside within view of her pioneer home on "Bald Hill", shall be privileged to enjoy the "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness", which her ancestry gave to her and her children, then JEMIMA PERSONIUS VANDEMARK will not have lived in vain; and, will shine on and on, through the centuries yet to be, a beacon light of liberty, that shall and must inspire those following to keep America forever free." (Ithaca Journal, August 7, 1936)

HARRY VAN DE MARK of Brooktondale has been known for half a century as Santa Claus. He was the traveling country grocer who drove all through the countryside selling groceries. When he couldn't go with a wagon, he went with a two-horse sleigh. He was a friend to the needy, the ill, the aged and the children loved him.

RUTH UTZ was the daughter of the well known storekeeper, HARRY VANDEMARK. Mrs. Utz trained to be a nurse at the Old Ithaca Hospital on Quarry Street. She went to New York City for a Post Graduate Nursing course at Columbia Medical Center and stayed on to work at that institution. She spent some years in South America but returned to New York City for a few years until she returned to the old homestead at Brooktondale.

VAN DYKE

Miss LUCINDA VAN DYKE (d.1940) was the great-grand daughter of PETER WEBB, daughter of Mr & Mrs LEMUEL VAN DYKE. She graduated from Ithaca High School, Cortland Normal School, and from Eastern Nazarene College at Wollaston, Mass., with an A.B. Degree. She was an accomplished singer who sang in missions in the city of Boston, Mass., and was a member of the A Capella Choir at Nazarene college. She possessed a rich and powerful voice. She died of rheumatic fever in 1940.

Mrs. MABLE WEBB VAN DYKE was a very much admired and loved woman in the Caroline area, and was often referred to as "Grandma VanDyke" by those who knew her. She was a music teacher, Sunday School teacher, foster mother, practical nurse, as well as wife and mother. Whenever she held a Hymn Sing or special Program, the closing number was always In The Garden by C. Austin Miles. On June 12, 1976, a special "MABEL VAN DYKE DAY" was held at the Caroline Church (now Christ's Chapel) on Level Green Road. An article in the Ithaca Journal -- 18 July 1949 reads:

"Laughter, wisdom, and service for over a half-century have been the gifts of Mrs. Mable Webb VanDyke to the Caroline Community which she left this weekend for a new home in Rochester. For 79 years she has lived on the Level Green Road in the house where she was born.

"Sometimes a person fills a place in the community so quietly that we grow unaware of how much their influence means. Mrs VanDyke is like that" a Caroline storekeeper told a reporter.

"Mrs. VanDyke, her expressive eyes soft with memories, said: "I never knew I had so many fiends. They have given me three wonderful parties."

"There had been a supper-party at the Caroline Center Church, a supper at the parsonage of the Nazarene Church in Brooktondale and a get-together of some 40 neighbors in Caroline at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mix.

"Sitting in the parlor of the old mansion, with boxes packed for the leave taking and the serene eyes in several ancestral portraits dominating the room, Mrs. VanDyke with humor and rare insight answered questions about her home, her family and her years of living on the Level Green Road.

"One of my earliest memories is learning to milk when I was four. I have always loved it. My brothers taught me. When I was so small they let me milk a little gill cup full each night to drink."

"Among her early recollections too, are the Sunday walks with her father to attend the Baptist Church in "Canaan", where the men and women still sat in separate sections of the church.

"Quilting, sewing, weaving--she loves them all. She still has the first quilt her mother taught her to make at the age of five. She pieces and quilts now for income. Mrs. VanDyke started weaving at 40--had to give it up a while but the fine work from her looms is legend in the area. "I always did want to do such things. See that chair, I caned the seat. Finally learned how when I joined the Home Bureau." (see WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS)

"For 20 years Mrs. VanDyke was a practical nurse working chiefly on cases for the late Dr. Lockwood of Brooktondale. It was mostly maternity work and for some families in the area she returned four, five, and six times to help at "birthing".

"As the children in the immediate neighborhood grew, her home became a focal point where the youngsters gathered for fun and where harassed mothers could find some one willing to "tend baby". "I was a baby-

sitter long before folks talked about them," Mrs. VanDyke said with a chuckle.

"Married in 1898 to Lemuel VanDyke of Lisle Center; two children, Lucina and Frederica. Frederica married Bradford Bailor. She died in 1941 from paralysis caused by injury which occurred when a practical joker pulled a chair from under her.

"For the last 20 years (1938) since she stopped nursing, Mrs. VanDyke has given foster-home care to children placed by the County Welfare Department.

"Mrs. VanDyke was educated at the Caroline District School. She also studied voice for one year at the Ithaca Conservatory. Her piano, a cherished possession, went with her to Rochester. Years ago she gave piano lessons and played in the Caroline Methodist Church where she was also Sunday School superintendent for two years before the little church closed.

"For 13 summers, Mrs. VanDyke was in charge of the kitchen for the 2-week period of the Nazarene Church camp which had a registration varying from 250 to more than 400. "Cookie" as she was called by her friends, baked hot biscuits every morning for the campers.

"I have never hesitated to talk about my grandfather," Mrs. VanDyke said proudly. "He was a slave, but from his wonderful character I can see how we have all been helped to grow."

(see also WEBB, BAILOR)

WATTLES

"Lathrop Wattles, the second son of Jehiel and Phebe Lathrop Wattles, married Jerusha Surdam, and of their 12 children, eight were born in Virgil, and the other four in the Town of Caroline, to which township they had removed in 1839...Though other descendants reside in Caroline township and elsewhere of this branch of the Wattles family, the only descendant bearing the name in Caroline is Benjamin B. Wattles, son of the late Hubert Wattles. He resides on the family homestead on the Wattles road leading to Ellis (Hollow). His mother was Welthy Boice, daughter of Abram and Lois Boice, and she lived before her marriage in the "Boiceville Tavern" on the Catskill Turnpike while her father was the tavern-keeper...Lua Higgins (Sweetland)...daughter of the late Frank G. Higgins, whose mother was Eliza Jane Wattles, daughter of the above mentioned Lathrop and Jerusha (Surdam) Wattles. This grandmother was born November 17, 1824, and lived in Caroline hamlet on the Catskill Turnpike on the old homestead until her death in 1870...It would seem that the Wattles family were of Scotch stock, the original name having probable been McWattles." [Ithaca Journal-News, 30 June 1925 -- by Lyman H. Gallagher]

Mrs. E.M. WATTLES was Slaterville Postmistress

WEBB

PETER WEBB was a "house boy" who came to Caroline with the Speeds at the age of 13, having been purchased for \$1.00 per pound in the slave

market. He was weighed at 90 pounds, so his purchase price was \$90.00. "As the feeling against slavery became stronger, Peter Webb made a bargain with his master, that he would work in servitude for 2 years and then be allowed to buy his freedom. After serving his 2 years, he worked first in Harford, and then became a hostler at the Ithaca Hotel where he made enough money to purchase his freedom." (Ithaca Journal 18 July 1949) He bought his freedom from JOHN JAMES SPEED by paying him \$384. (see SLAVERY IN CAROLINE) Webb, upon becoming a freeman, set about fitting himself into the economy and customs of the community. On April 21, 1825, he registered with the town clerk the earmark for his livestock: a hole through the right ear and a crop off the left ear. "The Webbs lived in a log cabin up the creek back of the Speed mansion and of their 11 children, Frederick, born in 1822, became the father of Mrs. (MABLE) VAN DYKE and the owner of the mansion." It is apparent he was successful in his efforts as a freeman for his son Frederick M. Webb eventually become owner of the John Joseph Speed homestead. "Frederick bought 75 acres of the original 1000 acre Speed tract and the house in 1870 from John Cannon who had purchases it from Speed." According to tradition there is a slave and freedmen burial plot adjacent or near the SPEED - PATILLO plot on the Spring Farm, Level Green Road. He married in 1819 and FREDERICK M. WEBB was born 15 February 1822, second son of Peter. (see also, VAN DYKE, BAILOR)

WELCH

LUTHER H. WELCH (1840-1921) fought in a score of Civil War battles, married CATHERINE HOUCK (1846-1915), was the father of BEN WELCH (1879-1907) (see Leisure Time Activities)"mayor" of Robinson Hollow, promoted beavers in Caroline, marksman, host of the Ben Welch Snowshoe Club.

WHITELY

Mrs. MARTHA WHITELY of Brooktondale was a Home Demonstration Leader.

YAPLE

One of the oldest residents of the Town of Caroline was Urania Yaple Smith, daughter of Phillip and Mary Earsley Yaple, granddaughter of Jacob Yaple, and early pioneer of Tompkins Coounty. She was born in Danby, 1 June 1811 near the site of the log cabin of John Dumond. After living in Danby three years, after her father died of typhoid fever, her mother moved with her family of seven small children to the Town of Caroline, where she purchased a small farm near the Speed place and erected a log cabin. In 1835 Urania married Gilbert Smith. Eight children were born to them. Mrs. Smith died at the home of her youngest daughter, Mrs. Fannie Boice, in 1812, and is buried in the Caroline Grove Cemetery.

EMAIL: CarolineHistorian@yahoo.com

