

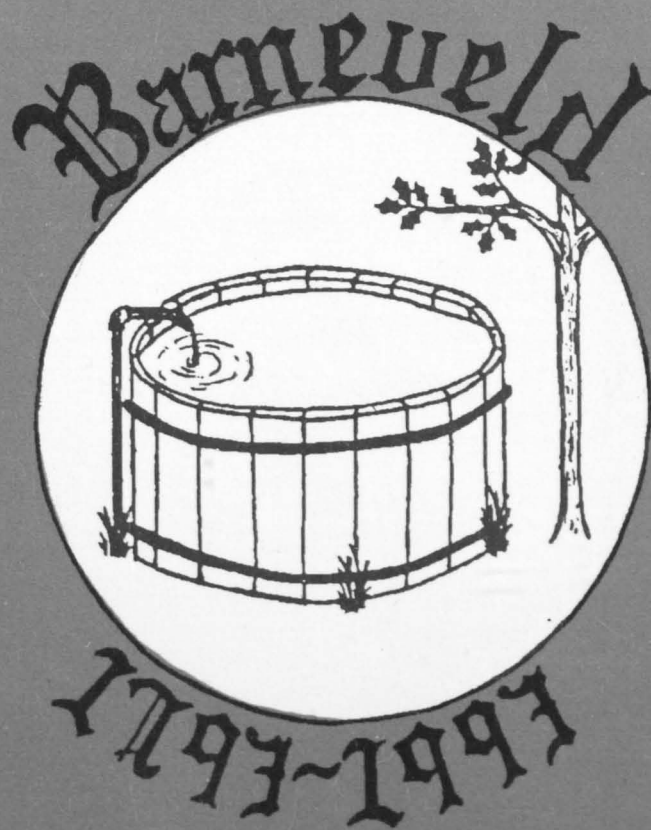
Village of Barneveld

Barneveld Sketches

Published History 1793 - 1993

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BARNEVELD SKETCHES



BARNEVELD

SKETCHES

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BARNEVELD SKETCHES

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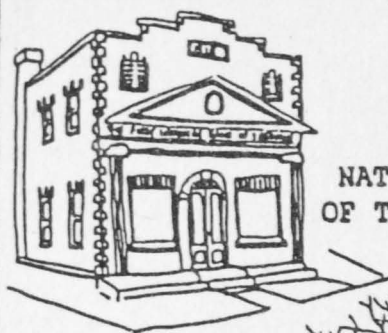
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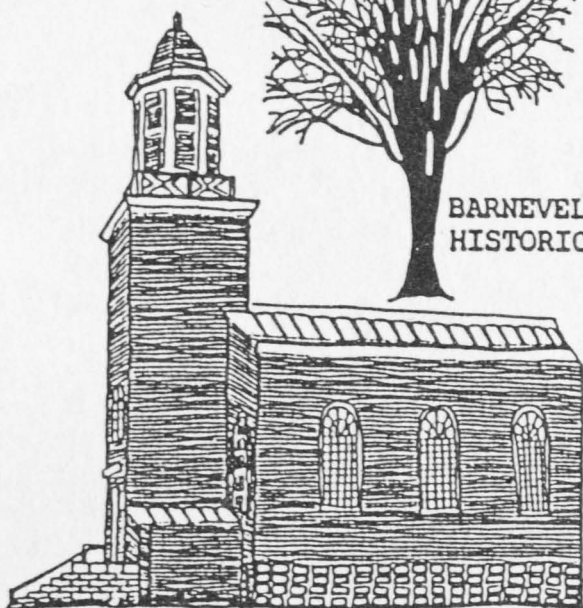
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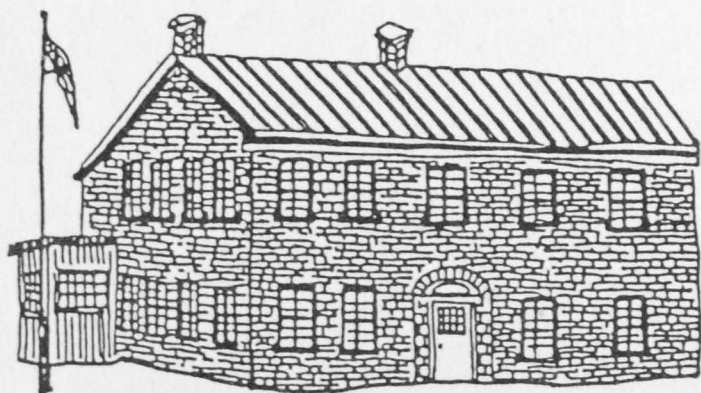
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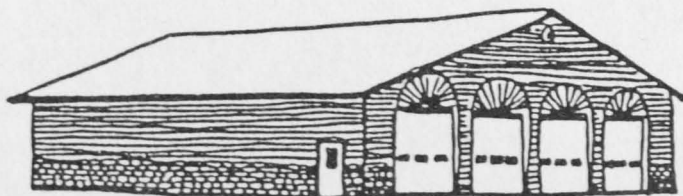
BARNEVELD'S
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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH 1803



TRENTON SCHOOL BUILDING AND TOWN HALL 1844



NEW BARNEVELD FIREHOUSE 1992

VILLAGE OF BARNEVELD BI-CENTENNIAL 1793 - 1993



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TUB

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This book is being printed on the occasion of the Village of Barneveld Bicentennial. Many chapters were written by Rev. Charles Girelius, a minister at the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, in the 1950s. Various parts of his manuscript have been edited and updated as needed. After being appointed Village Historian, he spent several years researching and writing village history. It is apparent that an effort was made to recall the past life of Barneveld residents in an informal style, not relying strictly on facts. Other contributors include Rev. Edwin Fairley, Mrs. Edwin Fairley, Robert Pritchard, Clarence Day, Edith Skinner and Howard Thomas. The editors have also added information we felt would be of interest to the reader.

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Information contained in this book is believed to be correct. The editors assume no responsibility for errors or omissions.

Barneveld, New York
April 1993

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PROLOGUE

Here stood a virgin forest in all its primeval beauty, shading a small valley where two streams met and flowed on as one. These streams were destined to become known as the Steuben and Cincinnati Creeks. Low hills rose on every side, and there were as yet no clearings made by white men. There were no roads, and its paths were mere trails pressed by Indian feet. This region lay within the dominion of the Iroquois Nation. The Indian name for the valley in which Barneveld is located is Oseteadaque; the word means "the land between the hills" and is pronounced Ase-tea-da-que.

Chapter One

JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT

From an article by Dr. Jan den Tex, author of
Johan van Oldenbarnevelt, Advocate of Holland

Johan van Oldenbarnevelt was born at Amersfoort (Province of Utrecht), Holland on September 14, 1547. As a young man he took part in several battles for the liberation of Holland from the Spanish in the Eighty Years War (1568-1648). In 1586 he was appointed "Advocate of Holland", which meant leader of the politics.

During this time the Netherlands was torn apart by religious dissension. Originating in the Dutch Reform Church, it spread to the State, as State and Church were intimately connected. The Orthodox party wanted the more liberal Arminian preachers to be excluded from the Church and issued a threat of armed repression. Oldenbarnevelt was against this, as his beliefs were for tolerance in both Church and State. He recruited town soldiers to protect the Arminians. This was perceived by the States-General as armed rebellion, and in 1618 Oldenbarnevelt and three of his supporters were arrested. After a long trial, he was sentenced to be beheaded. The execution took place on May 13, 1619.

The Arminians and many liberal minded men considered him a martyr. Many found him to be a friend to peace and respectful of liberty of conscience.

Toward the end of the next century, another civil strife tore the country apart. Again Oldenbarnevelt was worshipped as a patron saint by the Patriots. In 1787 a Prussian invasion forced the leading Patriots to flee the country. Most of them went to France, but some crossed the Atlantic. Among these were Adam Gerard Mappa and Francis Adrian Van der Kemp.

Chapter Two

HISTORIC SURROUNDINGS

The first settlers in this region were the Oneida Indians, members of the Iroquois Nation, the most powerful group of Indians in North America. It is hard to say who was the first white man to penetrate into this territory, but most accounts state that this honor belongs to Samuel de Champlain, the great French explorer whose name has been given to the lake between New York and Vermont. He incurred the hostility of the Iroquois Nation by attacking them when he first saw them near his own lake. Later he led an expedition against them, coming by way of Lake Ontario and Oneida Lake. These encounters with the Indians paved the way for the French to lose their North American colonies for when the French and Indian Wars broke out, the Indians, remembering how the French had attacked them, sided with the English and Americans. In a sense, the fate of all this region was decided, in part at least, closeby. If the French had recruited the Indians on their side they might have won the war, in which case we would all be speaking French instead of English.

The lands in the English Colonies were considered owned by the Crown and were periodically given in grants or patents to favorites. In 1768, Sir Henry Moore, Governor of the Colony, granted the Serviss Patent to Peter Serviss and 24 others, who in turn conveyed the land to Sir William Johnson. His son, Sir John Johnson, conveyed the land to parties in New York City. Between 1790 and 1800, this land and other tracts were purchased the Holland Land Company.

Other tracts of land in this region were given by the state to Baron von Steuben in part payment for his services in the Revolutionary War; still others were included in the Serviss Patent. This last includes the land on which Barneveld now stands.

While the Revolutionary War was going on, John Adams was sent to Holland to borrow some money from the Dutch bankers for the war effort. In Holland he met Francis Adrian

Van der Kemp who introduced him to the bankers and aided him in borrowing a vast sum of money which contributed to our winning independence. When the war was over, these same bankers thought that money might be made by buying up lands and opening them up for settlement.

The natives of Holland were also moved by the anti-slavery spirit to do a most unusual thing. As these Dutchmen heard the tales of slave trading and slave labor, particularly as it was associated with the sugar cane industry, the spirit burned within them to do something to bring to an end the whole inhuman business. Then one day they learned from Brissot de Warville that sugar could be made from maple sap in such quantities and prices as to supersede the West India sugar. It occurred to them that here was perhaps a divinely appointed opportunity to strike a fatal blow at the slave evil. So they decided to purchase tracts of land in America, where the maple trees grow in abundance, and develop the sugar industry there on so large a scale that they would run sugar cane out of the market, and thus do away with the need for slaves.

The man they sent over to manage their affairs was Gerritt Boon. For two years he traveled all over the northeastern United States. He finally settled upon central New York as the best territory for their investments. In 1792, in the name of the Holland Land Company, Boon bought lands from the Serviss, Steuben and Adgate Patents, and fixed his office in what is now Barneveld. Part of the Serviss Patent was purchased for 12 shillings an acre, the rest for 10 shillings an acre. By the end of 1794, Boon had sold numerous lots to settlers for \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre. The Holland Land Company eventually accumulated holdings of 3.6 million acres in central and western New York.

Chapter Three

THE SETTLEMENT

In the year 1790, Gerritt Boon came from Holland to Fort Schuyler (Utica), New York, representing the Holland Land Company. There were no white man's dwellings between Fort Schuyler and Fort Stanwix (Rome), only the blackened remains of burnt houses and barns, which told the story of the savage work of the Indians during the Revolution. In 1793, he proceeded north from Fort Schuyler into the forest and settled at the conjunction of the Steuben and Cincinnati Creeks. He called the place Olden Barneveldt, in honor of the Dutch Patriot, Johan van Oldenbarnevelt.

One of the men associated with Boon from the beginning was Thomas Hicks. In the spring of 1794, Thomas Hicks stood on the bridge over the Mohawk River at Fort Schuyler and looked at a boat downstream, which was propelled against the current. As it came nearer, he discovered four young men and some boxes or chests on the boat. He hailed the party with, "Have you any carpenters in the party?" The reply came, "Yes, we have four." Thomas Hicks again hailed, "I want to talk with you. Do not engage until I have a talk. I want to hire you."

On reaching the shore, he said, "My name is Thomas Hicks. I am looking for carpenters to work for Mr. Boon at a place called Olden Barneveldt, some fourteen miles from here. You will be well paid in yellow coin if you suit him." The whole party named individually, Cheney Garrett, Peter Garrett, Samuel Garrett and William Palmer, were aged respectively 24, 22, 20 and 18. They placed themselves under Mr. Hick's charge, who with a yoke of oxen and some sort of wheeled vehicle, placed their chests, which proved to be principally carpenter's tools, aboard. They took up their line of march to the north into the almost unbroken forest.

The road had seen but little travel, winding in and out, over brush, mud, swamps, hills and streams, until just at night fall, a stream was crossed (probably Nine Mile Creek). The party camped overnight with shelter from a branching hemlock.

Morning having arrived, breakfast was supplied from the small stores remaining in the tool chests, after which they wended their way north to "The Settlement."

Our story began with a picture of virgin forest, but with the advent of Gerritt Boon, the picture suddenly changed. Men with axes came upon the scene and began destroying much of the earlier primeval beauty. That had to be, for there must be clearings, space for houses, room for gardens and farms, and trees had to go. So does a new community rise in place of a forest, although years may pass before full beauty is achieved.

The expedition led by Thomas Hicks played an effective part in starting the new settlement. The three Garrett brothers worked that season for Boon at Olden Barneveldt, and part of the following season at Boonville. Cheney Garrett, the oldest of the brothers, had become interested in the place where they had camped on the first night of their journey from Fort Schuyler. He came back and bought the land he wanted and erected a log house. He was the first to settle in what became known as South Trenton.

Gerritt Boon was the first to locate in Olden Barneveldt, but he did more than lead the way; he prepared the way as a representative of the Holland Land Company. It was on land opened and sold by this company that the Town of Trenton was founded. Boon built the first house which still stands.

An outstanding Hollander, Francis Adrian Van der Kemp, who was a friend of Gerritt Boon and of Adam Mappa, was living at Oneida Lake. The Van der Kemps found their home too lonely, especially for Mrs. Van der Kemp. She had visited Mrs. Mappa and received a most heartwarming welcome from her friend, who spoke in French and gave her the best of everything she had. This was in 1794. The Castorland Journalist in publishing the visit said that Olden Barneveldt then had "a large clearing, a forge, a saw mill, a fine two story frame house with all the conveniences of a city home, a fine vegetable garden, log houses, etc., all a great credit to Mr. Boon's industry."

In 1797, the Van der Kemp family moved to Olden Barneveldt and established their home in a cottage now used as the Parsonage of the Unitarian Church. Here in his bed chamber, Van der Kemp placed the sword and pistols he had carried

through the Dutch Revolution. He became devoted to agriculture and was a man of great learning.

Gerritt Boon opened this region for settlement and he served the public well. Boon, Mappa and Van der Kemp were three important men, all from the Netherlands, whose lives and labors have given color to the history of our village.

Thomas Hicks, whom we already have met, came from Rhode Island in 1781 and located in Fort Schuyler before moving to Olden Barneveldt. He built the second building in the village, which became the first tavern, the Cincinnatus Inn, and later the home of Dr. Luther Guiteau. When this building was used as a tavern, it carried a sign which pictured a military officer, with cocked hat and feather, a plow and other farm instruments.

The two streams that join nearby were given the names of Steuben and Cincinnati Creeks. The beauty of these two streams was recognized from the first, and they carried highly honored names.

Baron von Steuben visited Olden Barneveldt and found delightful companionship in the Dutch household of the Mappas. It is said that when the Baron announced that he would make a visit, he was met at the edge of the forest and escorted to the house, and there welcomed by the women with all the courtesy and consideration that he had been accustomed to receive in the Old World. Colonel Mappa and he were great chess players and this royal game was their favorite recreation. The chess table stood in one corner of the south parlor in the Mappa house and here famous battles were lost and won. These visits took on a stately character, and when it was time for the guest to depart, the entire household would accompany him to the bridge over Steuben Creek. From there they would watch him as he rode his horse into the forest and disappeared in the solitude of the night. Other notable visitors to the settlement included Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren, Dewitt Clinton and Horatio Seymour.

Another outstanding Dutch personality was Harm Jan Huidekoper, who as a young man lived here from 1797 to 1802. During the last three years of his stay, he served as a clerk for Colonel Mappa. On August 9, 1797, he wrote to his parents in Holland, "Olden Barneveldt is a very pleasant little place, and it

is much more agreeable to me because there are so many
Hollanders here. These are Mr. Boon, manager of the settlement,
Messrs. Mappa and Van der Kemp, with their families, both of
whom fled from Holland because of the revolution of '87, Mr.
Zaan, brother-in-law of Mr. Mappa, and Mr. Smits – in all
fifteen persons."

Chapter Four

PIONEER WOMAN

The words **PIONEER** and **WOMAN** must of necessity be written large in every newly settled community. In the early records of the village, women holding public office were conspicuous by their absence. The men were lords of the political realm until quite recent times. Even if they held no office, without the pioneer woman, there would have been no settlement here and no advancement of civilization into the wilderness.

Men and women each had special duties, but altogether it meant a sharing of hardships. Women had their children to care for until they became old enough to help with the work. Flax and wool had to be spun and woven into cloth. The women carded by hand the fleeces of wool clipped by the farmers. They then spun and made yarn, and using hand looms, they wove their own dresses. The farmers sowed flax, and when it was broken and made ready for the spinning wheel, the women took it and made all their linen for household uses. Food that was needed by the settlers and their families had to be grown here, and the women had to preserve the food for the long harsh winters. The women had to make their own candles, and in many instances had to help chop wood for heat and tend to the livestock.

Van der Kemp and Mappa brought their families from the culture of the Netherlands into the wilderness of northern New York. Dr. Luther Guiteau, Sr. came from Lanesboro, Massachusetts, looked over the fields, and decided to settle, but first he went back to his old home community and married a daughter of Ensign Daniel Billings. He established a large practice, but with much hardship. He visited patients by traveling on horseback over roads that were hardly more than trails blazed through the woods. His wife often had to wait anxiously her husband's return far into the night.

A fine tribute was given to the pioneer woman by John F. Seymour of Utica, in an address delivered by him at a celebration held in Barneveld on July 4, 1878.

"This celebration is the work of the ladies of Trenton and it is upon their invitation that I have given this review of the early history of this place. No review can be considered complete which fails to show how large a share of the prosperity and virtue of the early settlers was due to the self denial and intelligence and Christian principles of the women who shared with the men all the trials and dangers and privations of their forest life.

The women of the Revolution and of the first settlements were the equal of the men in courage and resource to meet the necessities of a new country and they were their superiors in refinement. The wives of the distinguished persons I have mentioned brought with them all the politeness and courtly manners of the Old World, and imparted them to their children. The memory of Miss Mappa and Miss Van der Kemp is still fresh in the minds of you all; in their unassuming goodness and gentle ways, so did they endear themselves to you that you yet think and speak of them as relatives.

Mothers instilled into the hearts and minds of their children patriotism and virtue, and it is only when men depart from maternal precepts that they sacrifice their integrity for money, and bring disgrace upon offices of trust confided to them. To restore integrity and purity to the American people, in public and private, we look not to legislatures, not to governors, or to presidents, not to conventions, but to the mother's teaching in her own home, where she reigns supreme, and where her influence will determine the future history of this country. It is for her to check the extravagance of the day, and to restore the simplicity and economy of living of the early days of the republic."

Chapter Five

THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZES

We have followed the first settlers into the wilderness. We have seen a village center spring up in a little valley surrounded by low hills. We have seen roads opened, but as yet crudely constructed, land cleared for crops, houses built – many of them but log huts. The need for shelter was urgent; food was even more urgently needed. None of the settlers could at first be comfortably housed. Gerritt Boon camped in a tent until he could get his frame house built, and after that he took his tent with him on his journeys.

These were strenuous days for the early pioneers who had left well advanced communities and come with wives and children to create a new life in the wilderness. It meant a hard life with few comforts and no places for entertainment. Trees had to be cut down. Stumps that could not be pulled or dug up had to stay in the ground until they decayed, and crops were planted between the stumps. The soil was tilled with wooden plows shod with iron. Tailors and boot and shoe makers went from house to house to provide the needed shoes and garments.

In 1798 Gerritt Boon built a grist mill and dam on the Cincinnati Creek, a few hundred feet above where the railroad crossing was built later. This proved a failure as a flood carried away the dam, probably undermined by muskrats. The mill had been built by Boon at the expense of the Holland Land Company in order to save the settlers the time and expense of walking to White's Town to obtain flour. The settlers raised their own wheat, but there was no place to buy flour. As the first attempt had been unfortunate, a new grist mill was built on the Cincinnati Creek at Parker Hollow. There the company also built a saw-mill. These mills were sold to Peter Schuyler, who owned and ran them for several years, and then sold to James Parker, an important early settler. The first male child born in the Town of Trenton was a son of James Parker, and he was named Adam, doubtless named after Adam Mappa.

The women wove cloth for their own and children's dresses. These lasted for years and were passed down from mother to child. You can imagine what a blessing it was to the women when a carding and fulling mill was also built on the Cincinnati Creek in 1806.

As for war, the early settlers knew its meaning. They carried memories of the then recent American Revolution, and armies serving in the War of 1812 traveled a road very close to the settlement on their way to Sackett's Harbor. Captain John Billings held a commission and he marched with his company to that outpost of American forces. War in the pioneer days was distressing enough, but not of overwhelming significance. No world shaking changes were anticipated, and the settlers wanted only to end the war and get back to their farms and other employments.

The new community called for law and civilization as well as provision for material needs. It must organize, establish government, educate its children, create churches, and assume its share in the ongoing process of the State. Not a settlement only but a society must come into existence, and that founded on democracy and freedom.

The County of Oneida was created out of Herkimer County in 1798. The Town of Trenton came into existence a year before this. It was established March 24, 1797 from the Town of Schuyler, then in Herkimer County. Its 27,292 acres include almost the whole Serviss Patent and a large tract of the Holland Patent in the western part.

The first meeting of the Town of Trenton was held at the house of Thomas Hicks, April 4, 1797. It was called to order by Francis Adrian Van der Kemp, and John P. Little was chosen temporary Clerk. The following were thereupon chosen officers for the ensuing year:

Supervisor – Adam G. Mappa

Town Clerk – John P. Little

Assessors – Thomas Hicks, Cheney Garrett, David Williams

Commissioners of Highways – Peter Schuyler, David
Stafford, William Miller

Overseers of the Poor – Gerrit Becker, Peter Garrett

Collector – Daniel Bell

Commissioners of the Schools – Peter Schuyler, John
Hicks, David William

Constables – Daniel Bell, Jacob P. Nash, Solomon Gillett

Fence Viewers – Gerritt Boon, William Johnson, Jacob
Smith

Pound Masters – Jacob T. Smits, James Holibert

Overseers of Highways:

On road to Fort Schuyler – Francis A. Van der Kemp

On road to Steuben – Joseph Brownell

On road to Canada Creek – David Corp

On road to Fort Stanwix – Abner Matthews

On road to White's Town – Jonathan Graves

The minutes of this meeting show no other business except a vote that the next meeting be likewise held at the home of Thomas Hicks in the village of Olden Barneveldt.

By the year 1819, a considerable community had grown up, and on the 19th of April of that year, our village was incorporated under the name of Oldenbarneveld (the name being changed to one word). On April 26th, 1833, it was reincorporated under the name of Trenton, and with slightly changed boundaries. Since then, the boundaries have been twice changed, first in April 1864, and again in April 1870.

On March 10, 1970 village residents voted in favor of eliminating the village charter and operating under New York State Village Law. Under the old charter the chief officer of the village was called President. After this change, the chief officer was officially called Mayor.

The first meeting of the inhabitants of the Village of Trenton for the election of Trustees and other officers took place May 6, 1834, at the home of Charles Case. Daniel Warren, Jr. presided as moderator and John Billings acted as Clerk. Five Trustees were elected; Benjamin Brayton, John Mappa, Luther Guiteau, James Birdsall and Daniel Warren, Jr. The Trustees met generally once a year to transact business, which was principally to elect officers and pass ordinances to prevent sheep, pigs, geese, cattle and horses from running in the streets of the village. A hog reeve was usually appointed whose duty it was to drive all

animals found running in the streets to the nearest public pound. He received a fee of three cents a head, which was paid by the owner. Previous to 1868, the village was governed simply by a Board of Trustees numbering six in the early years, five for a later period, and still later four.

The getting of the bell for the village in 1840 was an event of no little magnitude to the inhabitants of the village and vicinity. Its purchase was decided upon at a meeting held on September 22, 1840. It was paid for by voluntary contributors and a tax on the villagers. It was to weigh not less than 700 pounds and was to belong to the Trustees of the village and their successors in office forever. The bell was hung in the steeple of the Old Stone Church and was there for many years until it became rather dangerous to leave it due to rotting of the timbers. The Trustees had it removed to the steeple of the Unitarian Church. In the old days it rang three times a day at 6 a.m., 12 noon, and 9 p.m. The bell ringer drew a salary of \$26 a year. The bell was rung whenever there was a death in the community, and it was tolled once for each year of the age of the person who had died.

One little incident in connection of the bell caused a lot of excitement in the village. It was caused by the ringing of the bell in the middle of the night. The timid ones thought it was the spirits and it was meant for a warning, but finally the mystery was solved. Some of the village boys had tied a rope to the clapper and run it back over the hill where they could ring it without being seen.

The bell left the village in the 1960s after having been sold to a private citizen. A quest has been undertaken by the Bicentennial Committee to return our bell to its rightful place in our village.

Chapter Six

A CONTEST OF VILLAGE NAMES

First it was Olden Barneveldt, so named by Gerritt Boon. Then the two names were combined into Oldenbarneveld. In the meantime, the name Trenton had been given to the town and was finally given to the village also. It was objected that the original name of the village was of inconvenient length, and the objection was valid. It would have been better to have omitted the name Olden from the start. So the legal name of the village became Trenton. Barneveld remained more or less in popular use, and the name acquired added standing when, in 1875, the library association took the name of Barneveld Library Association.

Real objections to the name Trenton were due to the fact that there happened to be a far larger community that carried the name of Trenton in New Jersey. Careless penmanship failed to make sufficient distinction between the initials N.Y. and N.J. with the result that considerable amounts of mail, express packages and railroad freight went astray between the two communities. Naturally this caused exasperation, and it was proposed that the village name be changed to simply Barneveld. Finally, in 1903, the Federal Government granted the request for a change and gave the name of Barneveld to the post office and the railroad station. From that time on, the village was blessed with two names, Trenton and Barneveld, the first being its legal name, the second becoming more and more the popular name.

There was still a confusion of names, for strangers who were looking for Barneveld passed the name Trenton by not knowing that the two names stood for the same village. They would step into the post office to inquire, "Is this Trenton or Barneveld?" The answer came back, "When you are on the street you are in Trenton. When you are in the post office you are in Barneveld." Quotations from a few available newspaper clippings will reveal the intensity as well as the humor with which this debate over names was carried on.

"Why change the name of Trenton village? Inasmuch as the

railroad station and the post office have been changed to Barneveld, let that suffice. Leave something for the friends of dear old Trenton to cherish and look to with reverence, love and pride."

Another writer took this emphatic stand. "First, last and all the time between, we are 'agin it. Even the historical society for the town has dropped the name of Trenton and called itself Vallonia."

"In 1793 Gerritt Boon, even before an ax was raised to construct a temporary camp for the night, raised his hands and eyes to heaven, and from the fullness of his heart and from the love of what the name represented to him and many others, called this place Olden Barneveldt."

Thus ran the debate until the day arrived when a village election was held, at which the question of changing the name of the village to Barneveld was voted on and defeated by a vote of 65 against and 34 in favor. Among those who favored the retention of the name of Trenton, there was great rejoicing. The younger elements paraded about the streets and there were fireworks and bonfires.

In 1975 the village residents again voted. Voters cast 88 in favor of and 49 against changing the name of the village from Trenton to Barneveld. The village is now officially Barneveld.

Chapter Seven

TRENTON FIREMEN

In 1833 the village had a volunteer fire company composed of residents of the village. They had an engine that would be a great curiosity in comparison with our modern fire apparatus. It stood for years in a barn in the village. One day this barn took fire and burned to the ground, and the only fire engine Trenton ever had went with it.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the Village, held at the house of Charles Case, on May 26, 1834, the following were duly appointed firemen for the village: Thomas Worden, Captain; Thomas Tanner, Jr., second in command; David R. Case; Henry K. Warren; John Waldron; Franklin Turner; John W. Tanner; John Keller; William Hook; John N. Billings; James Cole; Philo Budsey; Henry Treat; Benjamin Tanner; William Candee; Alexander Frazier; John Mappa, Jr.; Henry Barney; and Perry G. Tanner.

At a special meeting of the free holders and inhabitants of the village held on June 27, 1835, it was voted that the sum of \$25 be raised from taxable inhabitants for the purpose of paying expenses, already incurred by the incorporation, for the purchase of a book for records, for the placing of wheels under the fire engine and other necessary repairs to said engine.

It was resolved that it shall be the duty of the Captain to warn, or cause to be warned, the members of the company to assemble once in every month for the purpose of exercising with the engine, commencing from the 1st of May until the 1st of November. Also resolved that the Captain of said company is hereby authorized and empowered to levy and collect a tax of 25 cents upon all who do not attend a regular warned meeting, unless they shall send a reasonable excuse to said Captain and for any disobedience of orders from any officers, a like fine may be imposed and collected.

On Sunday morning, November 4, 1923, a disastrous fire occurred in the village. It started in Haskell's Garage which was

completely destroyed. Northam & Williams Store and Franklin Hitchcock's Ice Cream Parlor were likewise destroyed, and the house of W.C. Wilkins suffered extensive damage. Half the village lay in the path of the fire, fanned by an east wind. To this fire was drawn a chemical on two wheels pulled by a few men, and all the neighboring villages responded to the call for help. Utica's new motor pumping engine, responding to its first alarm since placed in service, saved the village from complete destruction by forcing two powerful streams of water from Cincinnati Creek, 400 yards away. The telephone company also suffered a heavy loss in damage to wires, crippling service in the entire community. Flames shot across the road, setting fire to Hotel Moore, the residence of Dr. Horr and several other buildings.

W.F. McCartney, owner of the Drumlin Fish Hatchery, a mile above the village, opened the gates of his pond at a critical moment, furnishing water just when the supply in the creek began to get low. Ellis Griffith, who helped sound the alarm, died at the fire, probably due to the excitement and strain. Mr. Griffith was the night telephone manager, Town Clerk, and former Town Supervisor for the Town of Trenton.

The first record of any kind of the Trenton Volunteer Fire Company was of a meeting held in the Town Hall on October 10, 1927, with M.A. Chrestien presiding. At this meeting a motion was made that a committee be appointed to draft resolutions to bring before the voters concerning what kind of fire protection shall be voted upon by voters of the corporation. Many companies came to the village during the following years demonstrating fire trucks.

At a village meeting in March 1928, with Dr. Moore then President of the Board of Trustees, it was voted to erect a building not to exceed \$1200, and to purchase motorized fire apparatus. The voting was 5 in favor and 2 against.

In the fall of 1928 the town and surrounding territory were solicited for funds for extra equipment. A total of \$550 was donated from the surrounding neighborhood. At a meeting in October 1928, the subject of a fire siren was discussed. It was decided to buy a code siren. The first meeting in the new firehouse was held in December 1928. A special meeting was

called in September 1929 to discuss buying a used truck to carry ladders and other equipment and in 1946, a new Sanford International pumper was purchased.

In 1975, along with the changing of the name of the village to Barneveld, the Trenton Fire Department became the Barneveld Fire Department. A new building on Old Poland Road was constructed in 1992, at an approximate cost of \$100,000. The cost of building this impressive new facility was kept at a minimum due to the many contributions of materials and labor from area residents. The department's equipment presently consists of three pumpers, one tanker, one brush truck and one rescue truck. There are approximately 25 active firemen and 3 Emergency Medical Technicians who cover one-third of the Town of Trenton and parts of the Town of Steuben and Town of Russia.

Chapter Eight

THE WATER SYSTEM

In September of 1910, the village was menaced by typhoid fever, due, it was claimed, to the fact that certain residents allowed their house drainage to flow into a sewer on Boon Street that was intended to carry only rain water. This sewer discharged into Steuben Creek close to the bridge and within a short distance from the residential section. When there was not enough water to carry off the refuse matter, it accumulated within the sewer, the resulting stench became unpleasant, and the infection was spread by flies. Several cases of typhoid fever developed, some of them being fatal. The State Health Department pronounced the sewer system a menace to health, and the dangerous condition was finally corrected. Some of the wells used for drinking water came under suspicion, but the springs used were found to be uninfected.

Coincident with the typhoid menace, whether influenced by it or not, a movement started in favor of a water system. On August 2, 1910, a special election was held to vote on a proposition to construct a system of water works for the village, and for issuing bonds, not to exceed \$16,000, to provide funds for the same. The measure was defeated by a vote of 15 in favor and 37 against.

On May 1, 1924, a public meeting of citizens was called for the purpose of discussing a water proposition for the village for fire protection and drinking purposes. The meeting was held in the schoolhouse and Edwin Hughes was elected chairman; G. A. Jepson was elected secretary. The proposition read by Mr. Jepson was in part as follows:

"Whereas, our village has recently had a narrow escape from a fire which threatened to destroy the village, and the Board of Trustees appreciating the serious situation of our village so far as being able to contend with a similar situation, we have expended considerable time and means to devise some system for future protection and have this evening laid the results of their efforts

before us."

It was voted to hold a special meeting on the following June 2nd to vote on this proposition, the cost to be not over \$60,000. The meeting was held as planned and the measure was defeated by a vote of 28 for and 44 against.

Again, March 8, 1931, a proposition to create a water system for the village was voted on at a regular meeting, the cost to be not over \$40,000. It was defeated by a vote of 34 in favor and 47 against. Two years later, March 13, 1934, the proposition of village water supply was again voted on, the maximum cost to be \$27,300. It was carried by a vote of 43 in favor, 42 against and one vote spoiled.

That was about as small a majority as there could well be, but at least the project was sent on its way with the hope of final realization. A resolution that water be taken from the Richards springs near Prospect was adopted. Following this, an injunction was served on the Village Board by three taxpayers, restraining the board from carrying out the proposition. This was first heard in Supreme Court in Utica in 1936, where the board was upheld. The taxpayers took the case to Appellate Court in Rochester and the decision was reversed. The board then appealed and the case was heard in the Court of Appeals in Albany. The old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again", surely applies to the fight for water in the village.

There had to be the inevitable discussions, quibbling over details, decisions on minor issues, settlement of points of law, consulting with State authorities and employment of engineers to do the technical planning. It undoubtedly meant a trying experience for those who sponsored the enterprise, but at last they saw their efforts crowned with success. They then could look with genuine satisfaction upon the good work that had been accomplished, and now approved by a majority.

The Board of Trustees who saw this project through its final success were: President, William A. DeVolt; Trustees, John Vandewalker, Edward C. Roberts, Laurence G. Prindle, Charles H. Wells, George F. Miller; also Treasurer, William E. Barker; Clerks, Florence E. Pugh, Jennie H. McIntosh.

The water works was finally completed in 1940 at a total cost of \$120,000 (materials were purchased by the village; labor

and engineering costs were paid for by the federal government). It was regarded as one of the most modern and complete water systems of its kind for a community of this size. A 150,000 gallon storage tank was installed one mile south of the village. It is 30 feet high, assuring the community a supply of water under relatively high pressure on a gravity system. The distribution system consists of over eight miles of 4" to 8" pipes.

Barneveld is ideally suited for the type of water system developed. It stands on a sandy shelf stepping down from the Adirondack hills, and the springs, flowing through and out of sandy strata, provide the purest water available. The system was updated in the 1960s with the construction of an additional spring. Further improvements to the system were completed in 1992 with the construction of a chlorination plant. The system now serves over 500 customers in the village and surrounding areas.

The village originally had three watering troughs which served as a main source of water when private springs and wells ran dry. These tubs served as public drinking fountains, for washing one's face and hands, and also for a "lake" for small boys to sail their toy boats. Only one of the three tubs is still in use. The installation of the water system, which piped water to every house and provided hydrants for fire protection, made them obsolete. No longer do travelers stop to watch the trout in the big tub in the center of the village.

Chapter Nine

THE RAILROAD TO TRENTON

It was about 60 years after Gerritt Boon arrived in Olden Barneveldt before a railroad came to Trenton. Until then all transportation was by stagecoach, horseback or on foot.

In 1825, Governor Dewitt Clinton, in his annual message to the Legislature, had urged the need for a canal or railroad north from the Mohawk Valley. Many petitions were received from the Herkimer, Utica and Rome areas as well as from the northern counties of the state. In April of that year a survey was ordered.

Finally, in 1832, the Legislature granted the Black River Company the right to connect the Erie Canal with the waters that flowed into the St. Lawrence River. Another survey was ordered. Meanwhile Rome was building a canal north toward Boonville. Not to be outdone by their neighbor, Utica finally formed the Black River and Utica Railroad Company. Their directors immediately selected Mr. Daniel C. Jenne, a civil engineer, to survey and plot a railroad north from Utica. This was in 1853.

There were many obstacles to be overcome. Deerfield Hill and smaller hills had to be bypassed and valleys had to be crossed. Mr. Jenne selected Wooster's Tavern (later Joy's Hotel and presently Mapledale Hotel) as headquarters for his survey and from there he laid out the railroad in two directions – east and north across the Cincinnati Creek and its valley toward Remsen, and west and south back to Utica. The planning stage including excavations and bridge construction began on September 1, 1853 and lasted two years. A building was erected at Trenton for equipment and materials with laborers working in both directions.

A long wooden trestle bridge over the Cincinnati Creek was a great source of curiosity and a wonderful feat of construction. It had 20 abutments on which the trestle work was built. When finished, the tracks and trains were 100 feet above the water of the creek. This wooden trestle withstood the elements of nature until 1862 when the long embankment and three stone arched

underpasses replaced it.

On January 19, 1855, trains were running on the first division of the railroad – Utica to Trenton. There were two trains each day consisting of a locomotive and two cars, one for passengers and the other for freight, mail and baggage. The coming of the railroad was, indeed a "boon" to the village. Now the fourteen mile trip to Utica could be made in fifty minutes. By stage it took at least four hours. Visitors to the resort at Trenton Falls could now come by train all the way to Trenton and be met there by a Tallyho. Visitors came from near and far to view the famous falls and stay at Moore's Hotel. Business and industry began to increase in the village. Eventually there was a large milk plant at the station, two coal sheds and a freight storage building. Trenton became an active community thanks to the arrival of the railroad on January 19, 1855.

Chapter Ten

THE WORK THAT SUSTAINS

In 1810, there were five stores located in the settlement. These were Mappa & Remsen, Chapman & Cooper, Billings & Douglas, Brooks & Mason and Griswold's. William Miller was one of the first businessmen to settle here, and was a blacksmith by trade. Much of the trade was done in Utica. The settlers would travel there three or four times a year, and lay in their stock of necessities. Each farmer kept one or two horses for transportation, but heavy work was done by oxen.

Some of the former businessmen of Trenton were Daniel French, who came in 1837 and started in the meat market business in 1842, Billings & Howe, James Douglas & Son, Egert & Pritchard, Levi Wheadon, John Evans, J.E. Dublin, C.C. Bevin, Barker & Plumb, J.J. Lewis, K. Alger & Son, William Robertson, G.H. Skiff and William Bouillian.

The grist mill was operated by F.A. Goodman, formerly by S.R. Sizer and still later by Israel Jones. The saw mill about a mile out of the village was operated by Austin McIntosh, and near it, in what was the Parker foundry, was the fish rod factory owned by George A. Clark & Co. of Utica.

During the War of 1812, a woolen factory was started here, manufacturing uncommonly good cloth, which at the time commanded \$10 a yard. After the war, cloth fell to \$5 a yard and the factory failed.

A post office was established about 1800 in the Guiteau house, with Luther Guiteau serving as Postmaster for a time. He was followed by John Billings, his brother-in-law, who settled here in 1804. The latter was appointed Postmaster in 1805 and held the office for sixty years. At the time of his death, he was beyond doubt the oldest Postmaster in the country. Mail was carried on horseback by post riders up to 1819 when the stage-coach took over this function. The mail came irregularly and the post rider would usually change horses here and continue on to Boonville.

The early settlers were very influential in the surrounding

areas. It was partly because of this settlement that Utica was established. Gerritt Boon, in an attempt to create a market for the settler's crops, later purchased and helped settle large portions of Fort Schuyler, now the city of Utica. The mills that were first built by Boon brought much business to Olden Barneveldt, with customers coming from parts of Herkimer County and much of Oneida County. In the early 1800s there was no Prospect. There was a Remsen, but no stores there, and Holland Patent had no stores either.

In the late 1800s and the early 1900s the village had greenhouses, called Wa-no-ka, located on Remsen Road, and owned by the Nicholson family. These greenhouses comprised one of the largest and most up-to-date businesses in the state, and commanded the attention of carnation growers and dealers far and near. William Scott, a prominent florist and author of several florist manuals, wrote after visiting the various carnation growing establishments in the country, "The best, most uniform and splendid lot of carnations I saw was at Barneveld, New York." The first greenhouse was erected in 1901. Two additional greenhouses were added in 1903 and three more in 1904. It was devoted exclusively to the growing of carnations, shipped to various parts of New York and other states. Even with an average cut of over 12,000 flowers a week, it was never able to fill all orders received. This industry was a major contributor to the Trenton post office becoming the Barneveld post office because of their large daily incoming shipments which ended up in Trenton, New Jersey. The greenhouses were later used for the growing of root vegetables such as radishes, onions and carrots.

The businesses of the Village of Trenton, in 1878, may be summed up as follows: two general stores, one druggist, three blacksmith shops, two wagon shops, one harness shop, one tailor shop, one cooper shop, a candle factory, two hotels, a schoolhouse, a town hall, three churches, a library, one grist mill and butter tub factory, a cheese factory, a planing mill, a furniture store, an undertaking establishment, two meat markets and a barbershop. The population of the village numbered about three hundred.

The most well known and oldest business in the village was

a hardware store established in 1878, and called K. Alger & Son. In 1892, it became Alger & Barker when William Barker bought into the partnership. Barker's son, Paul, joined the business following graduation from high school and continued to run the business until 1972. The store's interior remained basically unchanged throughout the 1900s. The business then became Hinge Hardware and has since moved outside the village.

The village remained a center of farm trade for the surrounding communities during the 1800s. The present Route 12 (first named the Utica Remsen Turnpike, then later as the Black River Road) was constructed under the direction of Colonel Thomas Hicks, Jr. in the early 1800s. Traffic over this converted Indian trail consisted mainly of men on horseback, ox carts and pedestrians. The stagecoach had yet to appear. Travel was hard, uncomfortable and time consuming. The roads were muddy in the spring, dusty in the summer and sometimes impassable in the winter. This road passed through the village on Mappa Avenue, down Boon Street, and northward on Remsen Road toward Remsen. For more than a century, the village lay in the path of all north and south traffic in eastern Oneida County. The road to Prospect was located on Boon Street (also known as Plank Road) and continued on Parker Hollow Road. Travelers to Holland Patent took the present Rt. 365, which, also, was only a two lane dirt road. In 1948, a new four lane Route 12 was built further east of the old Route 12, coming from Utica. In the early 1950s another stage of this project was completed in which the four lane highway bypassed the village. Many of the village's businesses relocated to the new highway.

The First National Bank of Trenton was established in 1918. Its original location was on the south side of Boon Street. In 1930, it was moved to a new building on Mappa Avenue. It closed in March 1933, probably due to financial difficulties and the Depression.

In the early 1900s, Dr. Edward Horr set up his practice on Mappa Avenue and remained for 38 years. His practice extended for 25 miles around the village where he bucked many a snow drift to set splintered bones and work through epidemics of one kind or another. He traveled in the early days by buggy and sleigh, and kept three horses. Always stored in the back of his

sleigh were showshoes, a most important part of his equipment for emergencies. The Horr residence had housed a doctor for more than 100 years. Before Dr. Horr, Dr. Slocum (who later started Slocum Dickson Clinic in Utica) was in practice there, and before him there were Dr. Roberts and Dr. Gillette.

A fish hatchery, started by William Wicks, was located outside the village on Fish Hatchery Road. This hatchery supplied fish to stock streams in various parts of the state and employed several village residents. In the winter, ice was chopped from the pond and taken to the icehouse at the railroad station on sleighs. This ice was used to keep the farmer's milk cold until it could be shipped out on the railroad cars. A village icehouse was located at the end of Vanderkemp Avenue. Ice was chopped from the nearby creek and the blocks were stored in the building. A village resident, Dave Norton, peddled the ice blocks to resident's homes for use in their iceboxes. This essential service was continued into the early 1900s. With the arrival of electricity and refrigerators in the homes, the service was no longer needed.

The Trenton Tool & Die Company was established in 1924 and was originally located in a barn on Boon Street. In 1945, it became known as Square Stamping and moved to its present location on Remsen Road. The company manufactured tools, dies and metal stampings for aircraft and automobile industries. It also produced parts for cutlery, cameras and fishing tackle. During World War II, it employed 75 men and women. In 1943, the company received an award from the U.S. Treasury Department for its employees who set a new record for the county in the purchase of War Bonds. In April 1949, the building suffered considerable loss from a fire caused by an exploding soldering furnace.

A similar survey of the village's business and industry in 1952 tells us something of the changes that have taken place in the last century. Here follows the list: Alger & Barker's Hardware Store, Barneveld Supply Company, Seymour V. Bolton Druggists' Sundries, Griswold's Lunch Room, Hotel Moore, Van's Tavern, R.T. Houck's Market, Turner Lumber Company, Hugh C. Pain Coal and Coke, F.W. Stockhauser's Garage, Victory Store, W.H. Clarke's Shoe Store, Howlet's

Barber Shop, Square Stamping, Eleanor Paine Beauty Parlor, New York Telephone Company, Charles H. Wells (Milk Business), Flavor Test Ice Cream Corp., Barneveld Liquor Store, Johnson's Friendly Service Gas Station, Haskell's Garage, Donald Joslin's Bowling Alley, Barneveld Library, Dr. Albert C. Redmond, Dr. Edward F. Horr (retired), Episcopal Church, Methodist Church, Unitarian Church, Memorial Field, schoolhouse, town hall, firehouse, 4-H Club, Boy Scouts, Unity Club, Laymen's League, Unity Hall, Masonic Temple, and Odd Fellow's Hall.

After this insight into the manner in which the people of this village have worked, it is of interest to learn of the substantial way in which the Dutch settlers lived. The Dutch custom called for five meals a day:

1. At half-past seven in the morning, they took tea and bread and butter.
2. At eleven o'clock, a lunch for the gentlemen.
3. At one o'clock, dinner.
4. At six o'clock, a light tea.
5. At nine o'clock, a hearty supper of cold meat and hot vegetables followed by sound sleep and a good old age.

This was related by Mrs. Ann Jones, a daughter of a Welsh Baptist minister, who lived with the Mappas from the age of twelve until she married. The residents preferred to continue with their Dutch customs and language into the 1800s. It was not until the mid 1800s that the English language began to gain acceptance.

Today Barneveld's businesses include Hinge Corporation, Sweet Basil Diner, Nitty Gritty Chimney Sweeps, Karol's Korner Beverages, Wergin's Market, Woody's Barber Shop, Mattress Man, New Attitude Hair Salon, Mitch's Friendly Gas, Korber Glass, Water Tub Antiques, Turner Lumber, Albert C. Redmond Health Center, Pat's Gun Shop, Hotel Moore, Van's Tavern, Old Bank Tavern, New York Telephone Company, post office, town hall, Trenton Memorial Field, Remsen Lodge (Masons), Barneveld Library, Unitarian Church, Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, Word Bible Fellowship, Square

Stamping and Sampo, Inc.

Square Stamping presently produces metal stampings and parts for such companies as Fisher-Price, Milton Bradley and Remington Arms. Sampo, Inc. manufactures salt water fishing tackle and accessories, and makes the only American made ball bearing swivel.

In 1850, there were 60 private dwellings in the village. Today there are 106 principle dwellings and 136 dwelling units. There are approximately 1.8 miles of streets, which have remained unchanged for over 150 years.

Chapter Eleven

RELIGION TAKES ROOT

An address by Frederick Guiteau, son of Dr. Luther Guiteau, Sr., gives a picture of church life during the early years of the village.

"When my father came here (in 1802) he found no church edifice, but a large, rude rambling frame structure used both as a church and schoolhouse. It stood on the same side of the turnpike and a little to the north of where my valued friend, Thomas Tanner, lived. It had a narrow gallery around three sides, and the seats were of the rudest description, those in the gallery having no backs. My recollection is that the building was partially thawed in the winter, I cannot say heated, by a fire of logs in a huge stone fireplace at the south end. John Sherman preached attractive sermons. He called together a large congregation of devoted listeners. Whole families came on Sunday morning from a radius of miles. There was no organ, but singing was good, led by a precentor with a tuning fork, and a choir of best singers. After the morning service, the families ate their luncheon. By one o'clock, after luncheon had been enjoyed, friends exchanged greetings, and crops, politics and family matters were discussed, for we had no daily papers then. The people again assembled for the afternoon service, when another long but interesting sermon was preached."

Jacques Gerard Milbert, a distinguished visitor from France, spent a Sunday in Olden Barneveldt, probably some time during the year 1817. He was an artist and naturalist, a member of the Academy of Fine Arts and of the learned societies of Philadelphia and New York. He had come to this country to conduct scientific research on behalf of the French government. "Arriving at the village on Steuben Creek," he wrote, "I sought to obtain a guide to direct me to the Falls. It being Sunday, and as the sanctity of the day is religiously observed in the United States, I was unable to secure one until five o'clock the next morning. I was therefore obliged to remain in the village and consecrated

the day in studying its details. It is surrounded with hills covered with luxuriant and varied vegetation, and through the valley winds a pretty brook. A church newly constructed by its whiteness contrasts with the laughing verdure and around it are grouped pretty houses, one of them remarkable for its elegance, the residence of the agent of the Holland Land Company. On this day the roads from different directions terminating in the village were covered with a file of wagons and saddle horses from the surrounding country."

Olden Barneveldt possessed no church building until 1816, the year the Unitarian Church was erected. Our visitor from France saw that church in its very newness, and he saw also how people flocked to religious services. During the time that they had no church buildings in which to worship, they gathered in schoolhouses. The people of a small pioneer community must solve the problem of living before undertaking the erection of a church structure. They took care of schools first, and that was as it should be. So far as we know there was no organized religious group formed here before 1803, but there was religious expression from the beginning. It may well be that Gerritt Boon offered a silent prayer as he pitched his tent near the two creeks. That would have been in keeping with his character, for he is described as a man greatly esteemed and beloved by all the settlers. It is on record that Adam Mappa and Francis Adrian Van der Kemp, in the absence of a church group, held religious services in each other's homes, and others doubtless also attended these meetings.

The Rev. John Taylor, of Westfield, Massachusetts, made a tour of this section in 1802, and he gave a report of his journey. Under the date of August 3rd he wrote that at six miles east of Floyd, he put up with Rev. Peter Fish, from New Jersey, who was employed part of the time by the people of the town, and rode missionary the remainder. The following day he wrote, "Trenton, 17 miles north of Utica. In this place there is no church formed. The majority of the people are Presbyterians, some are Baptists and people of no religion, and a few Methodists." Among them we know there were a number of liberal people not yet differentiated as a group. Among them were the Dutch families and some New England settlers with a

Unitarian background.

Mr. Taylor added. "I visited a school of fifty children, who had a good instructor." In this early schoolhouse the people met also for religious worship. Mr. Fish was most likely the first preacher to serve a religious group in Olden Barneveldt, and he also served as the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church organized in Holland Patent in 1797. Mr. Taylor reports finding him a sensible, judicious man, who appeared to be doing great good, with poor reward. It was his preaching that in all likelihood stirred the people of all faiths to come together and provide means for regular worship. This led to the organization of the United Protestant Religious Society as an interdenominational body, organized September 19, 1803 and incorporated June 16, 1804. This society was governed by three elected trustees, two of whom were Calvinists and one was a Unitarian. Mr. Fish, a Trinitarian and Calvinist, continued to serve as minister, and the Unitarians united in supporting him. This was a noble attempt to bring several denominations together into one body, but it failed to secure the desired end, for the groups finally separated.

Mr. Fish, after having served for several years returned to New Jersey. The village was left without a pastor, but in 1805 the Rev. John Sherman, of Mansfield, Connecticut, made a visit to his brother-in-law, Joshua Storrs, already living in Olden Barneveldt. While here he preached for several Sundays to the satisfaction of all groups. He was thereupon called to serve the church, and he accepted in 1806 with the promise of a \$600 salary. A subscription paper was circulated for the purpose of raising the money. Adam Mappa subscribed \$100 per year and eighty subscribers pledged varying amounts from \$1.00 to \$15. The sum of \$347 was raised and supporters in Holland Patent contributed \$100 more.

Thus far the group had existed as a society, the United Protestant Religious Society. Now that they had received the promise of John Sherman to serve them as minister, it was felt that they should be organized as a church and thereupon they established the Reformed Christian Church of Trenton. The two organizations were to coexist, the Society to look after the temporal interests of the group, while the Church concerned itself

with its spiritual activities. A Covenant was adopted, and the articles of the Covenant were liberal but not radical.

But things did not go well. John Sherman was installed as minister, and evidently he was respected and appreciated. It is doubtful if his salary was ever paid in full, from lack of means rather than lack of willingness. The Presbyterians withdrew into a separate body, forming their own congregations both at Olden Barneveldt and at Holland Patent. The Presbyterian Church in Olden Barneveldt failed to live, but the church in Holland Patent is active. Likewise, the Unitarian Church in Holland Patent finally closed, but the Unitarians in Olden Barneveldt prospered. Both villages tried to carry too many churches for their population.

John Sherman resigned in 1810. The United Protestant Religious Society dissolved in 1811, but actually it did not cease to exist, for the Unitarian group under the name of the Reformed Christian Church has always dated its own origin from the founding of the society. The Reformed Christian Church is referred to in letters and papers as "Unity Church." There appears to be no record as to when or why this name was used. The author surmises that the name "Unity" served as a distinction from the name "Trinity."

After Sherman's resignation, the church went through five years without a minister. In 1815 a young man named Isaac Pierce, from Rhode Island, was installed as minister. The erection of a church building was now undertaken. The building was completed in 1816, and dedicated January 30, 1817, this becoming the first Unitarian Church in New York State. In winter the church building was entirely without heat. Foot stoves were brought for the older members of each family. Finally in 1822 a stove was installed at a cost of \$25. In those pioneer days, going to church was of such a great importance that a temperature of below zero within the building did not prevent the people from attending public worship.

After a series of ministers, all serving short terms, William Silsbee followed in 1867 and he served twenty years. He was the first to occupy the Van der Kemp house. The house was purchased by Jonah Howe and its use given to the Unitarian Church so long as it shall maintain a pastor. Mr. Silsbee's

pastorate was particularly happy, and he took a very prominent part in the founding of the Barneveld Library. Edward Foster Temple, serving first in 1889-1892 and again in 1895-1898, was a man of considerable ability as a writer. His great work was the building of Unity Hall, completed December 21, 1895.

A group of Welsh Congregationalists built a neat frame building located on Mappa Ave. This society never had a regular pastor, but a minister serving in Holland Patent also served here. This church also became inactive, and its property was purchased by the Episcopalians in 1904, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was founded. At first, lay readers from Utica conducted services, and after a few years the little mission church secured its first rector, the Rev. Burdick Doolittle. Soon after the building was purchased, Charles A. Miller secured the pipe organ owned by the famous Moore's Hotel at Trenton Falls and had it installed at St. Andrew's Church.

During the past years, many changes and improvements have been made. The original rectangular windows with small panes of clear glass were replaced by arched windows of amber and blue glass, which were designed by Mrs. Kenneth Divine. These were later restored to the original clear panes. The pews used by the Welsh were hard wooden benches with spindle backs, hinged so that they could be turned over. These were sold and replaced with pews from a church in Poland, New York, and were installed and painted by the men of the congregation. Years of extensive work was done in the church basement.

The Methodist Church was founded in 1832. The trustees of the Society purchased the lot on which the church building now stands. There was a building on the grounds known as Mappa's Store, which was fitted up as a place of worship. It was not very attractive in appearance, but it was comfortably seated and warmed. The pulpit was plain, and though not a bit of paint was seen on the interior of the building, it was kept spotlessly clean. In this little meeting house they continued to worship in peace and spiritual prosperity for fifteen years, when it was decided it was time to "arise and build." So in 1848 the first Methodist Church was erected and dedicated. The cost of the church was \$1800 and it was dedicated free of debt. In 1863 a house was purchased for a parsonage. In the early 1860s the

church received its first organ. The following year repairs were made on the pews and new windows were installed. The bell tower was added in 1897.

The Presbyterians erected a house of worship here about 1822 on Mappa Avenue. Rev. David Harrowar and Rev. Oliver Wetmore were among the ministers who served. This building was later used as a Grange meeting house and was known as the Old Stone Church, Old Stone Meeting Hall and Social Hall.

Chapter Twelve

HISTORIC HOUSES

What stories old houses could tell if they were able to talk. Stories of early hardships, the difficulties of building with hand hewn timbers and hand cut stones, the joys of neighborhood gatherings, meetings to discuss the affairs of the town and the country – all these events and many more are hidden within the walls of our old houses.

In 1794 all this territory was a dense forest. Land sold here for \$2.00 per acre, while at the same time land in what is now Utica could be bought for thirteen cents per acre. When a new family came, they chose a place for their house. Of course, it was entirely wooded, but the neighbors all came with tools and within two days the trees on the site were down and constructed into a finished log house.

A carpenter, Thomas Hicks, built for Gerritt Boon a frame house on the present site of the stone Mappa Hall, this being the first house in the village. It was 30 feet by 45 feet, with a piazza 12 feet by 45 feet across the front. The rooms were of generous size and the large windows each had forty panes. There were nine fireplaces.

Also in 1794, Thomas Hicks built and occupied the Guiteau house. Gerritt Boon named the Cincinnati Creek that runs besides this house. In the basement was a large kitchen with a huge fireplace and two bedrooms for the servants. There was a dumbwaiter to carry the food to the dining room on the first floor. The first town meeting in 1797 for the Town of Trenton was held in this house. In 1802 Dr. Luther Guiteau bought the hotel for his home and medical practice. Dr. Guiteau had lovely gardens and a fountain. His office was located in a small building on the corner.

In the early years, the road to Prospect was between the Unitarian Parsonage and the Guiteau house. A bridge with huge stone piers crossed the creek at this point. When the road and bridge were moved to the northwest of the house, the side facing

the library became the front. A wing was added about 1828. The first post office was located in this building and a section of the original letter pigeonholes is still in the basement.

The third house oldest house in the village was built for Francis Adrian Van der Kemp. In those days a house was taxed by its height, so many houses were of the story and a half type. This was true of the Van der Kemp house. It was low and entirely hidden from the road by overhanging trees and shrubs. In the basement were the kitchen and three other rooms, which might have been bedrooms for the help. There was a dumbwaiter and stairway to the dining room. The parlor with front door opened towards the old road or faced the Guiteau house. Upstairs were three bedrooms with very low ceilings. All the woodwork was a dull, lead color and the furniture heavy and dark. The upper panels of the doors were made with a large cross to keep the witches away. In 1868 the Van der Kemp house was purchased for the Unitarian Parsonage. The old roof was raised up, a kitchen added at the rear, and study and living room built on the southeast side. The front door was changed to open on the new lower street, named Vanderkemp Street.

Colonel Adam Mappa succeeded Gerritt Boon as agent for the Holland Land Company. The company at this time was making great profits from transactions with the early settlers. Mappa received a handsome salary and lived in grand style. The frame Boon house was not good enough for him, but he liked the location. It was decided to move it across the street and it was then set on a foundation of hewn logs. It must have been a big undertaking with oxen the only working power. It stood in the middle of the street for a week when the mud was too deep. What is now the back of the house was originally the front of the house, as it was too much work to turn it around. The Mappas continued to live in this house until their stone mansion was completed in 1809, at a cost of \$13,000, paid for by the Holland Land Company.

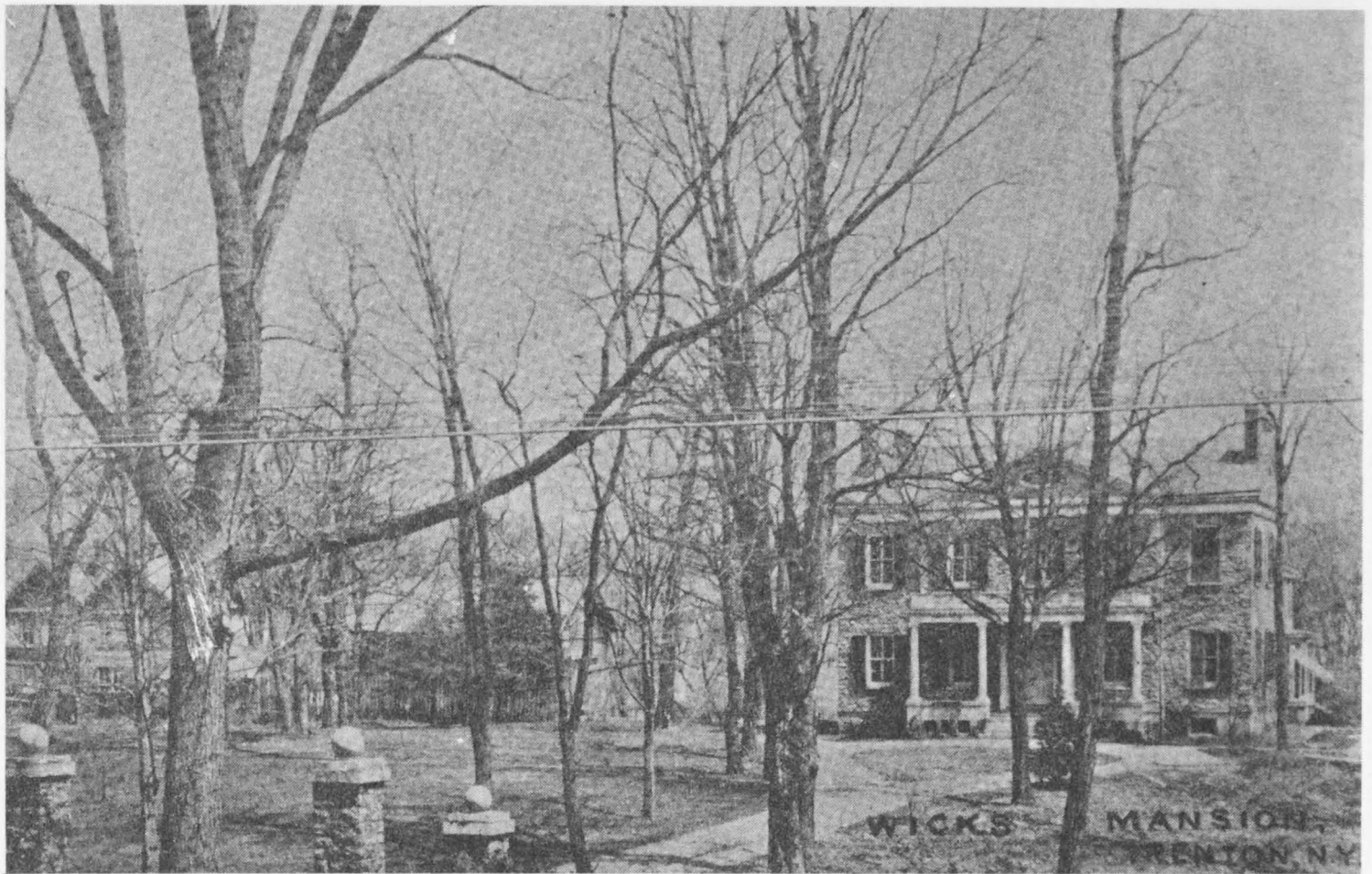
Mappa Hall, as it is now known, is 52 feet by 66 feet. The rooms on the first and second floors are twelve feet high. The exterior and basement walls are of Trenton limestone, 20-30 inches in thickness. Colonel Mappa was a partner in a general store and allowed farmers from the surrounding countryside to



Junction of Cincinnati and Steuben Creeks



Boon house, oldest house in the village, built 1794



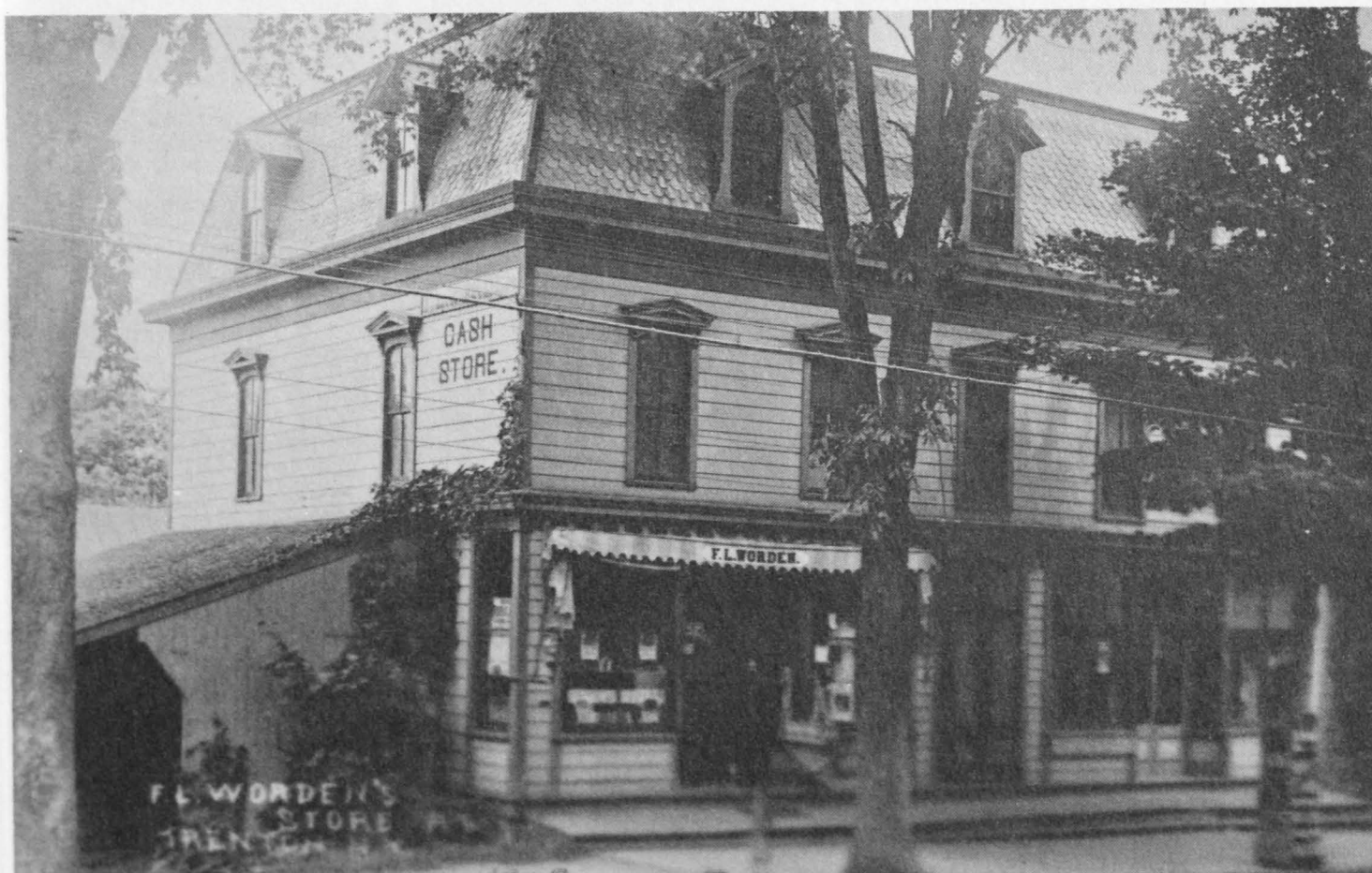
Mappa Hall (also known as Wicks Manor and Rubble Manor), built 1809, taken about 1908



Van der Kemp house, third oldest house in the village, built 1797



Trenton Market (French's Market), post office and livery office (now Wergin's Market), taken about 1895



Worden's store (present site of Hinge Construction), taken about 1909, destroyed in fire of 1923 (then Northam & Williams)



Mappa Avenue looking south, taken about 1910, John Lewis store, W.C Wilkins home, McIntosh wagon & sleigh shop, blacksmith shop, Worden's store



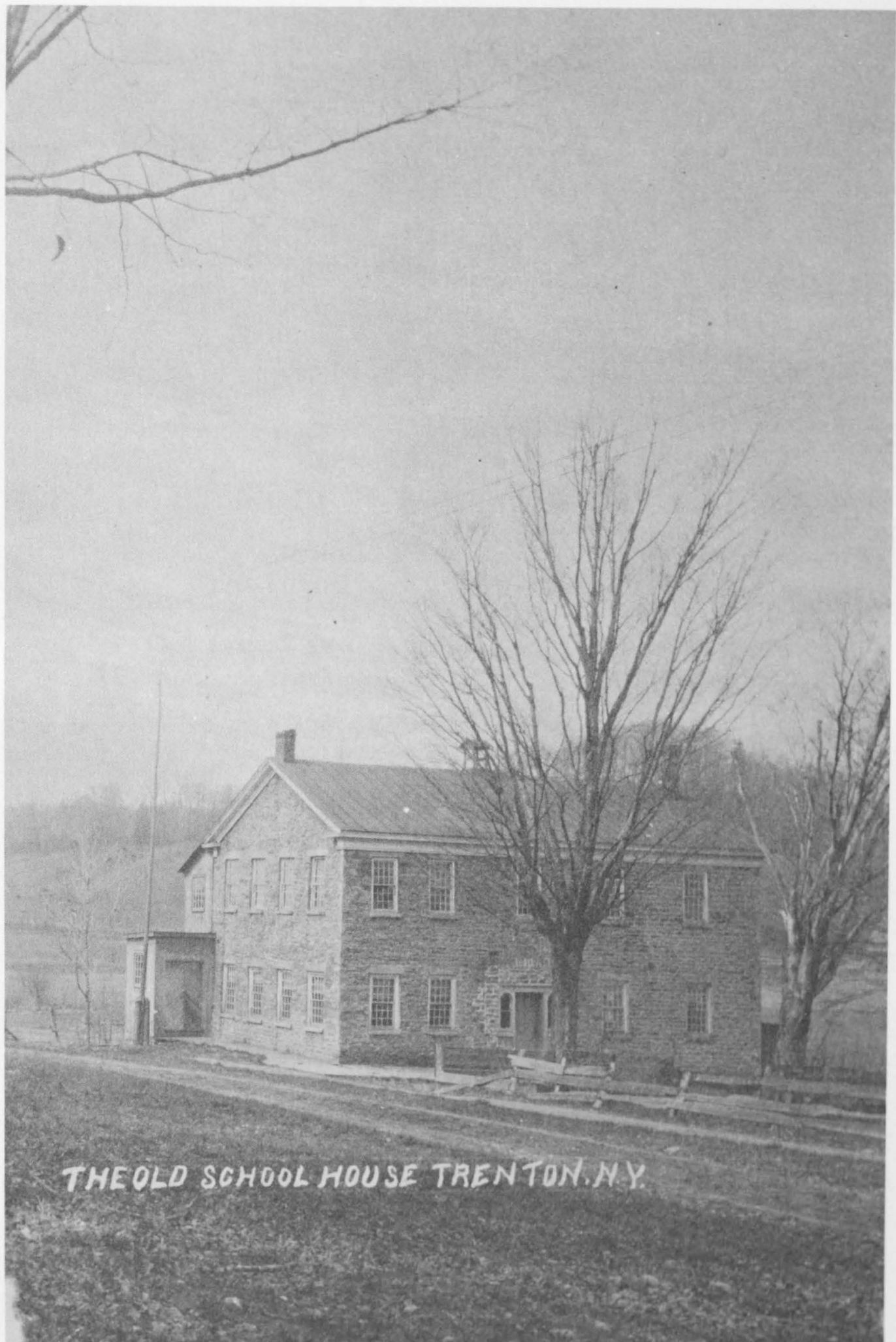
Boon Street looking east, taken about 1929, the concrete water tub on right replaced the old wooden tub



Brooklyn House (later known as Van's Tavern), built around 1798, taken about 1850, destroyed by fire in 1988



Rising Sun Lodge, corner of Mappa Avenue & Boon Street (present site of Word Bible Fellowship), taken about 1850



*Old stone schoolhouse and town hall (located at site of
present town hall), built 1844*



Second village schoolhouse, Mappa Avenue, built 1906



Barneveld railroad station, taken about 1906



Railroad trestle, about 1855, train is heading northeast out of the Barneveld Station



Winter in Barneveld, Boon Street looking east, taken about 1920, First National Bank of Trenton was located behind Alger & Barker's



The fire of 1923, Mappa Avenue, destroyed or damaged all the buildings from Wicks Place to the present Nitty Gritty Chimney Sweeps



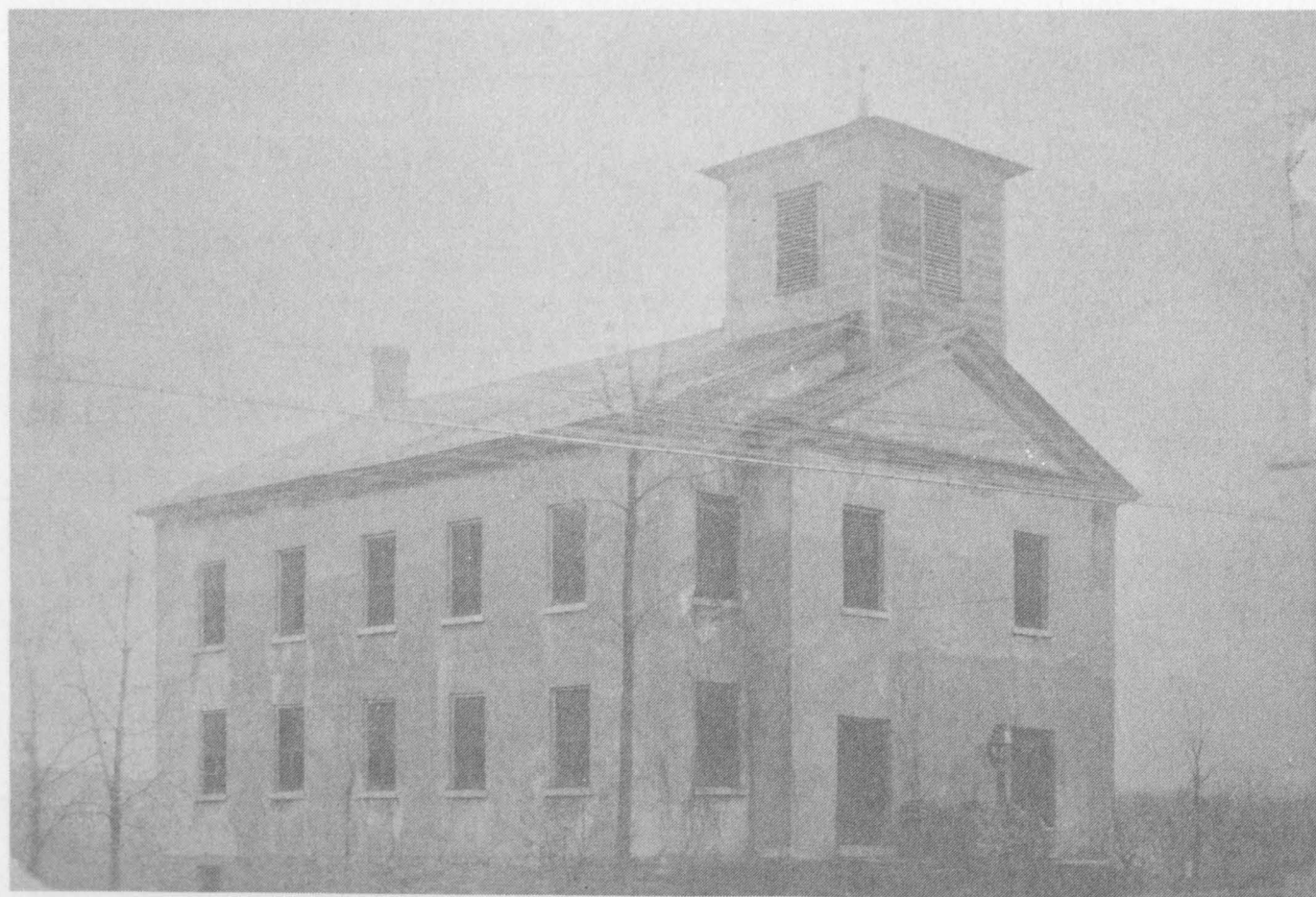
Guiteau house, second oldest house in the village, built 1794, also the first tavern, the Cincinnatus Inn, Dr. Guiteau's office is on the left, Unity Hall on the right



Nicholson house, located next to Mappa Hall by Wicks Place, destroyed by fire in 1938



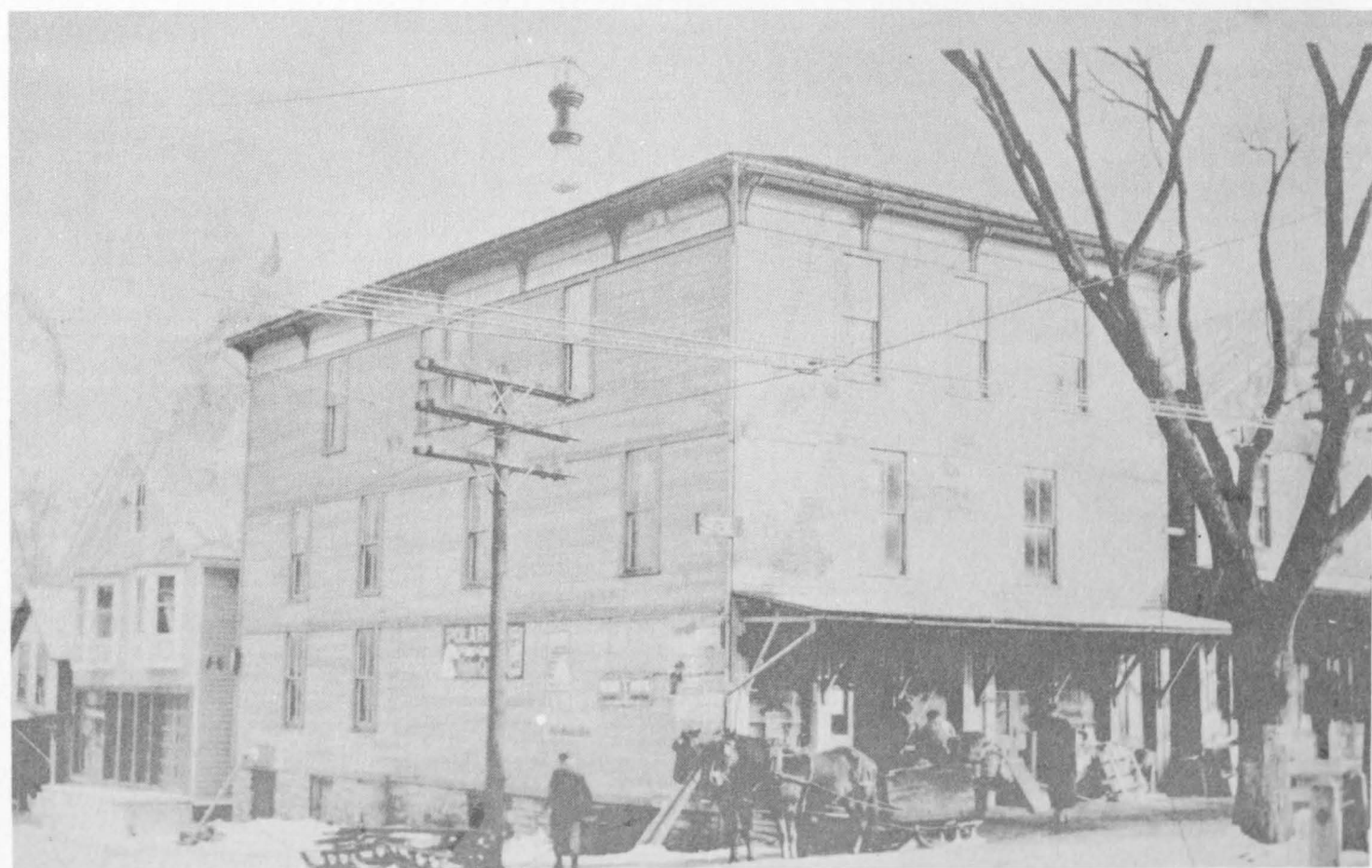
*Blacksmith shop, taken about 1908, located on Boon Street
across from the old firehouse*



*Old Stone Meeting House, built around 1822, formerly the
Presbyterian Church*



Steuben Creek bridge, taken about 1908, Barneveld Library is on the right



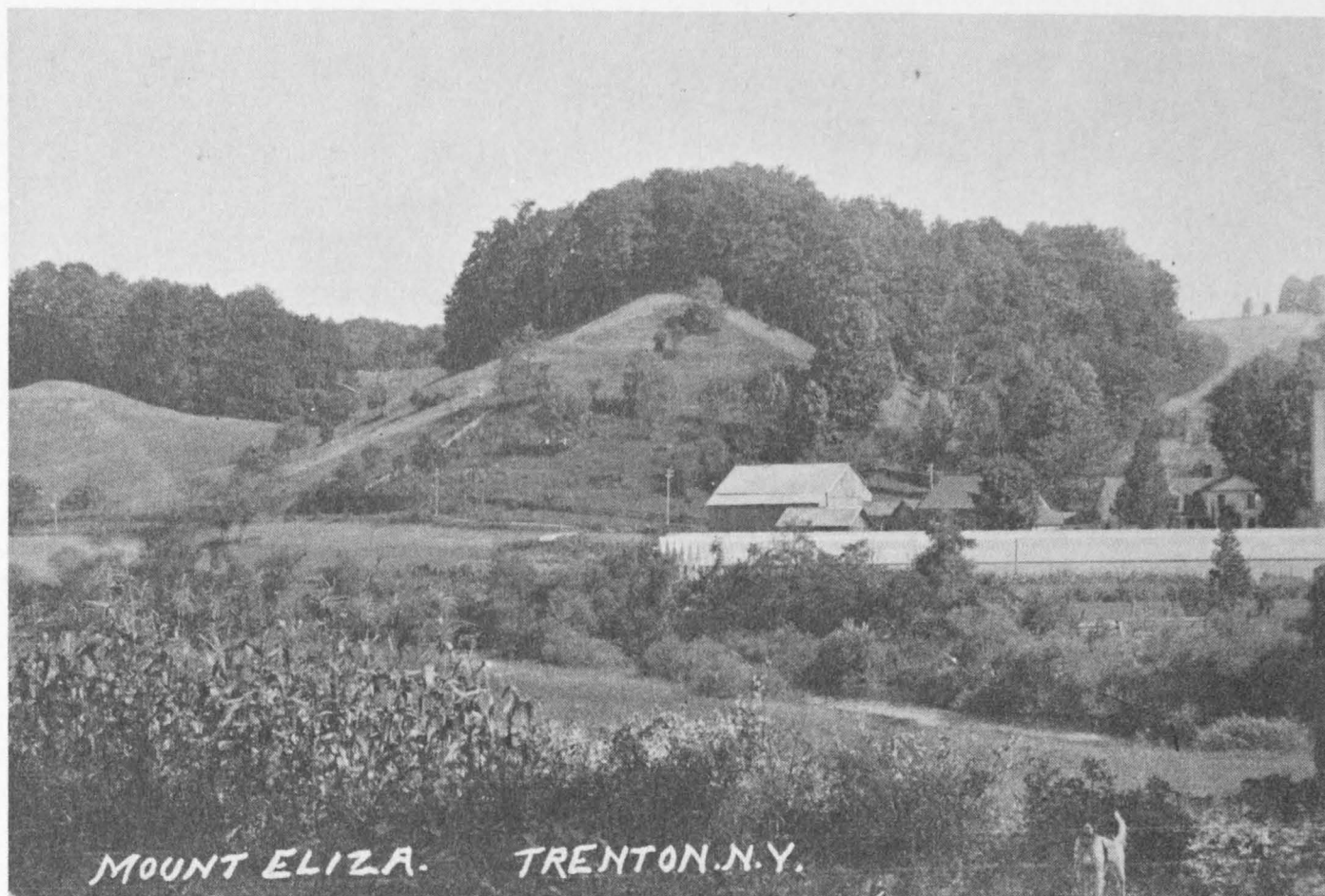
Alger & Barker's Hardware Store, taken about 1910



*Vanderkemp Avenue looking north, taken about 1910,
Madame de Castro's house in on the left (now the Albert
Redmond Medical Center)*



Hotel Moore, taken about 1910



Mount Eliza, taken about 1905, Wa-na-ka Greenhouses are in the foreground



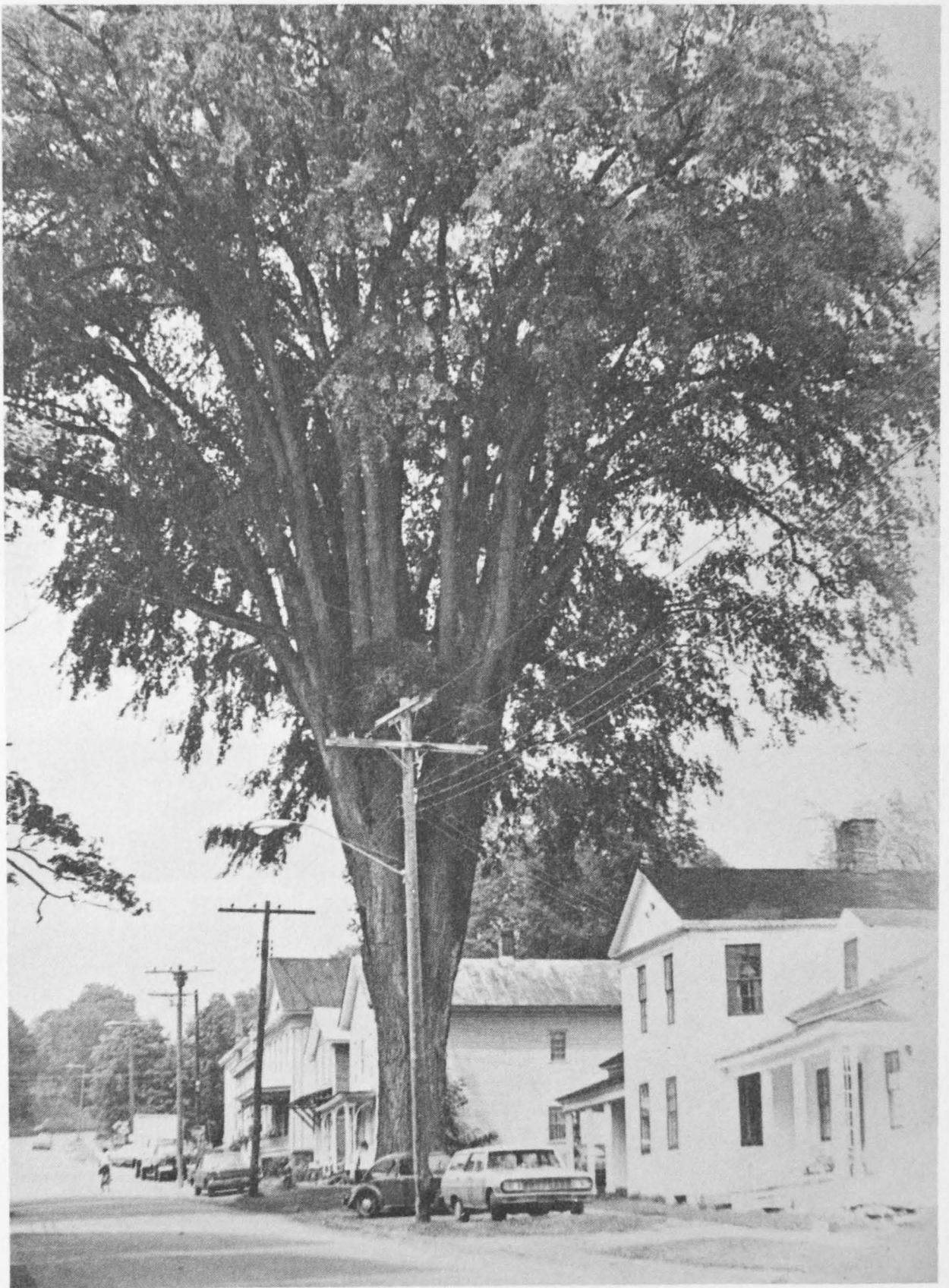
View of Barneveld taken from Mount Eliza, looking down Remsen Road



Mappa Avenue, taken about 1947, Alvin William's Victory Store, French's Drug Store, post office, Howlet's Barber Shop & Vi's Lunch



Mappa Avenue looking north, taken about 1950



Barneveld's historic elm, taken in 1974

trade the stone which they had cleared from their farms for store goods. The house is one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in the country.

The heavy beams of hewn timber in the attic and cellar, brought all the way from a place known as the Knott Clearing in the Town of Boonville, are objects of interest. The joists and leaders were hand hewn from beech and maple trees. The floor boards are two inches thick. The partitions on the second floor are made of three inch planks placed vertically, close together, then lathed and plastered, making the rooms soundproof. The boards in the framework are not nailed together. Huge timbers were dovetailed, holes were bored through the fitted ends, and large wooden pins were driven through the two timbers.

The front door, four and a half feet wide, is made of six panels. The windows about the door are of old wrinkled glass, leaded in beautiful designs. The key is eight inches long and weighs a pound. Inside a hall extends from the front to back porches, and is a veritable room itself, twelve feet wide. A curved stairway with slender colonettes, steps five feet wide, and a handrail of mahogany, winds gracefully to the second floor.

The drawing room and den are on one side and a library and dining room on the other. There are eight marble fireplaces, each one hand-carved in a different pattern. Its massive walls, well arranged rooms, and wide hall with delicately turned staircase, its ornamental carving on mantels, door and cornices executed by foreign workmen, are valuable as a record of the past on stone and wood.

In a newspaper article written December 11, 1897, Miss Blandina D. Miller of Utica described the interior of Mappa Hall. "In the cheerful sunny south parlor of this house is an arched recess with carvings and flutings, built to hold the heavy sideboard of enormous size. Between its dark mahogany doors were intervening drawers with decorations and compartments for holding decanters of wine and table cutlery. The high carved mantle piece over the wide throated fireplace was graced by a handsome oblong mirror supported on either side by rare vases from China. Mahogany card tables inlaid with facsimiles of the cards adorned the sides of the room. A huge folding screen of six wings or leaves, covered with green baize tacked unto a

mahogany frame with shining brass tacks, was drawn around the blazing fire on a cold winter's evening. Huge leather covered arm chairs were placed around the card tables and chess tables. The neighbors dropped in, the games were well fought, pipes were lighted and refreshments were served. At the close of the evening quaint little lanterns were lighted, and friends escorted each other home through the snowy paths of Mappa Avenue and Vanderkemp Street."

Around this mansion were extensive lawns and gardens as famous for their fruit, trees and flowers as those of Holland, and as beautifully kept. It was a strange fancy in those days to overlay stone buildings with stucco. Whether for supposed warmth or beauty, it is difficult to say. When the house was purchased in 1862 by the Wicks family, they removed all the plaster and thus gave the house its present improved appearance. Sod in front of the house in the form of a heart has beautified the approach to the Mappa House for more than 100 years. Mappa Hall is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Barneveld has many buildings of architectural and historic value, too numerous to mention here. This is evidenced by a brochure published by the Landmark's Society of Greater Utica, which details some of these buildings and their significance in the character and beauty of this area. It is also worthy to note that since the turn of the century, only about a dozen new houses have been constructed in the village, giving the village a distinct, well-settled and richly historic atmosphere.

Chapter Thirteen

THE BARNEVELD LIBRARY

For the real beginning of the library we probably have no date. As is true of all new enterprises, we have to assume that the idea of a library, and a desire for it, had its beginning in the minds of citizens who thought of it and talked about it until an interested group became strong enough in money and interest to bring the project into being. Our library began to take concrete form in 1874, when Jacob Wicks offered a room, rent free, for the use of a library in a block built for stores. A subscription paper was circulated for the purpose of raising funds, and the sum of \$99 was secured. On November 21, 1874, the subscribers met in the home of Dr. Luther Guiteau and organized as the Trenton Library Association, and they made a start with 240 books. This venture, however, was unfortunate, for on March 17, 1875, a fire burnt out the entire block where the library was located and all the books were lost except forty that were in circulation. But the citizens were resolved to have a library, and they met and raised \$118.75, books were donated from many parts of the country, and by the close of 1875, 1200 volumes had been received.

On June 12, 1875, the organization was incorporated as the Barneveld Library Association. The incorporators chose the great name selected by Gerritt Boon as the name for the village. It was then decided to erect a building. A site was bought from John Hughes for \$100, and \$1200 was raised by 1876. Mr. Hughes gave back half of the purchase price as a contribution.

The corner stone was laid on July 27, 1877, and the total cost of the building amounted to about \$1700. The building was erected by the great grandfather of Alexander Pirnie of Utica. By February 1878, the number of books totaled 1300. The following were the first to serve as officers of the newly formed Library Association: Dr. Luther Guiteau, President; Robert Pritchard, Vice President; Rev. William Silsbee, Secretary; Robert Skinner, Treasurer. Directors were: T.S. Stanton, Thomas Lewis, John

Hughes, George W. Wheeler and Mrs. Robert Skinner. The library is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Among the papers belonging to the library is a list of the articles placed in the corner stone. These included a number of coins, several papers, a manuscript sketch of the history of the library, two 4th of July addresses (one delivered by John F. Seymour in 1876), descriptions of Trenton Falls by Fredrika Bremer and others. The list is of interest even if the articles named are beyond our scrutiny. They are not meant for us, but for some far off century when the building shall have gone into ruin from the wear and tear it will have to endure. But whatever these articles may mean to us, we may be sure that those who in the future will have the occasion to bring them to light will handle them as precious relics, revealing one more picture of the America of the 1870s. That picture will reveal an America vastly different from the America that they know.

We owe it to the first secretary of the library, Rev. William Silsbee, that we have a substantial account of the founding of the library and its progress. He wrote more than brief minutes; he wrote a summarized report for each annual meeting, beginning in 1875 and ending in 1885, when he gave up the office. He has made it possible for us to see a real picture of the movement for a library and the effort made to create it. Next to the act of founding the library, the exciting event was the final payment of all debt on the building in 1880. Rev. Silsbee died in 1890 and left a legacy of \$1000 to the library on condition that the community raise an additional \$1000, and that the \$2000 thus collected shall be invested as an endowment fund.

In 1881, a grandfather clock was donated to the library by John Seymour, brother of Horatio Seymour who was Governor of New York. This clock still ticks away the minutes and chimes the hours that many residents heard years ago.

Mrs. Daniel Miller, President, and Mrs. Elizabeth Dodge, Librarian, worked during the 1950s to install a card index system. They worked to make the library one of the more progressive in small area towns. Today the library is linked with Mid-York Library System by computer.

The little stone building has become a museum and historical center as well as a library. It has perpetuated the martyr-crowned

name of Barneveld and kept in the light the Holland Dutch historical background of Olden Barneveldt. Letters from Francis Adrian Van der Kemp describing his journey through New York in 1792 give a good insight into the life of early settlers. Bibles and other prized books brought by the Dutch settlers from Holland have been donated to the library. An old relic stands out, a copy press said to have been used by Thomas Jefferson when he visited the Van der Kemps. A collection of fossil shells and Indian artifacts serves to remind us of the geological history of the area. There is also a key to the front door with a brass plate inscribed with the note to return to Dr. Guiteau's home after finishing at the library. Old tools, smoking pipes and pottery provide a look at past way of life. Portraits, especially those of Dr. Luther Guiteau, Jr., Jacob and Mary Wicks, and of Rev. William Silsbee, represent a considerable number of outstanding personalities that have served the community. All this is on a small scale, to be sure, but the precious cultural and human values are there, and Barneveld is a community to be proud of.

Chapter Fourteen

OLD SCHOOLHOUSE AND TOWN HALL

In the early part of September, 1924, the old Town Hall was razed to make way for the new town building recently voted for by the taxpayers. The old building was a landmark and its passing brings up many memories of bygone days. The lot upon which the building stood was deeded to the school district in 1819 by Abraham Cooper and his wife. The price was \$75.

The joint records of District No. 1 and of the town show the combined school building and hall was built in 1844. The second story was added through the efforts of Mrs. Thomas Tanner. The first town meeting was held in the building in 1845.

The original cost was \$725 - a very small sum for a two story limestone building with two class rooms on the ground floor and a large hall above. In 1883 the committee purchased a strip of land from Hugh Jones for an outside entrance. Except for removing the hall stairs from the small class room and increasing its size by the stair width, the school remained unchanged for a period of over 57 years.

It certainly is a credit to the foresight of the men of 1844 that they should construct a schoolhouse equal to the school exigencies of 60 years of the common school development of the state. The class rooms were always spoken of as the "big room" and the "little room." One teacher was the principal who taught the older pupils. The other teacher was his assistant who taught the A B C's.

Of the teachers most worthy of mention were Howard N. Brown, originally from Boston. He was a great drawing card for the district, coming from the famous institution, Whitestown Seminary, but serving the community for only two years. He left to enter college to prepare for the ministry. Dr. Wiggins, the next principal, also called in large numbers of pupils from outside districts. He, too, taught only two years, leaving to continue the study of medicine. Rev. Fox, Mr. Langworthy and Mr. John Teft also were remembered as men of ability.

About 1861, Miss Josie Green, later known as Mrs. Robert Skinner, was one of the teachers. Among her pupils were Mrs. Anna Day, Robert Guiteau, Mrs. Ellis Griffith, John Pritchard and Mrs. Julia E. Andrew. In later years, Lester G. Waiful, Miss Eva Webster, Miss Julia Wood, Miss Anna Chassell, Miss Allie Jones, Miss Hattie Jones and Miss Anna Conway gave superior service to the district.

Until the dedication of Unity Hall in October 1896, the Town Hall was the community center of Trenton. Here were held the thrilling campaign meetings, following the torchlight processions; the campfires of the Grand Army with Senator Henry Coggeshall and Rev. H.S. Swartz as orators; the minstrels with L.B. Worden, George Griffith, Robert Guiteau, Herbert Griffith and Will Downs as leading men; the fine amateur plays under the direction of Mrs. Cornelia Moore, Mrs. Robert Pritchard, Mrs. Fiske and John Pritchard; the Kickapoo Indian entertainments that brought great joy to the youth because they were such a novelty; the singing schools, where old and young gathered for instruction as well as for pleasure under the leadership of Professor Glidden and others; the caucuses and town meetings that filled the old hall to its capacity, causing great excitement in the village.

In 1912, the school district having erected a larger and more modern building in another part of the village in 1906, sold its share in the lot and building to the town for \$300 with the provision that the building be used not only for the town but for the community also. Unity Hall with its adequate equipment, now became the center of the village activities, and the old building, though serving the town, was neglected until it became unsafe and a disgrace to the community. The new schoolhouse on Mappa Avenue was used until 1959.

As in previous years the state compelled the taxpayers to comply with ever progressing ideas in education, so it again stepped in and compelled the town to provide safety vaults for its records. Supervisor J. Curtis Powell brought up the proposition of a new town building at its first meeting in January 1924. The officers of the town, realizing the increasing need of a building were more than ready to cooperate with the state, and they put the question to the taxpayers at a special meeting in August. The

vote was a decision in favor of a new town hall.

It is worthy of mention that in 1846 \$5.00 was voted for the purpose of setting out shade trees. So, though the old building is no more, some of the old maples stand today, more than 100 years after the vote was taken. Was ever \$5.00 better invested?

Chapter Fifteen

TAVERN HISTORY IN TRENTON

Trenton had taverns before any of the surrounding communities. The Cincinnatus Inn, built in 1794, was in business for only a few years. Since then, there have always been two taverns in the village; the upper one now known as Hotel Moore and the other called Van's Tavern. The upper tavern was built by John Storrs in the early part of 1800. Mr. Storrs ran the hotel for a number of years, but around 1822, a man by the name of Backus was the landlord and some years later was succeeded by Colonel Charles Billings. He was succeeded by G.L. Skinner, who kept a first class house until he died, about 1880.

In the early days, long before the Utica and Black River Railroad was built, there was a stage line from Utica to Watertown, and Trenton was the first lap on the trip. Horses were changed, but the driver went on to Boonville. It was quite an event when the stage came in and the villagers gathered about to see who the travelers were. The passengers had time while the teams were being changed and mail sorted to stretch their legs and refresh themselves at Skinner's Bar. In those days you could get whiskey or ale at three cents a glass. When the stage was coming into town the driver would blow his horn and draw up in front of one of the taverns. They came on a keen jump, and with a flourish of a long whip, the driver would turn over the horses to the hostler and walk about as a mighty important personage. The mail being ready, "all aboard" was called and passengers made haste to get to their seats. The favorite seat was along side of the driver and the one who got it had some pull. Then they were off on the second lap to Boonville. The time from Utica to Trenton was about three hours when the going was good. After the railroad was built in 1855, the stages met the trains at Trenton and, when the railroad was completed to Boonville, that was the end of the old stagecoach and four.

After the Skinners, the proprietors were Robert Billsborow

and George W. Dawson, then Roger N. Moore. From that time on it was known as Hotel Moore.

The lower hotel was built around 1798. It was commonly known as the Brooklyn House, probably due to the fact that the bridge over Steuben Creek took on the nickname of Brooklyn Bridge. It is not known who built the tavern, but the earliest landlord of record was William Shaw. He was succeeded by Mr. Case, and followed by Mr. Clark. He sold the property to Jonah Howe. Mr. Howe was an ardent temperance man and would rent it only to be run as a temperance house. A man by the name of Baker then became the landlord but with limited success. A tavern without a bar well stocked with liquor in those days had a poor chance of success, but that did not prevent Mr. Baker from getting prominent business men interested, and on February 12, 1846, he issued invitations for a "Grand Temperance Ball."

In those days many travelers stopped at the Brooklyn House. The main road coming from Rome went straight past the hotel heading north. Taverns in those days were built pretty close together, but when one realizes the amount of traffic on the highways from the north to Utica and Albany, there was evidently business enough for all. Forty or fifty teams would come in bunches, all loaded with wheat and other grains and in the winter a great many teams were loaded with ciscoes, caught in the St. Lawrence River. They were put in barrels and every farmer along the line bought his yearly supply.

The building underwent many exterior changes over the years. Old pictures show a double story porch with pillars in front. There also at one time was a large horse shed on the left. There was a ball room the entire length of the building about 25 feet wide. In the ceiling at a distance of a few feet were inverted bottles with the neck just showing below the ceiling. This was for the purpose of bettering the acoustics.

Mr. Howe sold the property to John Smith about 1850. The next owner was Leroy Coon, who kept it but a short while. Mr. Adam Griffith ran the place successfully for many years, and it became known as the Adam Griffith Hotel. In 1914, John Van de Walker bought the property and it has been known as Van's Tavern since then. The building was destroyed by fire in 1988 and has been replaced by a modern one story structure.

A third tavern worthy of mention was located one and half miles south of the village. This building was made of limestone and the stone was furnished by Artemas Watkins, father of J.B. Watkins. It was built around 1820. The Wooster family ran the tavern for many years, and after Mr. Wooster's death, his son, David Wooster continued to run it. One of Mr. Wooster's unbreakable rules was that no liquor was ever to be sold on Sundays. Years before he died, he bought a lot in the Olden Barneveld Cemetery, which was only a short distance from the tavern. He said he selected that lot close to the road so he could see whether whiskey was sold on Sundays after he was gone.

The building was damaged by an explosion from a steam saw mill located a short distance north. Shortly after, the property was purchased by Lewis Joy who ran the tavern for many years until his death, when Henry Joy, his son, became the proprietor. The place became quite popular under the Joy management. The Trenton Agricultural Society purchased, or were given, land by Mr. Joy and they built a fine half mile track. Buildings were erected and for many years the Town Fair was one of the most popular shows in the country.

The tavern burned in the early 1900s and a modern roadhouse was built in its place. It became a favorite place for parties and entertainment for Utica residents.

Chapter Sixteen

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

It was in the year 1807 that a certain number of Free and Accepted Masons residing in this vicinity decided to organize a Masonic Lodge. A petition was made to Amicable Lodge at Whitesboro for permission to organize. A dispensation was granted by the Grand Lodge in 1809, and the new lodge received the name of Rising Sun Lodge No. 228. It continued to work under dispensation for about four years before receiving a warrant, due to the fact that a brother of Steuben Lodge objected to its organization.

Rising Sun Lodge held its meetings for about twelve years at the residence of Canfield Coe, who resided at the corner of Boon Street and Mappa Avenue. In 1821, the lodge was moved to Remsen, the reason for the change was said to be that Canfield Coe had sold his property and the lodge had no place in which to hold its meetings. The years rolled by, and for a period of forty six years there seems to be no mention in the Grand Lodge records of any further action on the part of the Masons in this community.

In the spring of 1867, Masonic interest in the Town of Trenton came to life again. It was decided to form a lodge, and it was located in the Village of Remsen, and under the name of Remsen Lodge No. 677. A charter was granted dated June 23, 1868.

During the years 1882 and 1883 the question of moving the lodge from Remsen to Trenton as a central point for a majority of the members was discussed. So highly were the Masons regarded that it was no easy matter to make the proposed change. But the advantage of a geographical position carried the day, and on April 27, 1883, it was resolved to move the lodge to Trenton village. This actually did not take place until December 28, 1883.

The new location was on the newly constructed third floor of the Alger and Barker building in Trenton. These rooms were

formally dedicated, and the lodge remained there for 43 years, during which time it enjoyed substantial growth and became a real force in promoting a spirit of brotherhood, as its membership almost reached the 300 mark. An expressed desire now rose for the erection of a Masonic Temple, and after much research and discussion, it was decided in 1926 to proceed with the building of a home for the Fraternity. The site chosen, it is worth noting, was that occupied by the former residence of Canfield Coe, first Master of Rising Sun Lodge, and its home for twelve years.

The financing of this ambitious enterprise was no easy task, but by willing and self sacrificing effort it was accomplished. The corner stone of the new Temple was laid May 17, 1927. The Masons later sold this property to the Word Bible Fellowship, and now own and occupy the former Odd Fellows Temple on Boon Street.

In the year 1915, under the authority of a dispensation, Mappa Chapter, No. 578, of the Order of the Eastern Star, came into existence. The Chapter was organized on September 28, 1915 with 24 charter members. A charter was granted November 14, 1916. Without the generous assistance of the Mappa Chapter, the mortgage burning ceremony for the Masons would have suffered a greatly prolonged postponement. This group was considered to be the strongest Eastern Star chapter outside the cities of Rome and Utica. The Mappa Chapter is still in existence and continues to meet regularly at the Mason's building.

The institution of Trenton Lodge No. 577 I.O.O.F. was the result of six of its charter members joining Oneida Lodge No. 70 of Utica. The six members were: Herbert Griffith, Williams M. Thomas, Robert Ingram, C. Beven, D. Williams and George Williams. These six members, after withdrawing from Oneida Lodge, petitioned the Grand Lodge for a dispensation to institute an Odd Fellow's Lodge in Trenton, to be known as Trenton Lodge. This was granted in March 1890, and the charter was granted in August 1890.

The next step to be taken was to find a suitable hall for a lodge room. A small hall over Alger and Barker's store was considered, but as the Masons leased part of it for a banquet room, it was decided that what was left of it would be too small. The next place looked at was the Old Stone Church, which could

have been bought very cheaply at that time, but it was decided that the purchase price plus the cost of repairs would call for more than the lodge cared to put into the venture. The next place that was looked at were the rooms over French's Market. After getting a price on the rooms and figuring what it would cost to put them in proper shape, it was decided to rent them for a year with the privilege of holding them longer if desired. A lot of work had to be done. Members tore the inside partitions out, plastered, painted, papered and did carpentry work, so that when the work was completed and all ready for the lodge, the new lodge could start off with no burdensome bills to be paid.

In 1909, the Odd Fellows Temple on Boon Street was constructed on land purchased from the old Guiteau property. It was said to be one of the finest in Oneida County. For the first 25 years, the lodge grew rapidly. The class of candidates were men from 21 to 45 years of age, who took a deep interest in its welfare and property. The group eventually suffered a loss of membership and were forced to join with another lodge in Rome. The building was then sold to the Masons.

The Northern Star Rebekah Lodge No. 309 was instituted in October of 1903, and was very active in the village. The group is still in existence, but meets in private homes in the area.

The Unity Club was formed in 1889 as a literary organization and continued to meet until the 1960s. Its purpose was self information and self advancement. This nondenominational group met in Unity Hall to do research on projects and to read papers written by its members. Outstanding people were studied, travelogs were discussed and charades were played.

The Vallonia Historical Society was formed due to the interest in town history following a centennial celebration held in the Grange Hall in 1897. The name was taken from "Vallonia" which was chiseled in the walls of the first grist mill built by Gerritt Boon, the ruins of which stood for many years by Cincinnati Creek. The first public meeting for this town historical group met February 1, 1898 in Holland Patent, and was overflowing with people from the town. The Society was incorporated in 1899. The meeting of 1901 was held in the Guiteau house. For several years the use of Dr. Guiteau's office

was donated by H.W. Guiteau and Mrs. Howe, and was known as the Guiteau Memorial Building. Old relics on display in this building included an ancient Roman coin, old letters dating from 1799-1840, old newspapers, pictures, books, photographs, an old flag, antique coffee mill and telescope.

On October 5, 1915, the society became a member of the New York State Historical Society. The last meeting was held on October 4, 1921. There is no record as to why the meetings were discontinued.

Other organizations in the village were the Women's Alliance of the Unitarian Church which met monthly; the Laymen's League which consisted of the businessmen of the area; and Theta Rho, which was a sorority connected with the Odd Fellows. The young girls of the sorority would dress in evening gowns for formal installations and would put on dinners and dances at the Unity Hall.

Chapter Seventeen

THE IMPRACTICAL MR. BOON

Gerritt Boon and John Lincklaen were sent here by the Holland Land Company to look over the lands to choose those suitable for sugar making. Miles upon weary miles they traveled, first through northern Pennsylvania, then through western New York and eastward to Albany. They travelled on horseback into Vermont, across the Green Mountains to the Connecticut River and back to New York. The two finally purchased lands in central New York, which were the scene of Lincklaen's Cazenovia settlement, while Boon succeeded in buying lands in the Serviss, Adgate and part of Baron von Steuben's grant.

He and Lincklaen on their travels visited old and new settlements, talked with settlers everywhere and learned what made settlements attractive or otherwise. This young Dutchman seems to have had very definite plans as to the proper way to start an infant settlement. He believed in liberal assistance to the pioneers, first by erecting mills and second by lending money to skilled craftsmen. He expected the settlement to attract such fine business men that they would become prosperous and would repay all the money which he had advanced to them. But the reality did not quite keep pace with the ideal. His sugar making experiment failed, causing considerable loss and the whole system of aid proved too expensive for the proprietors in Holland.

Gerritt Boon, the first agent of the Holland Land Company in Olden Barneveldt, was as impractical as he was courageous. He fought his way over the Big Hill (Deerfield Hill) from Fort Schuyler. It is said that he blazed the trail by marking the trees with an axe. He arrived in Olden Barneveldt when sap was running from the maple trees on the slope behind the settlement, and immediately arrived at the conclusion that sap ran the year round.

The Holland Land Company which he represented was composed of a group of Amsterdam business men who were

thrilled at the idea of building up an industry which could compete successfully with the sugar cane business in the West Indies. Boon envisioned a sugar bush of 10,000 acres which would produce a million and a half pounds of sugar each year. He was back on ground in February 1794 making plans for this great sugar bush. He hired two dozen Yankee wood choppers to cut out all but the maple trees. Conflict arose immediately, for the Yankees had lumbering ideas of their own. Boon was stubborn and did not agree with them, so he discharged half the crew and brought in new choppers. The air rang with the sound of axes that summer, with the result that 17 acres were made ready for the run of sap.

The Yankees had always carried the sap to the vats in buckets. Boon scorned this primitive method. He built a mill on the Cincinnati Creek to furnish lumber for new houses, but primarily to provide wood for troughs to carry the sap down the slope to the huge vats that awaited it. The mill proving useless for that purpose, Boon spent the following winter in Albany, where he found a woodworker who was willing to construct troughs to his specifications.

The troughs were installed on the hillside, the trees were tapped and a complicated system of troughs was devised to carry the sap to the vats at the foot of the slope. Here Boon ran into more trouble, for the specially manufactured troughs were thin walled and could not withstand the alternate freezing and thawing. They began to warp and much of the sap was lost through overflowing and leakage. In despair, Boon abandoned them in favor of crude grooved slats he manufactured in his own mill. These slats did not warp, but the sap did not run down them freely and the strips could not be nailed tightly enough together to prevent sap from leaking.

Boon produced but 3000 pounds of maple sugar that year. He rode off to Philadelphia to talk the matter over with Theophile Cazenove, the general agent of the Holland Land Company. Cazenove who was in favor of the sugar experiment was unwilling to abandon the enterprise, but the stockholders who had suffered a loss of \$15,000 thought too much money had been expended for such meager results, so the books were closed.

Undaunted, Boon went ahead with plans for building up an

ideal settlement at Olden Barneveldt. He set about establishing saw mills, grist mills and stores. He put a three story grist mill below the settlement on the Cincinnati Creek. It was 50 by 60 feet in size and could accommodate five runs of stone. Unfortunately, the creek in summer was not powerful enough to turn the wheels. If Boon had not been so insistent on building in Olden Barneveldt, he could have constructed a mill on the West Canada Creek a few miles away, but he clung stubbornly to his way of thinking. The mill, which had cost the company nearly \$9000 was inventoried in 1815 for \$1500.

Boon was not around to see this depreciation. His mills and stores had lost money, and he was unable to get payments from farmers for whom he had cleared land and erected homes. It being his policy to bring the best class of settlers to Olden Barneveldt, he had made total advances of thousands of dollars to a tinsmith, shoemaker, blacksmith, mason, quarrier, hatter, lime burner and physician. He felt that by enticing artisans to the settlement, scholars and people of wealth and distinction would settle here. He also had advanced to his friend, Francis Adrian Van der Kemp, the sum of \$800 merely because he was a Dutchman and a scholar.

To top everything, Boon constructed a large, handsome house. This house which was to be his manorial estate, was equipped with window pulleys and was partially finished in mahogany. These frills brought down the wrath of the stockholders on Boon's shoulders. In the spring of 1795, he was ordered to start another settlement farther north, which later became known as Boonville, named after him.

When Cazenove was succeeded by Sustt as general agent in 1798, Boon was recalled to Holland. He was not unhappy, for he was homesick for his native land. He turned his affairs over to Adam Gerard Mappa, his assistant, and departed for Rotterdam. We know nothing of his further life, but Boon being what he was, we have no doubt that his remaining years were spent in energetic work of some kind. He left behind him two settlements well started, Olden Barneveldt and Boonville, each equipped with mills, stores and a few good houses.

Chapter Eighteen

ADAM GERARD MAPPA

Adam Gerard Mappa was a native of Delft, Holland, where he was born in 1754. He was a soldier and was also interested in politics. Besides this he had a trade, that of type founder. In 1780, after considerable opposition on the part of her father, he married Anna Adriana Passpoort, with whom he lived happily for many years.

As a liberal, Mappa took an active part in the Patriot movement in Holland, a movement which aimed to recast the political institutions of the country. Although he seems not to have been a great leader, he became a Colonel in the Patriot Volunteer Militia. When the movement failed in 1787 he was exiled. He decided to come to America and arrived with his wife and three children in December 1789. Here, encouraged by Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, he set up the first type foundry in the United States, and continued this business for three years. It was difficult to secure trained workmen and Mappa was forced to perform much of the labor with his own hands. He fell behind in his orders and did not prosper as he had hoped. So early in 1793, he sold his foundry and took service with the Holland Land Company.

He was first sent on a trip of inspection through the lands in central New York. A year later he became assistant to Gerritt Boon, and moved his family to Olden Barneveldt. At first they lived in the house of their friend Boon until their stone mansion could be built.

Mrs. Mappa's letters to relatives in Holland give some idea of their life here in this new settlement. She writes to her sister-in-law, who is planning to come to America, advising her to bring good, suitable clothing, "for" says Mrs. Mappa, "although we are in the woods, yet we are constantly with the fashionable people of the country, and without being proud, it is always well to maintain one's position."

In 1798 he became land agent after Boon's departure. His

new task was not easy, but it was novel and interesting. He received a good salary, had a fine house and farm, enjoyed a happy family life and was surrounded by warm friends. He seems to have been a gentle kindly person, honest and trustworthy, but without the aggressiveness of Boon.

On taking over Boon's job, he had all of Boon's unfinished projects to work out. These called for money, but orders from Holland called for strict economy, and expenditures must be cut down. Colonel Mappa did his best, and was so successful that by 1801 business at Olden Barneveldt was on a pretty sound basis. Soon he was able to make encouraging remittances to Holland.

One of the things that Mappa is remembered for is the laying out and naming of the village of Prospect in 1811. It is said that when he reached the top of the hill and looked out over the wonderful view, he exclaimed, "What a beautiful prospect!", and the village was accordingly so named.

Adam Mappa was an important figure in the community. He was one of the early Supervisors of the Town of Trenton and he was one of the company who organized the first church, known as the Reformed Christian Church, serving in various offices of that church for many years. He had a 900 volume library, which in addition to Van der Kemp's library, enabled the Dutchmen to increase their knowledge and understanding.

One of Gerritt Boon's projects had been developing a market at Fort Schuyler, where the produce from this settlement might be shipped. In order to encourage travelers passing through to stop long enough to see the advantages of the place, Boon felt there must be a good tavern. Accordingly, he and his friend Lincklaen erected a rather fine building on the White's Town Road, but by the time it was finished, Mappa had taken Boon's place as agent and the tavern became one of his responsibilities. It doubtless gave him more than one headache, for he had great difficulty in finding a trustworthy landlord to run the place. At last, he succeeded in renting it to a responsible person, and it was opened to travelers. This tavern undoubtedly helped in the development of Utica and the market which the town offered was of great importance to the farmers of this region.

Meanwhile, the sale of lands to settlers went on but not as

rapidly as the Dutch bankers desired. So, in 1816, they decided to sell out their holdings north of the Mohawk, giving their agents first opportunity of buying. Mappa could not raise funds by himself so he sought out a partner, Abraham Varick, a prosperous gentleman of Utica. After many conferences, and much discussion, these two purchased the interests of the company in this region, agreeing to pay \$120,000 in 20 equal annual installments, with interest at 4%, the titles to remain with the Dutch proprietors until the contract was entirely fulfilled.

The collections of land debt and interest continued to be difficult. For a number of years Mappa took payment in cattle and corn from settlers who had no money. He seems to have lacked the aggressive energy necessary to a land agent. He was too kindhearted to press his debtors, for he understood and appreciated their difficulties. He was lenient and he succeeded pretty well, though he often had to sell the corn and cattle at a loss.

However, it became increasingly difficult for him to keep up the installments due to the land company, and in his later years he became despondent and felt that his life was a failure. He died in April 1828 and was buried in Olden Barneveld Cemetery. We who look back upon that life so upright, so honest, so generous realize that it was not a failure, but that it played an important part in the settling of this section of New York State, especially of our own village of Barneveld.

Miss Sophia Mappa, the only daughter of Adam Mappa, spent her closing years in the house on Vanderkemp Avenue, adjoining Mappa Hall, with Madam de Castro, also a Hollander. Madam de Castro was the last link which connected this little Dutch settlement with the far off republic of Holland. This house, now the Albert Redmond Medical Center, was bequeathed by Madam de Castro to her adopted daughter, Mrs. Cornelia Moore, and was the last home occupied of the descendants of the early Dutch settlers of Olden Barneveldt.

Chapter Nineteen

FRANCIS ADRIAN VAN DER KEMP

One of Francis Adrian Van der Kemp's closest friends was DeWitt Clinton, for some years Governor of New York. In a letter written in 1820 Clinton describes his first visit to the village then known as Olden Barneveldt. He had been walking eight or ten miles from his lodgings with his gun and dog, he tells us, when he came upon two venerable men on the banks of a copious stream where they were angling for trout. They hailed him and invited him to join them, which he immediately did. He found them to be men of the world acquainted with the courtesies of life. One of them held up a string of fine trout and invited him to come with them and "partake of the fruits of their amusement." He accepted on condition that he might contribute to the feast the game that he had killed. He accompanied them, and soon they were in a small village. As they ascended the steps of an elegant house, they congratulated him on his entry into Olden Barneveldt. In the course of an hour, dinner was served, and Governor Clinton pronounced it "a treat worthy to be compared with the Symposium of Plato." He soon learned that these two friends were immigrants from Holland, men of highly cultured minds and polished manners.

The elder of these gentlemen, Francis Van der Kemp, had been a clergyman in The Netherlands, and at the commencement of the American Revolution he became its enthusiastic advocate. In the struggles that later took place in his native country he sided with the Patriots. His friend, Adam Mappa, held a high military office and he likewise joined the movement. This uprising of the Patriots met with their defeat, and these two men with many others went into exile and settled in America.

The house where Clinton was entertained was the stone mansion now known as Mappa Hall. Clinton further describes Van der Kemp's character and acquirements, his learning, his extensive correspondence with learned men in Europe and America, his recognition by prominent persons in our country, his title of Doctor of Laws granted him by Harvard University and

his great work in translating into English the old Dutch records of New York State.

"Thus, my friend," the letter of Governor Clinton continues, "I have made a great discovery. In a secluded, unassuming village, I have discovered the most learned man in America, cultivating his beautiful and spacious garden with his own hands, cultivating literature and science, cultivating the virtues which adorn the fireside and the altar, cultivating the esteem of the wise and good and blessing with the radiations of his illumined and highly gifted mind, all who enjoy his conversation, and who are honored by his correspondence."

Francis Adrian Van der Kemp was born in Campere, Holland on May 4, 1752 to a family of distinction, and his father was an army officer. He had every educational advantage, but he tells us in his autobiography that he was not a good student. Fearing that their son would not stand high as a student, his parents had him placed as a cadet in a company of infantry for military training, but without discontinuing his application to the Greek and Latin languages. After five years he gave up his military duties and took up his studies exclusively, and in 1770 he entered the University of Groningen and later the University of Franekar, with the Christian ministry in view. In 1773, he left for Amsterdam, where he attended a Baptist Seminary. In the meantime, he was having difficulties with his religious faith. As he was democratic in his political views, he was independent in his religious convictions. He would accept no dogma or creed on the authority of any church; his creed must be his own honest conviction. This naturally led to conflict with some of his friends, and his relatives did not approve of his stand.

Van der Kemp was attracted to the Baptists at Amsterdam because of their reputed liberal principles. In 1775, he was admitted as a candidate for the ministry. His marriage to Reinira Engelbartha Johanna Vos, also of a prominent family, took place in 1782.

The democratic movement in Holland broke into armed opposition, and Van der Kemp put on a uniform and joined the armed forces of the Patriot Party, but the movement was unsuccessful, and he found himself in command of 120 men against a government force of 1500. There was nothing to do but

surrender without fighting. For the time being, democracy was a lost cause and he became one of many prisoners. He was released in 1787, but there was no tolerance for him in his own country. It has been estimated that 40,000 people had to leave the country, and among them was his friend, Adam Mappa, who had fought for the Patriot Party also. The Emancipation of Holland was years later celebrated by these same two men in March, 1814, in Olden Barneveldt, when Van der Kemp read an oration at a meeting held in Mappa's house.

In 1787 Van der Kemp received letters of introduction from John Adams, then United States minister in London, to leading Americans, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the latter destined to become a close friend. He arrived in New York City, early in 1788, with his wife and two children, and later visited George Washington at his home in Mount Vernon. They first lived in Esopus, now Kingston, and remained there for five years. In 1794, they moved to Oneida Lake, where they found life altogether too lonely. Influenced strongly by his friendship for Adam Mappa, Van der Kemp moved his family to Olden Barneveldt in 1797, where they remained for the rest of their lives. They now had three children, John Jacob, Cuneira Engelbartha, both born in Holland, and Peter born in America.

The house in which they lived is now the Unitarian Parsonage, and they were among the founders of the Unitarian Church, as were the Mappas. His name appears repeatedly in membership lists, in letters written by him and in the minutes of the church meetings. Van der Kemp is also credited with originating the plans for the Erie Canal.

The Van der Kemps had been a very wealthy family in Holland, but their wealth had been confiscated when they fled the country. They were able to bring with them some valuable portraits, old silver, porcelain dishes and rare books. In times of poverty, Mr. Van der Kemp had to sell some of his library to Harvard University. After his death, they bought the remainder.

His life, which was so exciting and adventurous in his native Holland, now became quiet and serene. But he was honored and respected; his fine character and his learning was recognized. He visited prominent people, and he numbered among his friends such men as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, John Quincy

Adams, Governor Livingston, Governor DeWitt Clinton, Governor Trumbull and George Wasington.

For a living he did some farming on a small scale. Soon after the organization of Oneida County, he received the appointment of Assistant Justice of the County Court and was given the title of Judge.

His great single work was his translation into English of the old Dutch records of the West India Company belonging to New York. He was appointed to this task by Governor Dewitt Clinton in 1817. There were 40 volumes of manuscripts, and by the summer of 1822, the last volume was safely transported to the Secretary of State's Office in Albany. This was a most congenial task, but he received not one cent of compensation. But labors of love do not provide a living, and his income was meager. In his autobiography he admits that he would not have been able to make ends meet except for the support of his oldest son, John Jacob, who became an agent for the Holland Land Company, and lived in Philadelphia.

Though trained for the Christian ministry, he never sought to serve a parish in this country, feeling that his command of English was not adequate. He was a man whose actual achievement fell short of the goals he would doubtless have reached, could he have kept up his work as a clergyman in Holland. His life could not have been altogether happy, but he did not complain and he had resources within himself that gave him satisfaction.

The inevitable end approached, and old friends were passing away. Mrs. Mappa, dear friend of Mrs. Van der Kemp, died in 1814. Colonel Mappa died in April 1828, and Mrs. Van der Kemp passed away on September 6th of the same year. Mr. Van der Kemp was soon to follow with but a short warning as he had wished, for his health was good until the last. He died on September 7, 1829, and was buried in Olden Barneveld Cemetery. His daughter and son, Peter, never married and they continued living in the Van der Kemp house. Peter died in 1857, and after that Cuneira lived alone. She was more familiarly known as "Aunt Bertha." Sophia Mappa, daughter of Adam Mappa, lived but a stone's throw away, and she too never married. Both were born in Holland and were inseparable friends

until Miss Mappa died in 1860. Miss Van der Kemp died on January 3, 1868 at 83 years of age, revered and beloved by all, the last of the exiles who came from Holland years before.

Chapter Twenty

JOHN SHERMAN

John Sherman was born in 1771, in New Haven, Connecticut, a grandson of Roger Sherman, who signed the Declaration of Independence, and helped in framing the Constitution of the United States. He graduated with honors from Yale in 1793 at the age of 21. In those days most of the best scholars who graduated from American colleges entered the ministry. Young Sherman was no exception to the rule. Four years later he became minister of the First Congregational Church at Mansfield, Connecticut, which he served until 1805.

During the years at Mansfield, in common with a trend of thinking that spread widely throughout New England, Sherman's religious thinking underwent radical change, growing away from Trinitarian conceptions and turning to Unitarianism. Members of his congregation rebelled against this heresy and voted to expel him both from his own congregation and from all ministerial connection. Some of his congregation supported him, but to avoid complete disruption of the church he resigned.

His call to serve as minister in Olden Barneveldt began in 1805. Here he found to his delight that Mr. Van der Kemp, Colonel Mappa, Dr. Luther Guiteau and others were Unitarians. It was only customary that Rev. Sherman should be asked to preach the Word to these early settlers. He became the first settled Pastor of the Reformed Christian Church of Olden Barneveldt.

In 1812 he started an Academy in the house now occupied by the Mahanna family on Old Poland Road, which became a training school for teachers. Any young man of ambition, placing himself under the training of Mr. Sherman, became in a few months a man capable of teaching any ordinary common school in the country. In this enterprise Sherman was successful. This school became highly prized throughout the country and men of its studies became prominent in commerce and profession.

John F. Seymour commended him highly as a fine scholar, and he educated many who remembered him with great affection and respect. He published a book, The Philosophy of Language, which was very much in advance of his time. But neither the ministry nor the field of education could hold him, and he was captivated by the beauty of Trenton Falls. This led him to purchase about 60 acres from the Holland Land Company in 1822, which included the Sherman or First Falls. He erected a house, brought his family there and made it his permanent home. John and Abigail Perkins Sherman raised nine children.

Rev. Sherman died on August 2, 1828 at the age of 57, and is buried in Trenton Falls. He was a gentleman in every sense, highly educated, apt in teaching, respected by the people and was a lover of nature. A man of rare spirit, he made no attack on established creeds, but was a valiant defender of his own faith.

Chapter Twenty One

LUTHER GUITEAU - PIONEER PHYSICIAN

Born in Lanesboro, Massachusetts, in 1778, Dr. Luther Guiteau came to Trenton in 1802 soon after he received his degree in medicine. He left a settled community behind him and devoted himself to the practice of medicine in the wilderness. His professional life began with great exposures, great toil and hardships. His rides extended to a great distance, through paths in the forest known only by marks upon the trees, and over dangerous crossings of impetuous streams. Wild animals still prowled around the neighborhood, and gave additional danger to his solitary midnight travel. Always he responded to the call of the sick whether it be to the lonely farmhouse or to his close neighbors in the village. It was said of him that "he was like one inspired to be a physician."

He raised a family of four children, one daughter, Nancy, and three sons, Luther Jr., John and Fred. Nancy married a local resident, Jonah Howe. As the village park is named Jonah Howe Park on an early village map, it is assumed that the park was named in memory of her only son, also named Jonah, who died when a child.

Dr. Guiteau and his brother, Dr. Francis Guiteau, Jr., had much to do with forming the first medical association of Oneida County. They met with 27 other doctors at Rome on July 1, 1806, and as a result the Oneida County Medical Association became a reality. He was president of the society for many years and frequently gave dissertations on important subjects of his profession. In 1809, he was elected to the State Assembly.

During the War of 1812, an epidemic broke out in the army which was fatal to many of the soldiers. The State Medical Society published a description of the disease and of the treatment adopted by them, which forbade bleeding. Dr. Guiteau, on the other hand, insisted that every patient would die who was not bled, and he had the courage to bleed and thus save every person brought to him. His reputation soon became so well established that Joseph Bonaparte, a brother of Napoleon,

requested him to visit professionally, his private secretary, then sick at Denmark in Lewis County.

He stood high not only as a physician, but as a man. He was one to whom the making of money was of no consideration, beyond a fair provision for his needs. We have been told that it was commonly said of him that he died a poor man, but he was rich in good deeds. The high esteem in which he is still held indicates that he made a very good investment of the money that he gave away, that he received the finest of dividends, and that a part of these dividends have been passed down to us as a rich moral and spiritual legacy.

After his death in 1850, Luther Guiteau, Jr. followed his father in the profession of a physician. The son died on June 13, 1885, slightly over 80 years of age, and he was, like his father, a man of noble spirit. The Guiteau family is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Chapter Twenty Two

RECOLLECTIONS

The Record Book of the Reformed Christian Church of Trenton contains the record of the baptism of a child named Philip, on August 13, 1815. The mother's name was Rose, a Negro slave owned by Ephraim Perkins, who promised to instruct the child in the Christian religion. Some of the early settlers brought their slaves with them to Olden Barneveldt. A slave owned by William Miller was sold in 1804. The bill of sale dated October 30, 1804, states "for the price of 75 pounds, a Negro slave, named Patience, at the age of 24 years."

Thomas Hicks, Jr., originally from Trenton, was commissioned to paint a portrait of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 to be used for campaign purposes. This was one of the few portraits which showed the Great Emancipator minus a beard. He studied at the leading art schools of New York, Philadelphia and Europe, and took rank among the foremost painters of his day. Among famous people who sat for him were William Cullen Bryant, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Washington Irving, William H. Seward and Edwin Booth. He later bought land in Trenton Falls and built a house and studio called "Thornwood."

The "Trenton Society for the Detection of Thieves, Burglars and Incendiaries" was organized in January 1850. The object of this organization was to prevent stealing, to detect thieves, burglars and incendiaries, and to recover stolen property, especially stolen horses. Article 6 states, "Officers of this society when notified by one of the members that a horse belonging to them or that property to an amount not less than twenty dollars has been stolen, or that any burglary or incendiarism has been

committed upon their premises shall employ a force, which in their judgement shall be sufficient to pursue the thief or thieves, and to perform such duties as circumstances shall require in such pursuit, and that these officers shall determine the amount of compensation for such services." Article 7 states, "It shall be the duty of each and every member of this society to obey all calls upon them made by the officers, under a penalty of two dollars." At its beginning, the minutes book records a membership of 109. The book ends in 1904 with no record of when or why the members ceased to meet. This organization was common in many towns and villages, and was the predecessor of the State Police and County Sheriff.

Mount Eliza, located northwest of the village, was named for Eliza Birdsall, daughter of the Birdsall family who lived on Remsen Road during the 1800s. She loved to go to the top of the hill and sit and look at the village below. The family burial ground was located on the side of the hill, but was later moved to the Olden Barneveld Cemetery when Rt. 365 was constructed. Since Eliza, many village children have gone to the top of the hill and sat on the bench made of split logs. Several photographs have been taken of the village from the top of this hill.

In the early 1900s a pea vinery was located on lower Boon Street. The area farmers would bring their peas and beans here to be separated from the vines and made ready for the canning factory in Westernville. As the vines were being transported through the village on wagons, local children would pull them off the wagon, put them in baskets and sell them to their neighbors. The neighbors undoubtedly knew where the vegetables had come from, but they bought them anyway.

A former village resident, Mrs. Romilly Fedden (Katherine

Waldo Douglas), wrote a novel called Shifting Sands. It was published in 1914, with its scene laid in Olden Barneveldt. This book is recommended as a means to become acquainted with the style of life that prevailed in our village in the 1800s.

Another former resident, J.P. Garrett, in 1878 wrote of his memories of honey parties held for the young people in the early 1800s. His father kept colonies of bees and honey was always in stock. These parties were usually held at the Garrett residence, where homemade biscuits were served with honey. The parties also consisted of a sleigh ride around the area. Attending these parties were Bertha Van der Kemp, Sophia Mappa, Sara Worthington, Amy Spencer, Mary Storr, Catherine Douglas, John Billings, John Baraclough and John Mappa.

In the early 1900s, the Ku Klux Klan had an active membership in the village. Members with white hoods could be seen entering the Old Stone Meeting Hall late at night. Crosses were burned at various locations in and around the village. Demonstrations were not always racial or religious in nature. In one instance, it seems to have been a moral issue, as a cross was burned near the home of a resident who was suspected of committing adultery.

In the 1870s, Charles Nicholson, a village resident, began to experiment with the newly exhibited telephone. A business was started in central New York under his management, with two subscribers having the use of a single line. There was no central office or connecting point. In 1882, he organized the Mohawk Valley Telephone & Telegraph Company, which in 1907, merged with New York Telephone Company.

The early 1900s brought with it many changes in lifestyle for the residents of the village. Prior to the arrival of the telephone, communication to outside areas was accomplished by the telegraph office which was located at the railroad station. Electricity arrived here around 1900, provided by Utica Gas & Electric. Before electric street lights were installed, the village was lighted by kerosene lamps. Each evening, the village "lamplighter" would take a ladder and a can of kerosene and light all the lamps in the village. Utility poles began to appear and replace these kerosene lamps. The arrival of electricity in the homes must have been joyous for the ladies, remembering the distasteful task of wick trimming as well as the hazards of kerosene.

The automobile began to appear around this time, also. When the first automobiles arrived in the village, the children would run along the side and try to outrun them. Blacksmith's shops began to disappear and were replaced by repair garages. Hitching posts, both wooden and iron, made their exit. A driving license was unknown and young adults from the age of 12 drove as well as their elders. Roads were improved to handle the new traffic, and stone sidewalks replaced crude wooden ones.

On October 6, 1930, a bank robbery occurred at the First National Bank of Trenton located on Boon Street. Two middle aged men leveled revolvers at the bank employees and threatened use of the firearms if they did not produce the cash in their possession. The patrons were told to go to the back room and were forced to lie down while one bandit stood guard over them. The bandits made a getaway with \$2400 in cash. They were later apprehended in Chicago and returned for trial.

If Cooperstown is the birthplace of baseball, then Barneveld might be called the birthplace of night softball. In 1938, Trenton boasted of the only lighted softball field in Central New York, located in back of Hotel Moore. For years the streets were

crowded with automobiles lined on both sides for weekly games. The league then consisted of six villages; Prospect, Holland Patent, Stittville, Poland, Hinckley and Trenton. There was no gate. Money for payment of lights, balls and uniforms was acquired when a team bench warmer removed his hat and passed it through the crowd for donations. In 1947, the Trenton Firemen's Athletic Association, sponsors of the Trenton team, decided to acquire five acres on Remsen Road. The new site was cleared, bleachers added, new lights installed and a softball diamond was built, all by civic-minded residents. A children's playground was later added.

An honor roll for the men and women who served in World War II was dedicated November 19, 1945, with George Jepson acting as master of ceremonies. The roll stood near the Town Hall, with the names of 75 men and women from Barneveld, Trenton Falls and Wethersfield. A bronze memorial was dedicated at a later date and was erected on the Trenton Memorial Field. This memorial was recently moved to the village park.

In November 1978, it took men two days to remove something that took its creator more than 200 years to make. The magnificent elm tree on Boon Street was the largest in the state. Removal was necessary due to Dutch Elm Disease. A crew of eight men used a 90 foot crane and many saws. The tree was determined to be 201 years old when the rings inside the trunk were counted, which measured 17 feet and 9 inches in circumference. It stood more than 119 feet and the crown measured 131 feet. It could have germinated at the same time that the Declaration of Independence was being signed.

BARNEVELD'S LEADERS

PRESIDENTS:

[records prior to 1868 are unavailable]

Daniel French 1868-1869

Hugh H. Jones 1870

Levi Wheaton 1871

Daniel French 1872

Albert S. Skiff 1873-1876

William Boullian 1877-1879

H.S. Stanton 1880

J.B. Watkins 1881

Daniel French, Jr. 1882

J.B. Watkins 1883

James Reeve 1884-1885

John C. Owens 1886-1888

D.H. Roberts 1889

T.J. Lewis 1890-1891

John Hughes 1892-1893

D.H. Roberts 1894-1895

John E. Dublin 1896

[1897-1908 not available]

Herbert Griffith 1909-1912

Frank Goodman 1912-1916

Charles A. French 1916-1919

Robert R. Widtman 1919-1920

William L. Thomas 1920-1922

Paul Barker 1922-1923

Luther Guiteau Moore 1923-1929

Archer V. Britt 1929-1930

Luther Guiteau Moore 1930-1931

George Jepson 1931-1933

William A. DeVolt 1933-1948

Arthur Turner 1948-1949

Perle Countryman 1949-1960

MAYORS:

John Yager 1960-1964
Albert Schumacher 1964-1979
Robert Hood 1979-1987
William Hinge 1987-1990 1993-
Nathan M. Hayes 1990-1993

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

[records prior to 1834 unavailable]

Benjamin Brayton 1834
John Mappa 1834, 1837
Luther Guiteau 1834
James Birdsall 1834
Daniel Warren, Jr. 1834
James Douglas 1835
David R. Case 1835
Thomas Tanner, Jr. 1835
Ezram Bindsey 1835
Thadus Ball 1835
Thomas Worden 1837
Thomas J. Douglas 1837
Ananais Horton 1837
Benjamin Tanner 1837
J. Billings 1838
Thomas Browell 1838
David Glorrey 1838
Richard T. Vanderkemp 1838
[1836, 1839-1909 not available]
Fred Mallory 1909-1912 1923-1929
William E. Barker 1909-1912
John S. Jones 1909-1912
Luther Guiteau Moore 1909-1912 1922-1923
George Jepson 1912-1914
Frank B. Lewis 1912-1916
Robert Widtman 1912-1914
C. Lester Hickland 1912-1915 1928-1929 1933-1934
Edward S. Robertson 1914-1916
Norman F. Corts 1914-1915
John Van Dewalker 1915-1917

Thomas P. Williams 1915-1919
 William DeVolt 1916-1920
 Frank Broadbent 1916-1919
 Frank Goodman 1917-1919
 Fred Owens 1919-1920
 Dora Jones 1919-1920
 Jennie Daly 1919-1920
 Stanton D. Austin 1920-1922
 Paul Barker 1920-1922
 D.L. Williams 1920-1922 1930-1934
 Frank Bagg 1920-1923
 Glenn P. Dodge 1922-1929
 F.A. McIntosh 1923-1929
 Edward C. Roberts 1929-1930 1934-1946
 Martin W. Chrestien 1929-1930
 Clarence G. Jones 1929-1930
 Charles H. Wells 1929-1930 1936-1941
 Michael C. Daly 1930-1931
 William Worden 1930-1936
 Laurence Prindle 1930-1942
 Donald Joslyn 1931-1933 1942-1945
 George Miller 1939-1944
 Earl Schrider 1941-1946
 Edward Hinge 1944-1948
 Lamonte Ossont 1945-1949 1952-1958
 Keith Lee 1946-1948 1959-1963
 John Yager 1946-1947
 Chesley Stickney 1947-1950
 Perle Countryman 1948-1949
 Kenneth R. MacNaughton 1948-1949
 Scott Mykel 1949-1954
 Robert Britt 1949-1951
 Glen Haskell 1949-1950
 Charles Jacobs 1950-1952
 Kenneth Divine 1950-1959
 Edward R. Williams 1951-1952 1954-1956
 Griffith Jones 1952-1958
 Henry F. Miller, Jr. 1956-1958
 S. James Colangelo 1958-1960

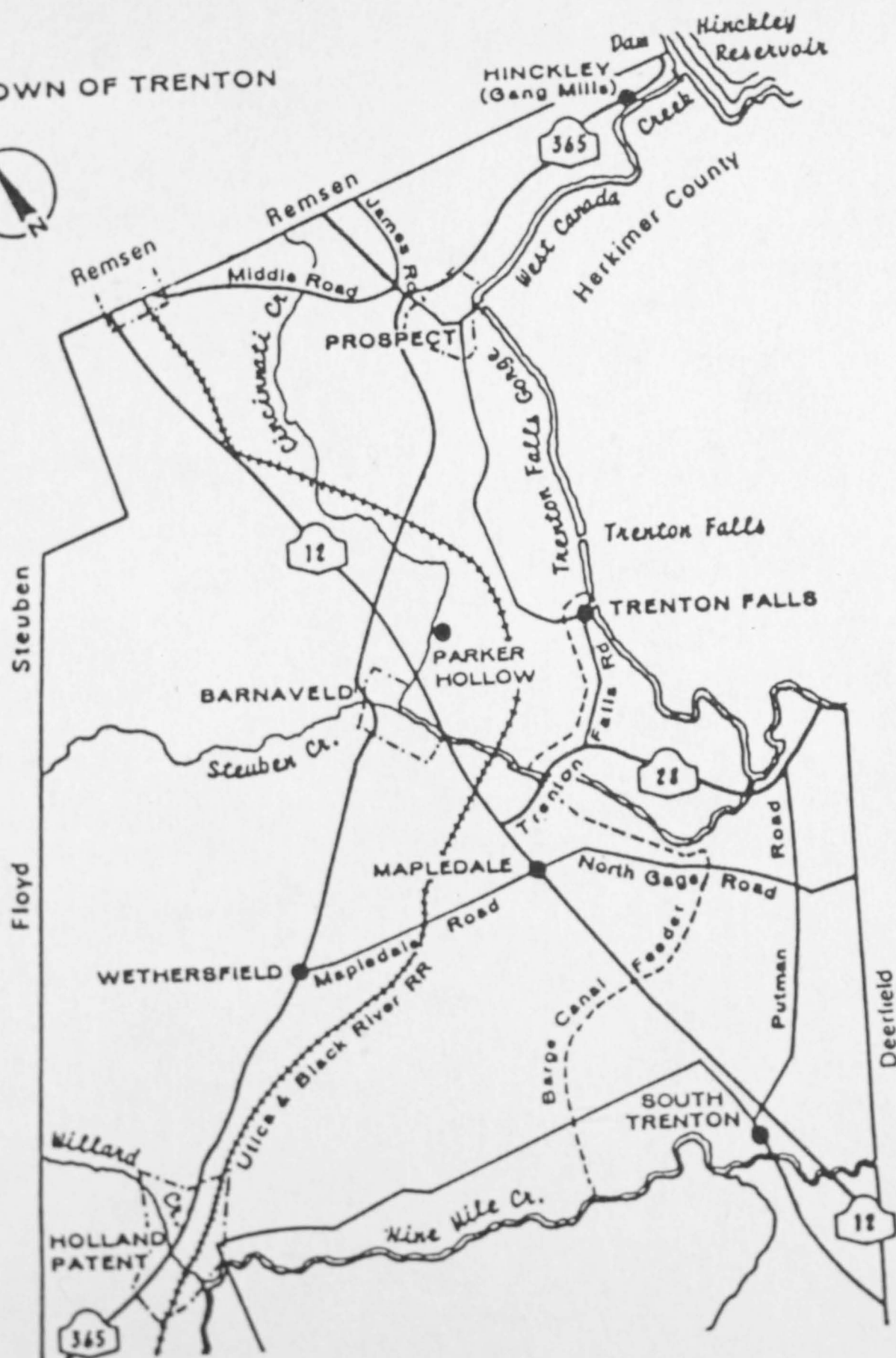
Andrew Zampier 1959-1963
 William Johnson 1960-1970
 Albert Schumacher 1960-1964
 Truman E. Williams 1963-1964 1975-1977
 Robert White 1963-1968
 Carl Klossner 1964-1966
 W. Darwin Jones 1966-1971 1979-1980
 John Caezza 1967-1968
 Herbert Blake 1968-1977 1983-1985
 Donald Crist 1968-1971
 Robert T. Williams 1970-1971
 Fredric Schulz 1971-1975
 William Warcup, Jr. 1971-1975
 Robert Hood 1972-1979
 Frank Hollenbeck Apr 1975-Aug 1975
 Martin Lockwood 1975-1977
 Belva Shaler 1977-1983
 Lorna VanBuskirk 1977-1983
 William Hinge 1978-1987
 Daniel Schue 1980-1984
 Judith Chaffee 1983-1993
 Deborah Hardie 1984-1988
 James Sechrist 1985-1987
 Andrew Stetson 1987-1993
 Rob Hollenbeck 1988-1990
 Nathan M. Hayes Apr 1990-Sept 1990
 Mary Ellen Blakey 1988-
 Truman Williams II 1990-
 Beverly Cantwell 1993-
 Daniel Caputo 1993-

CONCLUSION

Our Barneveld Sketches must come to an end, although more could be written. Interesting incidents have been omitted, outstanding citizens remain unmentioned, others are hidden within the anonymity of lost records. If you are looking for an exact history of Barneveld you will not find it; there are too many gaps in the record; too many defects of memory. The authors have endeavored to describe Barneveld's interesting beginnings, its pioneer heroism and the enterprise of its inhabitants. For this reason, the editors cannot call this work a history book; it has to be a book of sketches.

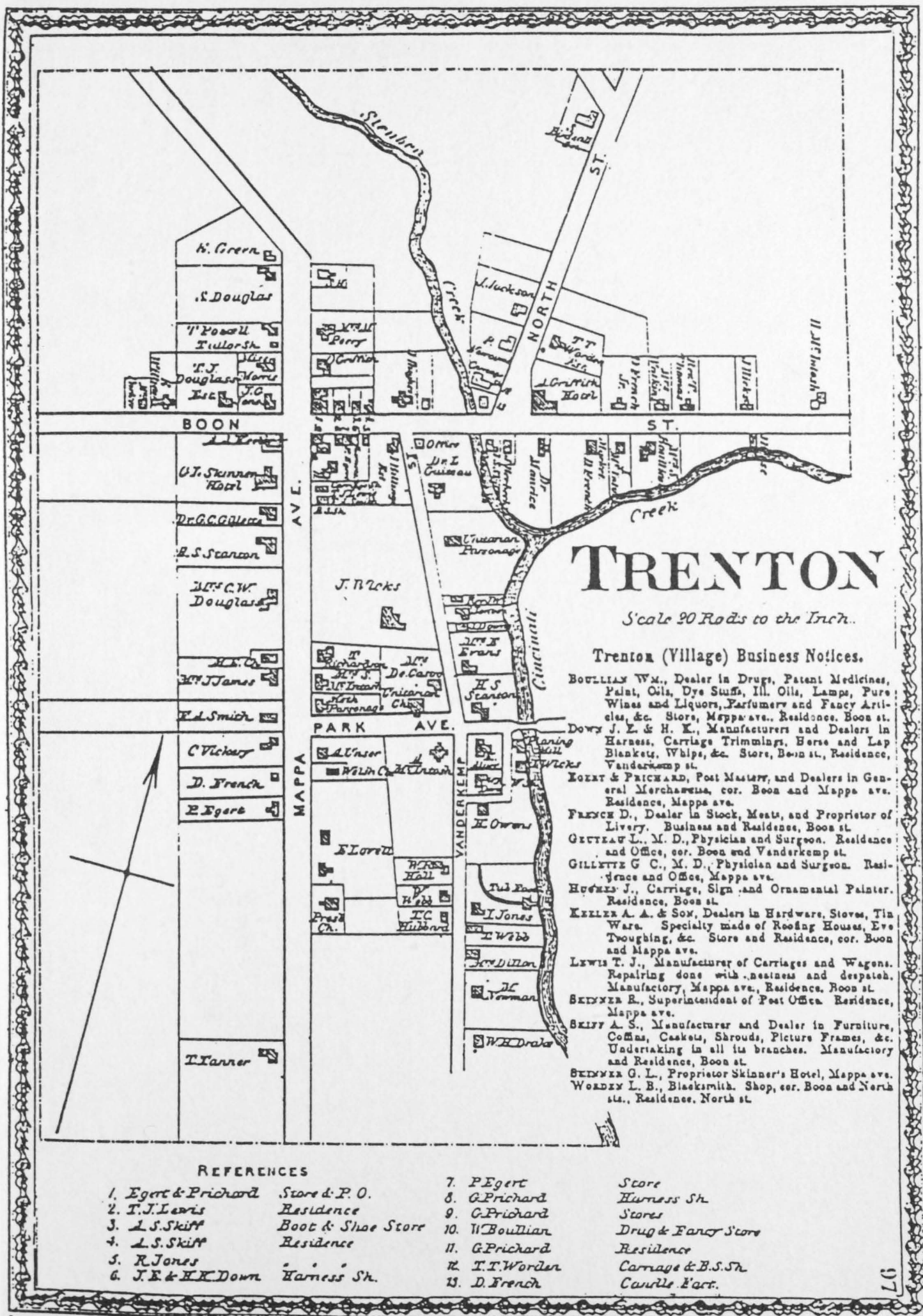
Barneveld is surrounded by rolling hills, crossed with curving streams and flat lands dotted with trees of giant stature. Within walking distance is Trenton Falls, which during the 1800s was second only to Niagara Falls as a mecca for thousands of tourists from America and Europe. The village today is a quiet community of about 400 people. It has never been a large community, and it never will be, but it has been a community with a sense of pride in its own worth. The original houses built in the late 1700s and early 1800s are still standing, as is one of the three original water troughs, a reminder of the rich historical past surrounding us.

TOWN OF TRENTON



Map of Trenton
Oneida County, New York
Benjamin A. Clark, Civil Engineer
Philadelphia - 1858
Courtesy of
Oneida County

Map of Trenton
Oneida County, New York
Benjamin A. Clark, Civil Engineer
Philadelphia - 1858
Courtesy of
Oneida County Historical Society
Utica, NY



TRENTON

Scale in Feet



BARNEVELD STA-PO-TEL-OFF.

Reference

- Frame Building
- Stone
- Greenhouse
- Rail

