who had contracts for supplying the military posts of the west. Samuel Tupper, whose name is mentioned above as taking out the license, first had charge of this store. He came to Buffalo probably as early as 1804, and bought inner lot 7, in 1805, and took up outer lot 17, in 1808, where he built a house on the corner of Tupper and Main streets. He was appointed an Associate Judge of the Common Pleas in the fall of 1805, and was the first person in Erie county who had a right to that title. Judge Tupper died in December, 1817, without children. An adopted daughter of his afterwards married Manly Colton, and they occupied the old homestead for many years.

Vincent Grant, as we have already recorded, bought a lot in Buffalo in 1804, but he probably did not settle upon it until 1805. He was at one time in charge of the contractors store. He purchased inner lot No. 8, in 1808, on which he built a store. After the war he put up a cheap building on the southeast corner of Main and Seneca streets, where he traded until 1820, or later. He died not long after that date.

Judge Zenas Barker settled in Buffalo, as early as 1804 or 1805, and began keeping tavern on the Terrace very soon after, near where John Palmer had been located in the same business. At the fall term (1805,) of the Court of Common Pleas, Mr. Barker and John Crow were licensed to run ferries across Buffalo creek, the former at the mouth of the stream, and the latter at what was known as Pratt's ferry. Mr. Barker's dwelling was on the corner of the Terrace and Main street. Judge Barker married Margaret Sydnor, May 10, 1814, reared a large family of children, (among whom was Jacob A. Barker, who became one of the leading business men of Buffalo,) was county clerk for some years, and was prominently connected with the commerce of the lakes. He died June 2, 1859. A grand-daughter of Judge Barker became the wife of the late O. G. Steele.

In the year 1806, Joseph Landon bought John Crow's tavern, refitted and made a more commodious hotel of it, thus founding the Mansion House. Landon's tavern acquired a high reputation for its general hospitality and good cheer. In July, 1807, Mr. Landon purchased outer lot 81. He married first Mrs. Marvin, the mother of Ebenezer Walden, mentioned hereafter; afterwards he married Mrs. West, widow of Dr. West, who was for a long time stationed at Fort Niagara. Mr. Landon finally removed to Lockport.

In September, 1806, Ebenezer Walden brought the following letter of introduction to Erastus Granger:—

"Batavia, Sept. 23, 1806.

"Dear Sir—Permit me to recommend to your particular attention the bearer of this—a young gentleman with whom I have long been acquainted—a correct scholar, liberally educated, an attorney in the Supreme Court, and a gentleman who will be quite an accession to your society
at Buffalo Creek. He is a stranger in your country; any attentions paid to him will be a favor done to your friend and humble servant,

D. B. BROWN.

"ERASTUS GRANGER, ESQ., Buffalo."

The bearer of this letter was the first lawyer in Erie county. Mr. Walden immediately entered upon the practice of his profession in the little village, in a small office on Willink avenue, (Main street), between Seneca and Crow (Exchange) streets. In 1810, Mr. Walden purchased inner lots 12 and 13 and afterwards other lots. He married in the year 1812, and was appointed "First Judge" of the Common Pleas in 1823; he was mayor of the city one term (1838) and died in 1857.*

David Mather established the third blacksmith shop in the village in 1806. Mr. Mather gives the following description of Buffalo as it appeared to him in that year:—

"I settled in Buffalo in 1806. There were then sixteen dwelling houses, principally frame ones; eight of them were scattered along on Main street, three of them were on the Terrace, three of them on Seneca street, and two of them on Cayuga street. There were two stores—one the 'Contractors' on the corner of Main and Seneca streets, kept by Vincent Grant, on the east side of Main street. The other was the store of Samuel Pratt, adjoining Crow's tavern. Mr. LeCouteulx kept a drug store in part of his house on (the north side of) Crow street. David Reese's Indian blacksmith shop was on Seneca street, and William Robbins had a blacksmith shop on Main street. John Crow kept a tavern where the Mansion House now stands, and Judge Barker kept one on the site of the market. I remember very well the arrival of the first mail that ever reached Buffalo. It was brought on horseback by Ezra Metcalf. He came to my blacksmith shop to get his horse shod. He told me he could carry the contents of his (mail) bag in his two hands."

Elijah Leech, took up his residence in Buffalo in 1806. He was employed for a time in the store of Captain Pratt, whose daughter he married. Afterwards he joined his brother-in-law, Samuel Pratt, Jr., in mercantile business. He purchased inner lot 46 in 1807, and afterwards outer lots 47, 48, 49 and 50. He built a house on the south side of Buffalo creek and lived there many years. Mr. Leech held several town and county offices and was one of the founders of the Washington street Baptist Church. He finally removed to Clarence Hollow and died there.

Among those who settled in 1806 within the present city limits (then far outside of the village boundaries,) we find the names of Major Noble,

* Judge Walden was greatly respected and honored through a long and active life. Perhaps it is not too much to say that no man stood higher in the public estimation, during the whole period of his residence in the city of Buffalo. * * * He has left a record that should satisfy the ambition of any man—that of a gentleman of learning and intelligence, a man of perfect honor and integrity, a true friend fulfilling all the relations of life with fidelity, ever exerting a conservative influence in favor of law, religion and morality. —Ketchum's Buffalo and the Senecas.
BUFFALO MADE THE COUNTY SEAT.

James Stewart, Gideon Moshier, Loren and Velorous Hodge and Henry Ketchum. Doubtless there were others.

Amos Callender arrived at Buffalo in 1807 or '08, and afterwards became prominent in church and school affairs, laboring earnestly for the improvement of the morals of the new settlement. He kept books for different merchants for a time and taught school winters, some of the time in his own chambers. He subsequently became deputy postmaster and was appointed surrogate of the county in 1813. He died in 1859. *

The selection of "Buffalo, or New Amsterdam," as the county seat, in March, 1808, provided the Holland Land Company would erect a suitable court-house and jail and give a half-acre of land on which the buildings should stand, gave an impetus to immigration. The Company agreed to the proposition embodied in the act, and began the erection of a frame court-house on Washington street, directly in front of what is now known as the old court-house, which has been occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association. The building was finished in 1816.† A stone jail was built a little south of the court-house, on inner lots 184, 185. This structure withstood the effects of the flames when the village was burned, and after the war was repaired and used again as the county jail. It was originally surrounded on three sides by a stockade of logs set on end and sharpened at the top. This jail was demolished about 1834. The character of the work on these two buildings may be inferred from the fact that it was only a year from the time when they were accepted by the authorities, when the Board of Supervisors voted to raise $500 by tax, for the purpose of repairing them.‡

The year 1808 was a favorable one to the growth of Buffalo, and more lots were sold than in any previous year. Following is a list of the sales with the names of their purchasers:—

Jabez Goodell, outer lots 136 and 145; Elisha Ensign, inner lot 60 and farm lot 19; Joseph Wells, inner lot 62; Asa Fox, inner lot 61; Gilman Folsom, inner lot 72; David Mather, outer lot 123; William Hull

* Deacon Callender was thrice married and had six daughters. * * * It may be truly said that Deacon Callender led an active and useful life. Few men have the opportunity of doing so much good by active labor, by precept and by example. His memory will be cherished with esteem and gratitude. * * * —Ketchum's Buffalo and the Senecas.

† An act to divide the county of Genesee into several counties and for other purposes, passed March 11, 1808:—

SECTION III. And be it farther enacted, That the court-house and jail, in and for the said county of Niagara, be erected in the village of Buffalo or New Amsterdam, in the said county: provided the Holland Land Company, their agent or agents shall, within three years from the passage of this act, and at their sole expense, erect in the said village a sufficient and suitable building or buildings for a court-house and gaol for the said county, and shall legally convey not less than half an acre of land whereon the same shall be erected, together with the said building or buildings, for the use of said county.

‡ Mrs. Charlotte S. Stevens, now of Williamsville, says that her father, Oziel Smith, came to Buffalo in 1807. He was a carpenter, and worked on the first court-house and jail. He bought the lots on which the Tiff House now stands, but removed to Williamsville just before Buffalo was burned; he died in 1836.
and others, inner lot 8; Rowland Cotton, farm lot 75. Of these settlers, nearly or quite all located in or near Buffalo, and participated more or less in its growth. Gilman Folsom was the first regular butcher in the village. Jabez Goodell became a large purchaser of Buffalo real estate, and kept a tavern at a very early date on the corner of Main and Goodell streets. He was conspicuous in the First Presbyterian church society at an early period in its history, and when he died, left the larger portion of his valuable estate to different societies connected with that denomination. He died September 27, 1851, aged seventy-five years.

Henry Ketchum and his brother Zebulon were early settlers in Buffalo; the former purchased outer lot 17 and farm lot 70, in the year 1807, and built his dwelling on the corner of Main and Chippewa streets. When this was swept away in 1813, he fled with his family and never returned here to reside. Zebulon Ketchum spent his life in Buffalo, and descendants of his now reside here. Both of these men were brothers of Jesse Ketchum, once very prominent in educational matters. He came to Buffalo in 1837-38 and remained until his death.

Dr. Ebenezer Johnson arrived in Buffalo in the latter half of 1809, bearing the following letter of introduction:

"CHERRY VALLEY, 31st August, 1809.

"ERASTUS GRANGER, ESQ.,

"Dear Sir :—The bearer of this letter (Doctor Johnson) is in pursuit of a place in order to settle himself in his professional business. I have directed him to call on you as the most suitable person to advise him of the propriety or impropriety of his settling in Buffalo. Doctor Johnson hath been a student with Judge White before and ever since my partnership with the Judge, and it is but doing my duty to Dr. Johnson to state that he is a young man of unblemished morals, well read in his profession, and justly entitled to the patronage of the public.

"I remain, with respect and esteem,

"Your much obliged friend,

"HEZEKIAH L. GRANGER."

Although Dr. Johnson practiced his profession until after the war, in which he acted as surgeon, he afterwards became one of the foremost business men of the village. He was associated in business for several years with Judge Samuel Wilkeson, and subsequently became a banker and broker. Dr. Johnson was the first Mayor of Buffalo after its charter was received, and held the office two terms. In the financial revulsion of 1835-'36 Dr. Johnson suffered heavily, almost his entire fortune being swept away, and he found himself compelled to seek a field of labor in another State, where he engaged in working some iron mines which had come into his possession. He died a few years after leaving Buffalo.

Dr. Johnson built for himself a stone mansion on Delaware street, which is now used as a residence connected with the Female academy. Mrs. Rev. Dr. Lord is a daughter of Dr. Johnson.
The name of Lovejoy is a historic one in connection with the early days of Buffalo. Joshua Lovejoy came to Buffalo as early, probably, as 1807 or 1808, from Avon, where he had kept a hotel. His wife was brutally murdered at the burning of Buffalo; the details of this deed will appear hereafter. Mr. Lovejoy died in New York in 1824, aged 53 years.

In the year 1807 Mr. Le Couteulx obtained permission from Mr. Ellicott to cut away the timber on "the point" directly opposite the foot of Main street, on a tract as wide as the street, through which a view could be obtained of the lake from Mr. Le Couteulx' house on the corner of Main and Exchange streets. Previous to that time no view of the lake was presented from the village, except towards Fort Erie and Point Abino, through the opening in the forest at the mouth of Buffalo Creek.

Benjamin Caryl came to Buffalo in 1808. He lived at Williamsville when Buffalo was burned, but later in life returned to Buffalo and remained until his death. One of his daughters married Gen. Lucius Storrss; another married Royal Colton, and afterwards Dr. Warner; another married J. H. Coleman, and still another married R. W. Haskins; all of whom at one time resided in Buffalo.

Isaac Davis was one of the early merchants of Buffalo. His store and dwelling were located on the west side of Main, just below Seneca street. Mr. Davis suffered heavy pecuniary loss in the stringent times succeeding the war and died by his own hand in 1818, at Canandaigua.

Juba Storrss, who was one of the most prominent early merchants, came to Buffalo from Mansfield in 1808, with the intention of engaging in the practice of law, for which he had studied. The following extracts from letters written by Mr. Storrss to his father, not long after arriving at Buffalo, are interesting, as descriptive of the place at that period:

BUFFALO CREEK. July 15, 1808.

"My Dear Parent—You will perceive from the date of this that I am farther from home than I contemplated when I left Mansfield. It is a good day's ride from Ontario, where I thought of making a stand; but the information which I received at Geneva and Canandaigua induced me to pursue my route to this place. You will find it on the map by the name of New Amsterdam. It is a considerable village, at the mouth of Buffalo creek, where it empties into Lake Erie, and is a port of entry for Lake Ontario, (Erie) the St. Lawrence river and all the western lakes, and will eventually be the Utica and more than the Utica of this western country."

In a later letter Mr. Storrss wrote:

"My partner (who was Benjamin Caryl) nor myself have been able to obtain from Elllicott a well situated village lot. Caryl contracted for a lot, with a house sufficient for a store, for five hundred dollars—then the best we could get, for which I suppose we could get six hundred, if we did not think the rise would be something handsome within a short time."

It was as early as 1809 or '10 that Mr. Storrss was associated with Benjamin Caryl and Samuel Pratt, Jr., in mercantile business. The
firm erected a brick store on the northeast corner of Washington and Exchange streets, in 1810. This was, without doubt, the first brick structure built in Buffalo. While engaged in business, Mr. Pratt was appointed sheriff and Mr. Storrs, County Clerk. Mr. Pratt afterwards retired from the firm and Lucius Storrs, brother of Juba, took his place. In 1812 the firm leased mill property at the Eleven Mile Creek (now Williamsville.) After Buffalo was burned the mercantile branch of their business was removed to Canandaigua.

What is now Niagara street was cut through the forest in 1809, but no road was made or traveled there until after the war. Travel then followed the "Gulf" road (Delaware) and Bouck street, and the Guide-Board road and beach. Henry Lovejoy wrote of the site and surroundings of Buffalo in those days, as follows:—

"Save a few houses on Main street, four or five on the lower end of Washington street, and seven or eight on the lower end of Pearl street, one unbroken and primeval forest cast its shadows over and around the whole extent, relieved only by a little ray of light where the entrance to Buffalo creek revealed to the eye a glimpse of the broad expanse of Erie's waters. The lake shore above and below the mouth of the creek was one continuous arbor of trees covered with the native grape vine and so thickly were they matted together that it was no difficult task to pass from one to another on their tangled surface. This natural arbor continued down the beach some distance below the mouth of the creek, when one came to what were called the Sand Hills; they rose abruptly from the back part of the beach, some of them to a height of forty or fifty feet, and were covered on the back with full-sized forest trees to the summit; in front they were nearly barren. Between the Sand Hills and the Terrace was a dense forest, except a narrow strip called the Cranberry marsh. The Sand Hills continued down to near Fort Porter.

The records of the Holland Land Company show the following purchases of lots in Buffalo in 1810: Wm. Best, Asahel Adkins, Asa Coltrin, Eli Hart, John Mullett, Gamaliel St. John and Nathan Toles. Asa Coltrin was a physician and for a time associated with Dr. Cyrenius Chapin in business. John Mullett was a tailor and a partner of James Sweeney. Their place of business was on inner lot number 10, on Main street. The firm that afterwards did a merchant tailoring business there for years was Sweeney & Efler.

Gamaliel St. John bore a name that must forever be conspicuous in the early history of Buffalo. He purchased inner lot 53 on the 24th of January, 1810. On that lot he built the house that escaped the conflagration on the 30th of December, 1813, through the heroic courage of Mrs. St. John. Gamaliel St. John was drowned early in June, 1813, while crossing the ferry in a scow; the boat drifted in the strong current against the hawser of a vessel and capsized. The following brief account of the accident was printed in the Buffalo Gazette of June 8, 1813:—
“On Sunday last a boat upset by running afloul of the United States vessel, Caledonia, anchored in the Niagara river at Black Rock. There were nine men in the boat; one got on board the Caledonia, three saved themselves by swimming; and the remaining five were drowned, viz.: Gamaliel St. John, (inn-keeper of this village,) Elijah St. John, (son of the above,) Adam Rhoades, of Swift's United States Volunteers, and two regular soldiers.”

Mrs. St. John was a woman of unusual strength of character, energy and fearlessness, and the account of her successful efforts to save her dwelling from the torch of the enemy, is as deeply interesting as the most thrilling incident of fiction, and stands out as an act of womanly heroism that has become historic; particulars of this event appear in subsequent pages. One of the daughters of Mrs. St. John married Judge Samuel Wilkeson, and another (Aurelia), married Asaph S. Bemis, October 3, 1812. Mr. Bemis died December 13, 1823. His widow who escaped with her husband and younger sisters just before the burning of Buffalo, still lives in the city, having attained the great age of ninety years, on the 25th of January, 1883.

Ralph M. Pomeroy about this time (1810), erected his afterwards celebrated hotel on the northeast corner of Main and Seneca streets, where Brown's Buildings now stand. He purchased the lot (inner lot 7) of Samuel Tupper, and opened the hotel in 1811.

Raphael Cook came to Buffalo as early as 1810, rented a building and established a public house on Main street opposite Pomeroy's. “Cook's Tavern” became a celebrated hostelry. Mr. Cook returned to Buffalo after the war and opened a tavern on the site of the Tift House, in a building known long after as the “Old Phoenix Hotel.” He died April 15, 1821, aged sixty-five years.

Dr. Daniel Chapin appears to have reached Buffalo at about this period. He afterwards became an energetic rival of Dr. Cyrenius Chapin; their controversies form an interesting topic in the early history of the medical profession.

Eli Hart purchased inner lot 41, corner of Main and Erie streets and built a store on it where he, in connection with his brother-in-law, and later with a Mr. Cunningham, carried on the mercantile business for many years.

Oliver Forward, who was a brother-in-law of Erastus Granger, came to Buffalo probably in 1809, from Ohio. In 1811 he occupied a small one-story wood dwelling on Pearl street in rear of what is now number 102; in an addition made to the building he acted as deputy postmaster and collector of customs for Judge Granger. In 1814, after the destruction of his first residence, Mr. Forward built a double two story brick building (on the site of his former home) which was then considered the finest residence in the village. In the northern half of it the postoffice and collector's office were established. Mr. Forward succeeded Judge Granger
as collector, and was afterwards appointed an Associate Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Judge Forward was in all respects one of the foremost men of his time and was instrumental in forwarding all important projects looking to the advancement of the village. He died in April, 1832. He has been described as of medium stature, but portly; of grave and dignified presence; one whose imposing appearance would have been marked in any assembly of men.

On the 10th of February, 1810, a law was passed creating the town of Buffalo, which embraced within its boundaries the present city. That was the first instance of the legal application of the name "Buffalo" to a tract of territory with definite boundaries. Buffalo was formed from Clarence, and then included Tonawanda, Grand Island, Amherst, Cheektowaga and a part of West Seneca. Amherst, including Cheektowaga, was taken off in 1818, and Tonawanda in 1836. Buffalo City remained a part of the town until 1840.

Dr. Josiah Trowbridge, a pioneer physician, the events of whose long life in Buffalo stamped him as an eminent man, came to the village in 1811, when he was twenty-six years old. During the succeeding fifty years he occupied a distinguished position, both as a physician and as a citizen. He was mayor of the city in 1837 and filled other positions of trust. Dr. Trowbridge died September 22, 1862. Further reference to his life will be found in a subsequent chapter devoted to the medical profession.

There were two arrivals in Buffalo in the year 1811 that were destined to exert a broad influence upon the near future of the place, especially in a business and commercial sense. These were Charles Townsend (afterwards Judge Townsend) and George Coit, both of whom came from Norwich, Conn., where they had been fellow clerks in a drug store. They came to Buffalo possessed of considerable means, and soon established themselves in the drug business on Main street, which they continued until 1818, when they sold to Dr. John E. Marshall, father of Hon. O. H. Marshall. They then engaged in the storage and forwarding business, at the foot of Commercial street, where they erected large buildings for that purpose.* The firm subsequently joined with Sheldon Thompson & Co., who removed to Buffalo from Black Rock after the completion of the Erie canal, and an immense business was built up by the consolidated firms, under the name of the Troy and Erie Line, with connections east and west. The firm dissolved in 1844. Mr. Coit lived many years on the corner of Pearl and Swan streets. In the early development of lake and canal commerce, the construction of the harbor and other matters of importance to the growing village, the firm of Townsend & Coit were instrumental. In a paper prepared in the later

*See biographic sketches of Mr. Townsend, Mr. Coit and O. H. Marshall, in subsequent pages.
years of his life, Judge Townsend gave the following vivid description of Buffalo early in 1811:

"In 1811, Buffalo contained less than one hundred dwellings, and a population of some four or five hundred. The only public buildings were the old stone jail on Washington street, and an unfinished wooden court house. A small wooden building put up for a school house, served also for a town hall, a church for all religious denominations and, indeed, for all public purposes. Three taverns were kept, one by Mr. Landon, occupying a part of the site of the Mansion House, another of more moderate pretensions, at the corner of Main and Seneca streets, and a third near the corner of Main and Court streets. The only merchants were Juba Storrs & Co., Grosvenor & Heacock, Eli Hart and Isaac Davis, the first being located on the corner of Washington and Exchange streets, and the others on Main between South Division and Exchange streets. A mail from Albany brought once or twice a week, in a woodsprig lumber wagon, was opened by Oliver Forward, a justice of the peace. Judge Granger held the office of postmaster and also that of collector of the port; the latter an office rather of honor than of business profit. The commerce of the lakes was small. I think there were only four or five small vessels on our side, and two or three merchantmen, besides two British armed vessels on the other. There was no harbor here. The mouth of Buffalo creek was usually so much obstructed by a sand bar, that small vessels could but rarely enter, and even canoes were sometimes shut out, and footmen walked dry-shod across the mouth. Vessels were loaded and unloaded at a wharf near Bird Island, at Black Rock."

Abel M. Grosvenor purchased the article for inner lot 38, which had been taken up by David Mather, in 1806. Mr. Grosvenor came to Buffalo in 1811; with him was Mr. Reuben B. Heacock, and they opened a store on Main street, nearly opposite Mr. Grosvenor's purchase, under the firm name of Grosvenor & Heacock. Each of these men married the sister of the other. Mr. Grosvenor went East about the last of 1812 and died soon after. Mr. Heacock continued in business in Buffalo for many years and was a man of influence and high character; he was once elected to the Legislature. He was foremost in organizing the Hydraulic Company that afterwards utilized the waters of Buffalo creek for milling purposes, and stood in the front rank of the active business men of Buffalo for nearly a quarter of a century. He died in 1853. Well known descendants of Mr. Heacock now reside in Buffalo.

Joseph Stocking and Joseph Bull established the first hat manufactory and fur business in Buffalo, in 1811. They bought inner lot 11, corner of Main and Seneca streets, and built a manufactory in the rear on Washington street; this factory was but just finished when the war broke out. After their factory was burned, they removed that part of their business to Canandaigua, supplying their store from there.

Heman B. Potter arrived in Buffalo at this time from Columbia county, and began a distinguished legal career that continued for nearly half a century. He was afterwards well-known as General Potter, and died October 7, 1854.
The active life-work of many of the men whose names have been given, and others who, with their immediate descendants, were prominently instrumental in the early settlement and growth of Buffalo, both before and after the war of 1812, will be often referred to in future chapters upon the different interests and institutions of the place and in biographic sketches.

It was at about this period (1811) that Deacon Callender, in connection with General Elijah Holt, organized a society for the suppression of vice and immorality, of which the latter was president and the former was secretary. The society published the following resolutions in the Gazette:

**Resolution of the Moral Society of Buffalo.**

"Resolved, That after the 23d of November, inst., the laws of the State prohibiting violations of the Sabbath, shall be strictly enforced against all persons who, on that day, shall drive into the village loaded teams, or who shall unload goods, wares and merchandise, or who shall vend goods or keep open stores or shops for the purpose of trading or laboring, or who shall engage in hunting, fishing, etc., etc.; also against all parties of pleasure, riding or walking to Black Rock or elsewhere.

"Resolved, That the above resolution be published two weeks in the Gazette, published in this village, that strangers as well as villagers may be informed of the same, and govern themselves accordingly.

"By order of the Society,

"A. Callender, Secretary."

Those resolutions proposed what was undoubtedly the most radical reform movement ever inaugurated in Buffalo! It may be entertaining to meditate upon what the good Deacon and his co-laborers meant to cover by those two comprehensive "et ceteras." It is related of Deacon Callender that when he once saw one of his neighbors carting hay to his barn publicly on the Sabbath, he went to the offender and remonstrated with him; when the Sabbath-breaker insisted upon going on with the work, the Deacon told him he would certainly see that the law was enforced against him. If this incident is a fact, it is not unlikely that the Society really effected an improvement in the morals of the village.

Although a church society was formed in Buffalo in the latter part of the year 1809, by the union of the few Congregationalists and Presbyterians there, under direction of the Rev. Thaddeus Osgood, little appears to have been accomplished in that direction. Down to the time of the war, religious services in the village were irregular, depending chiefly upon the missionaries in the vicinity. It was, possibly, for this reason that Buffalo acquired a reputation for immorality that was, to say the least, unenviable, although it may have been exaggerated. The early files of the Gazette show frequent complaints from correspondents upon this topic; these complaints were mainly directed against Sabbath-breaking, "tippling," and kindred breaches of good morals. On the other hand,
EARLY MORALITY OF BUFFALO.

the Gazette published a letter in January, 1812, written by a clergyman to "a gentleman in this village," in which he said:—

"From what I had heard I supposed that the people in general were so given to dissipation and vice that the preachers of christianity would find few or no ears to hear; but most agreeably disappointed was I to find my audiences not only respectable in point of numbers, but solemn, devout and which seemed gladly to hear the word."

This paragraph indicates that the village had been misrepresented; but, unfortunately, the "clergyman" did not feel justified in leaving the subject at that point, for he added his regret that there was so "little attention paid by the magistrates in regulating the Sabbath. While the Sabbath is thus neglected, no clergyman of decent character would tarry there but a short time."

Sometime before Nov. 12, 1811, the Washington Benevolent Society was organized, as in the Gazette of that date we find a call for a meeting of the society, signed by Heman B. Potter. Leading citizens were for years conspicuous in the proceedings of this organization.

A traveller named John Melish visited Buffalo on the 27th of October, 1811, and afterwards wrote the following description of what he saw:

"Buffalo is handsomely situated at the east end of Lake Erie, where it commands a beautiful view of the Lake, of Upper Canada, and Fort Erie, and a great distance to the southward, which is terminated by an elevated lofty country. The site of the town extends quite to the lake shore, but is principally built on an eminence of about thirty feet, at a little distance; and to the south along the creek are handsome rich bottom lots, which are at present a little marshy, but will, when drained, be most valuable appendages to this beautiful place. Buffalo was laid out for a town about five years ago, and is regularly disposed in streets and lots. The lots are from sixty to one hundred feet deep, and sell from twenty-five to fifty dollars; and there are out lots of five and ten acres, worth at present from ten to twenty-five dollars per acre. The population was by last census three hundred and sixty-five; it is now computed at five hundred, and is rapidly increasing. The buildings are mostly of wood, painted white; but there is a number of good brick houses, and some few of stone. There are four taverns, eight stores, two schools, and a weekly newspaper has been recently established. The town is as yet too new for the introduction of any manufactures, except those of a domestic kind. The greater part of the people are farmers and mechanics. The settlers are mostly from New England, but the town being on the great thoroughfare to the western country, there is a general mixture. A considerable trade is constantly kept up by the influx and reflux of strangers, and such articles as are necessary for their accommodation are dear. House rent is from two to twenty dollars per week; wood is one dollar per cord; flour is seven dollars per barrel; pork six dollars per cwt; beef four dollars; porter six dollars per dozen. Fish are very plenty and cheap. Boarding is three dollars per week. The situation is quite healthy, and the seasons are much more mild and open than might be expected in this northern latitude. Buffalo creek flows into the lake by
a slow current. It is navigable about four miles, and it is proposed to run a pier into the lake at its outlet, and form a harbor, which would be a most important advantage to this part of the country. Already there is a turnpike road to New York, having the accommodation of a stage three times a week. Upon the whole I think this is likely to become a great settlement."

The writer of the history of Buffalo from the arrival of the first settler down to the latter part of the year 1811, finds himself thwarted at almost every step in his task, by the absence of almost all records other than such as have been made since that date from the memories of old residents; this, as the reader has perceived, necessarily renders the work thus far little more than a personal record of the early settlers, the dates of their arrivals, the lots purchased and similar notes.

When the village was burned in 1812-'13, all records of a public nature (if there were any) and many private papers were destroyed. Fortunately, a file of the Buffalo Gazette, from the second number, has been preserved. This was the first newspaper published in the county. The first number was issued October 3, 1811, by two brothers, Smith H. and Hezekiah A. Salisbury, the former being the editor. Thanks to the foresight of those two men and the no less wise care of those who came after them, we now have access to an almost complete file of the Gazette, now in the possession of the Buffalo Young Men's Association. Access to it and to the files of succeeding journals will mark a change in the results of the historian's labor.

The prominent features of the village of Buffalo at the period under consideration, the state of its business, new arrivals, and especially the character of early journalism in the county, will be better understood, if we refer briefly to the columns of the early numbers of that rough little yellow-hued sheet.

One or two very brief local items of news, at the most, seemed to satisfy the ambition of the editors of the Gazette in those days, and many numbers were issued without a single line referring to local events. This was the general custom among the journals of that day, the editors apparently thinking that local events would become well-known to readers through other mediums than the press.

Mechanical business appears to have been in a flourishing condition in Buffalo in those days, if we may judge by the frequent advertisements for mechanical help. Tallmadge & Mullett called for two or three journeymen tailors; John Tower for a journeyman shoemaker; Daniel Lewis for a "Taylor's" apprentice and a journeyman; Stocking & Bull for three or four journeymen hatters; and Leech & Keep for two or three journeymen blacksmiths, at their shop at Cold Spring, "two miles from the village of Buffalo." The Salisburys kept a bookstore in connection with their printing business, it being the first in the county. Their catalogue of about a hundred and fifty books, contained the names of only eleven novels.
In the Gazette of March 11, 1812, appeared the following ominous statement:

"By a law of Upper Canada, lately passed, the militia of the province are to turn out and drill six days in every month. What does it mean?"

In the same issue the question of approaching war was thus discussed, which was at least a very safe conclusion:

"We are frequently interrogated, 'Shall we have war?' to which we would say, that for these few years past our country has sustained a most bloodless war of words; now it is a furious combat on paper; but whether we are to have war or peace, or remain as we are, time will unfold."

March 10, 1812, the Western Star Lodge of Free Masons, undoubtedly the first lodge of that order in the village, or county, gave notice that they would install the officers of the lodge.

On the 26th of March, the mechanics of the village organized the Mechanical Society, the first association of that nature in the place. Joseph Bull was elected president; Henry M. Campbell and John Mullett, vice-presidents; and Robert Keene. Asa Stanard, David Reese, Daniel Lewis and Samuel Edsall, as a standing committee.

The last named gentleman advertised his tannery and shoe shop in the Gazette as located "on the Black Rock road, near the village of Buffalo." It really stood on what is now the corner of Niagara and Mohawk streets!

The Gazette complained in those days of the insecure condition of the jail, saying, "The great majority of felons committed to jail have deserted, and but few are brought to justice."

In his advertisement of earthenware at Cold Spring, Lyman Parsons showed considerable leniency towards his debtors by requesting all those "indebted to him and whose promises have become due, to make payment or fresh promises!" No one could object to compliance with this modest request.

The usual comprehensiveness of the country store prevailed in those of Buffalo at that time. Nathaniel Sill & Co. sold fish and cider at Black Rock. Peter H. Colt, of the same place, dispensed "whisky, gin, buffalo robes and feathers," while Townsend & Coit, of Buffalo, advertised "linseed oil and new goods."

As a possible indication of the rare honesty of the publishers of the Gazette, it is noted that they advertise for the owner of "a green cotton umbrella left at their office."

In the issue of November 26, 1811, a meeting of the inhabitants of Buffalo was called to take into consideration the propriety of making an early application to the Legislature, soliciting assistance to "effectually amend and improve the Public Road from this village to the village of Batavia." In the same issue, Joseph Webb advertises his brewery at Black Rock—probably the first of the kind in the vicinity.
Townsend & Coit advertised in the Gazette of December 10, 1811, new goods, groceries, medicines, etc., "at the brick store opposite the court house," and M. Daley, located in the drug business "one door south of the printing office."

On the 17th of December, 1811, T. McEuen announced that he had "taken the stand one door north of Mr. Cook's inn," as a shoe maker and dealer in leather.

A meeting was held on the 3d of December, 1811, to take steps towards raising money by a lottery, for the improvement of roads. The call was signed by Archibald S. Clark, Abel M. Grosvenor, Joseph Landon, Frederick Miller, Timothy S. Hopkins and Asa Harris.

Early numbers of the Gazette show that in some instances the people still clung to the name of "New Amsterdam." The "Ecclesiastical Society" was announced to meet "at the school house in the village of New Amsterdam," and Grosvenor & Heacock advertised new goods at their store in New Amsterdam.

Down to the latter part of 1811, the name of Buffalo had been almost universally spelled with a final "e;" but from that time the superfluous letter was gradually dropped. The efforts of the editor of the Gazette undoubtedly hastened this reform, for he not only refused to make use of the objectionable final letter himself, but unsparingly ridiculed its use by others. In the Gazette of Dec. 29, 1811, was printed a satirical report of an alleged lawsuit in the "Court of the People's Bench of Buffalo-e;" in which "Ety Mol O Gist" was plaintiff and General Opinion defendant. Following is an extract from the proceedings of the court:—

"This was an action brought before the court for purloining the fifth letter of the alphabet and clapping it on the end of the name, Buffalo. The plaintiff contended that he had both reason and right on his side and that he could not only prove from high authority that the defendant was guilty not only of a gross dereliction in thus adding the silent, superfluous 'e' to the high sounding Buff-a-lo, but that he had in his filchings, taken one of the official functionaries, one of the most important members of the alphabet, one in fact introduced into all circles, parties, societies and even into electioneering caucuses, and placed him where his usefulness would be entirely abridged; where he must raise his final head in silence; where he would be known only in name. The plaintiff now proceeded after some pertinent remarks to the court, in which he pointed out the enormity of the offense of General Opinion, to call his witnesses. Several dictionaries were brought forth and examined, who testified from Dr. Johnson down to Noah Webster. General Use, who was subpoenaed by both parties, was qualified. He said he did not hesitate to state to the court that he had been in the constant practice of dating his notes, receipts and memoranda with 'Buffalo-e,' but that since the establishment of a public paper he should accommodate his conscience to cut it short and dock off the final 'e.'"

Between the methods of journalism prevailing in Buffalo at the time when the early numbers of the Gazette were issued, and those of to-day,
THE GROWTH OF BLACK ROCK.

53

the change is more marked than in almost any other business or profession. Columns were devoted to foreign intelligence, much of it of minor interest in this country, to the neglect of important domestic and local news. Otherwise the Gazette was ably conducted and for many years was an influential newspaper.

As Black Rock, although at a later date a rival of Buffalo, has since been absorbed by it, some reference to its growth and position before the War of 1812 will be necessary. The fact has already been stated that the State formerly owned what was known as the "mile strip" of land lying along the Niagara river from Lake Erie, commencing near the present foot of Genesee street, to Lake Ontario. This tract was surveyed in 1803-04, being cut into farm lots of about one hundred and sixty acres each. On the south side of Scajaquada creek, four lots were laid out and adjoining on them a lot of one hundred acres, called the "Ferry lot." The triangle formed by a line running from a point where the south line of the ferry lot struck the mile line, to the river, was to be reserved for military purposes, should it become necessary. The remainder of the mile strip extending on a curve to the village of Buffalo, was to be surveyed into a village plat and called Black Rock; this was afterwards generally known as Upper Black Rock. The four farm lots above mentioned were purchased by Porter, Barton & Co., in connection with a few others and surveyed in 1811, into a village plat and to distinguish it from the State village, it was called Lower Black Rock.*

The old ferry at the Black Rock had, it appears, been in use nearly or quite as far back as the Revolutionary war. In his interesting paper read before the Historical Society in 1863, Mr. Charles D. Norton says of the ferry:—

"Here [on the Black Rock side] one Con. O'Neil was the ferryman at a very early day, living by the 'black rock' in a hut which was at once his ferry-house and his home. In the year 1800, there was a tolerable road over the site of the present Fort street, leading to the river margin over a flat or plateau of land about two hundred feet in width. Upon the northern extremity of this plateau there was a black rock, in

* Horatio Jones and Jasper Parrish, both of whom were Indian captives in early life, were appointed Indian interpreters after their release, which followed the treaty of peace between the United States and the Six Nations. During their captivity and the subsequent period of their service as interpreters, these two men gained the friendship of the Indians to such an extent that in 1798, at a council of the Six Nations, held at Genesee river, it was decreed that a present should be made them. This present comprised two square miles of land which was described in a speech made on that occasion by Farmer's Brother, as follows:—

"Two square miles of land lying on the outlet of Lake Erie, beginning at the mouth of a creek known as Sniagrapooodles creek, running one mile from the Niagara river up said creek, thence northerly, as the river runs, two miles, thence westerly one mile to the river, thence up the river, as the river runs, two miles to the place of beginning, so as to contain two square miles."

This speech was intended as a communication to the Legislature of the State, asking its cooperation in making the gift, which request was granted and the title confirmed. The village of Black Rock is situated upon a portion of the Jones and Parrish tract. Horatio Jones died in 1836, aged seventy-five years; Parrish died in the same year, aged sixty-nine.
shape an irregular triangle, projecting into the river; having a breadth of about one hundred feet at the north end, and extending southward and along the river for a distance of three hundred feet, gradually inclining to the southeast until it was lost in the sand. The rock was four or five feet high, and at its southern extremity it was square, so that an eddy was formed there, into which the ferry-boat could be brought, and where it would be beyond the influence of the current. From the rock, teams could be driven into the boat over a connecting lip or bridge. The natural harbor thus formed, was almost perfect and could not have been made by the appliances of art a more complete dock or landing-place for a boat."

A hamlet eventually grew up at and near this point before the war of 1812. It was this locality that Joseph Ellicott referred to in a letter written to Paul Busti in 1802, when he said:—

"There is a situation * * equal to or better than that of New Amsterdam for a town: so that if the State offers the land for sale this summer, before New Amsterdam gets into operation, much of time will be lost to the future prosperity of the place."

Major Frederick Miller* took possession of the Ferry at Black Rock in the year 1806, and retained it until about 1812. The ferry was discontinued at one time during the war of 1812, after the boat had been fired upon by British soldiers, as elsewhere narrated, and the boats were sunk at the mouth of Scajakuda creek, whence they were taken by the British and carried over to Canada. They were afterwards retaken and used by the Americans, and after peace was declared were turned over to Mr. Lester Brace,† who had managed the ferry before the war. At the declaration of peace Mr. Brace opened the tavern at Black Rock and resumed operation of the ferry, continuing there until 1821. In that year Asa Stanard took the ferry, which he managed until the construction of the Erie canal rendered its removal to another point necessary. Asa

---

* Mr. Frederick Miller came to reside at Black Rock at a very early period. His name appears as the first licensed ferryman at Black Rock ferry, when the State first began to exercise jurisdiction over it, in 1805-'06. He kept the ferry and a tavern at the ferry landing until 1810, when he removed to Buffalo. He remained however but a year, when he removed to Cold Spring, where he kept a tavern. During the war, he removed to Williamsville where he remained until his death, which occurred in January, 1836. Mr. Miller served during the war of 1812, in the capacity of Major of artillery; hence his title of "Major" by which he was afterwards known. The Major was an uneducated man, but an energetic and useful officer and much esteemed by the officers of the army. He left a large family of children; Mrs. Gen. H. D. Potter was a daughter, the late Capt. William T. Miller and Capt. Fred S. Miller were his sons.—Ketchum’s History of Buffalo and the Senecas.

† I have said before that Mr. Lester Brace visited the ferry in 1807. It would be unnecessary to say more of him than that he was a son of Orange Brace, one of the hardy and resolute men who came to western New York from New England in 1790. Mr. Lester Brace left Bennington in what is now Wyoming county, with an ox team and wagon, accompanied by some neighbors, to visit the frontier on business; and crossing the Indian reservation, his party were overtaken in the woods by a severe snow storm which drove them under their wagon for shelter and compelled them to remain there all night. Pursuing their journey, they reached Landon’s tavern, now the Mansion House, and turning into Commercial street, they traveled by way of the creek and lake beach down to Major Miller’s tavern at the old ferry.—Chas. D. Norton’s paper read before the Historical Society in 1863.
RIVALRY BETWEEN BUFFALO AND BLACK ROCK.  

Stanard was one of the first boat and shipbuilders at Black Rock, having a yard there before 1812. The ferry was removed to the foot of Ferry street, and in 1826 Donald Fraser* and Lester Brace became its lessees. They placed a horse boat on the ferry, Mr. Brace making the journey to Albany to ascertain what were the merits of the novel invention which the Legislature had required them to adopt; he brought the machinery for the boat. It was nothing more than a wheel upon a nearly horizontal plane, which propelled the boat by means of cogs playing into the main shaft. In 1840 James Haggart leased the ferry and began the use of a steamboat.

"When Mr. Brace first visited the Rock in 1807," says Mr. Norton, "there were no buildings in the vicinity, except the Porter, Barton & Co., warehouse * * at the foot of Breckenridge street; a house which Nathaniel Sill had built on Auburn street, and a log hut on the site of Albany street."

This firm of Porter, Barton & Co., was a powerful one for those times. The head of the firm was Peter B. Porter, then of Canandaigua, afterwards the distinguished commander whose services during the war of 1812, have been narrated in the preceding volume. In 1810, when he was thirty-seven years old, Mr. Porter removed to Black Rock. He had been an attorney at Canandaigua and is described as "unmarried, a handsome, portly gentlemen of the old school, of smooth address, fluent of speech and dignified demeanor." The other members of the firm were Augustus Porter, the older brother of Peter B., Benjamin Barton, Jr., and Joseph Annin. In the year 1807, this firm began the first regular transportation business over the portage around the falls, and up the river to Black Rock. From there their vessels took the freight out upon the great lakes. The firm was connected with Jonathan Walton & Co., of Schenectady, who forwarded freight from the East by way of the Mohawk, Oneida Lake, Oswego and Lake Ontario. Other important business connections east and west were also formed by Porter, Barton & Co., giving them eventually a large traffic. One of the principal commodities handled in those days, by this firm, was salt from Syracuse, which then commanded enormous prices. An old resident informs us that his father once drew a load of thirty or forty bushels of potatoes nearly twenty miles with an ox team, consuming two days in the round trip, only to exchange the entire load for a barrel of salt!

For a year or two previous to 1811, considerable rivalry existed between Black Rock and Buffalo, the forerunner of other protracted

* Major Fraser was a gallant soldier and was aid to General Porter at the siege of Fort Erie during the war of 1812, when his gallantry and soldierly conduct received the most flattering notice in the despatches of the General to the Commander-in-chief. Major Fraser was afterward on the staff of General Brown; subsequently he served at Fort Niagara; and at a later period he acted as secretary to General Porter, while he was engaged as the United States Commissioner in surveying and establishing the northern boundary between the United States and Canada under the treaty of Ghent.
periods of antagonism as to which was entitled to the port of entry. Erastus Granger, as early as 1809, entered a vigorous protest to the government, against locating the port at Black Rock. In that year an odd compromise was made by establishing the port for the district of Buffalo Creek, at Black Rock from April 1st to December 1st of each year. As that period covered almost the entire commercial season, the effect of the order will be readily conceived.

On the 22d of September, 1812, S. Franklin advertised the tavern he then occupied, at Black Rock, to let. It stood nearly opposite the dwelling house of General Porter. Orange Dean announced the opening of a tavern by him, in the building formerly occupied by Nathaniel Sill; he also kept a stock of groceries. Allen Leonard was then a shoemaker there.

Before the breaking out of the war, Porter, Barton & Co. built a large pier just below Bird Island, where all of their vessels loaded and unloaded freight; after the war their docks below the rapids were used. When their vessels were ready for lake voyages and there was not enough wind to sail them up the stream, teams of oxen and horses were utilized to tow them up. This method of navigation became known as the "horn breeze."

At the breaking out of the war considerable additions had been made to the little hamlet of Black Rock; among them were E. D. Efner, who died in 1873, Sylvester Mathews and others.

CHAPTER II.

BUFFALO AND BLACK ROCK IN THE WAR.


THE history of Buffalo and Black Rock during the years 1812-'13, in addition to the minor notes already given, is mainly a record of the war and its stirring events in the vicinity. A full, general history of the campaigns of that conflict, the reader has already found in the first volume of this work. It will, therefore, be sufficient for our present purpose to state that at the close of the campaign of 1813, on the 30th