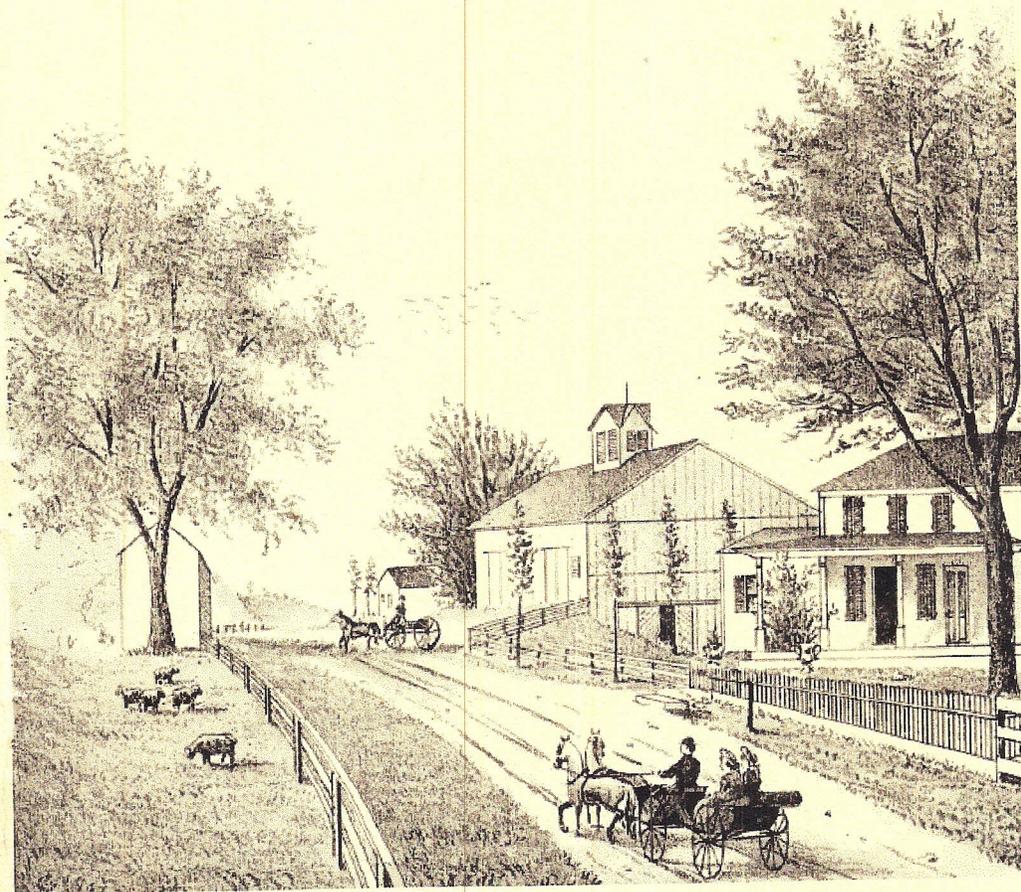


SPRINGWATER



Livingston County
New York

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Extracted from

History of Livingston County New York

By

James H. Smith

1881

SPRINGWATER, the land of hills and valleys, lies in the southeastern part of Livingston county. It is the largest town in the county, being eight and one quarter miles east and west, six and one-half miles north and south, and containing an area of farm lands of 32,579 acres. It was erected by legislative enactment in the spring of 18 16, and was formed from Sparta and Naples, then belonging to Ontario county. It is bounded on the north by Conesus and Canadice, (Ontario county) ; south by Wayland and Cohocton, (Steuben county) ; on the east by Naples, (Ontario county) ; and on the west by Sparta.

The chief streams are the inlet of Hemlock Lake, which flows north through the western part of the town, and Cohocton river, rising in the northeastern part of the town and flowing southerly into Steuben county.

The year 1807, memorable as the year in which the first steamboat sailed on American waters, was the year in which the settlement of Springwater began.

To Seth Knowles is accorded the credit of being the first settler in the town. He was native of Massachusetts, and in 1805 left his home among the New England hills and came to the then distant lands of Western New York, locating in Livonia, on what is now known as the " Gibbs Farm." The first and second season of his arrival there the crops in Livonia, and in the towns north, suffered from severe drought. Mr. Knowles observed that clouds often rested on the hills south of him, and that showers were of frequent occurrence there

while no rain fell in his locality. He therefore resolved to make a prospecting trip in that direction after harvest. Accordingly in the fall of 1806, he and his son, Jared, and Peter Welch took their guns, axes, and necessary provisions on their shoulders, and followed the old Indian trail over Bald Hill, in the town of Canadice, to Springwater Valley. About a mile from the head of Hemlock Lake, they made a small clearing and built a log cabin on lot number 4, now part of the farm owned by John Jennings.

They then returned to Livonia and remained there during the winter. On the last day of March, 1807, Mr. Knowles and his family came up Hemlock lake on the ice and took possession of the cabin. Other settlers soon followed, several families coming in the same year, but it was not until ten years after Mr. Knowles' occupancy that the town was organized.

Its organization took place on the first day of April, 1817. It was suggested that the new town be named Knowlesville in honor of the first settler, but the suggestion did not meet with general approval. John Roberts then proposed the name of Springwater, remarking that he never before had seen a place where springs were so numerous. This name met with instant and general approval, and the vote was unanimous to call the town Springwater. The name was well chosen ; for, in the language of Scripture, the town is a land of brooks of water, and of fountains that spring out of valleys and hills.

Among other early settlers were Eber Watkins, Joshua Herrick, Hosea Grover, Peter Welch and Adam

Miller. In 1813 there were but thirty families in the township. What is now the village of Springwater contained but one dwelling, built by Samuel Story, a frame barn built by Eber Watkins, a small store built by Hosea Grover, in that same year, two or three saw-mills and a frame grist-mill. In 1817 the principal inhabitants were located as follows: John Roberts lived in a log cabin where the hotel now stands.¹ Hugh Wilson, a native of Northumberland, Pa., where A. Wiley lived. He also built the first grist-mill in 1813. It stood at the foot of the hill where the road from Scottsborough enters the valley, and was a two-story frame building containing two runs of stones. Samuel Story erected and occupied the first frame house in the town. It stood between Styler's barns and orchard on the flat. The first saw-mill was also built by Mr. Story on land occupied by the sash factory. Hosea Grover's store was located between Tyler's Grove and the Corners; and near it was the residence of Thomas Grover, Sr. Alva Southworth occupied the farm now owned by Nathan A. Kellogg. He also built the first distillery in the town, distilling about twenty gallons per day from rye and corn. The liquor was sold by him at the still, and was carried away by the purchasers in pails, bottles and jugs.

On the corner where John McCrossin now resides, the late Hon. John Wiley then lived. He had a blacksmith-shop on his premises and worked some at the forge himself, being the first man in the town who did such work. He soon left the shop for the farm, and finally became a minister of the gospel. He served as Member of

¹ Nearly all of these settlers located on, or near, what is now the site of Springwater village.

Assembly in 1859 and 1860. Jonathan Lawrence lived where Addison Marvin now lives. He was among the foremost of the early settlers who sought to establish public worship.

On the next farm north, now owned by Mr. Wheaton, Oliver Jennings made a small clearing and built a log cabin. He also built the first frame barn in the town. Mr. Jennings was the first Supervisor of the town, being elected to that office by a majority of one. Below the property of Oliver Jennings, on the farm now owned by Mr. Bailey, was the residence of John Johnson, and north of that was the clearing and cabin of Seth Knowles. Where Win. Norton now lives Phineas and Reuben Gilbert were located. Up the valley from the corners the first dwelling stood opposite the Presbyterian church, the residence of Salmon Grover.

On West Hill there were only two families located : Joseph Cady, living on the Rodman place, and Joseph Puss on the Totten farm. East of the corners, the first house was that of John Waddams.

The next settler of the hill was Archibald Willis, on the place now occupied by N. Willis. Jacob Cannon then lived one mile east of the valley, near where Levi Breckway now lives.

The first hotel was kept by Oliver Jennings in 1815. The first physician in the town was Doctor David Henry, who lived on the farm now occupied by H. H. Marvin.

John Culver, the first Justice of the Peace, lived on the Colegrove place. At that time the justices were

appointed by the State. John Culver and Joab Gillett were the first so appointed.

The first wool carding and cloth dressing mill was built in 1821 by Edward Walker.

The first piano was brought into the town by Parker H. Pierce, who came from Boston in 1838.

The first sewing machine was used by Mrs. Truxan Dyer, in 1851 or '52. It is claimed that the first mowing machine was used by Henry Tyler only as late as twenty years ago. The first citizen elected to the State Legislature was the Hon. Salmon P. Grover, in 1834.

The history of Springwater exhibits some instances of long continuance in official positions, professions, and occupations which are worthy of notice. Alvah Southworth was elected the second supervisor of the town and was reelected to that office ten years. He had been a member of the State Legislature before coming to Springwater, and in this town he was also Justice of Peace and Assessor for many years. It was through his exertions and influence mainly that the post-office was established about 1818, and he held the office of postmaster which he retained thirty years, being appointed to that position by eight presidents.

For fifty-six years Dr. Arnold Gray rode over the hills and through the valleys of Springwater, ministering to the sick. N. R. Hopkins toiled at his anvil the same number of years. Rev. William Hunter² has presided over the Presbyterian church forty years, and Joel Hudson served the town as Justice of the Peace forty-two consecutive years.

It is believed that in no town in the state can an instance be shown of longer continuance in office.

From reminiscences of Martin Hopkins, who located in the town two years after its organization, and who still lives in Springwater village, we abstract the following :

"May 19, 1819. This day arrived in Springwater. Came from Burlington, Vermont, with father and Stephen Walbridge. Mr. Walbridge returned to Burlington for his family, and arrived with them early in July. Father in a few days left here for Burlington, by way of Canada, to visit a sister living there. I stayed through the summer in Springwater, living with Russell Day. Father returned with the family on the second day of October in that same year. We moved into a house near Doctor David Henry's and old Daniel Day's. We

² To this much respected clergyman we are indebted for the greater portion of the early history of the town. We have not used in their regular succession the notes which he placed at our disposal, but have placed them as the sequence of events dictated, in some instances changing the phraseology. Mr. Hunter's long residence here, and the position which he has held, has enabled him to give quite accurately the events of the early history of the town.

soon afterwards built a house near D. Goff's Mills, and very pleasant warm weather we had in which to work at it.

We moved into it between Christmas and New Year's day 1820. When I first saw this town from the top of Bald Hill ³I little thought that I should pass so many years of my life in this place. It was rather hard work for a while, though, for myself, no harder than I have always had it ; that is, I think I enjoyed life as well as I ever did. In the spring of 1820, we started a blacksmith shop in a small way. I was rather the "proprietor" of it. In those days there was no money to be had for any kind of work, but we could get grain and something to live on. I remember that among our first jobs, we did work for Samuel Wood, of East Hill, to the amount of three dollars, for which he willingly brought us four bushels of as good wheat as ever grew. During that summer my brother Norman and I got a bushel and a quarter of wheat each per day for reaping in harvest time. We worked for Elam Northrop at that rate on the west side of the valley, where the new burying ground now is. At that time Col. Oliver Jennings kept a tavern on the Withington farm. John Wiley also had a blacksmith shop. David Luther was located here as a shoemaker. Alvah Southworth was Supervisor in that year. Among other settlers at that time were Elder John Cole, a Baptist minister. Doctor Elisha C. Day, who moved from Canada in the spring of 1820, and little Luther Farwell, great for making fun and shingles."

³ Bald Hill is on the north boundary of the town in Ontario county.

The early business was mostly lumbering and the manufacturing of shingles. " In the pioneer history of the town there is but little that is noteworthy. It does not appear that the early settlers had any reason to fear the scalping knife of the Indian. None of them had any sanguine encounters with wild beasts, but they suffered what the present generation would call great privation. Many of them were happy if they could procure a little grain in exchange for a few bunches of shingles,—about the only exchangeable commodity of which they were possessed. It is not known that they suffered actual want. but they were often pinched for the necessaries of life. It was a time of rejoicing in many a family when the father came home from Bloomfield, or Richmond, or Jones' Settlement, with but a scant supply of bread-stuff. When more grain was raised in town than was necessary for home consumption it was almost impossible to dispose of it at any price.

A farmer living on East Hill raised excellent wheat which he drew to Rochester and sold for thirty-one cents per bushel. These early settlers enjoyed but little intercourse with the outside world. There was general rejoicing when a mail route was established between Springwater and Geneseo. The first mail carrier was Daniel Peabody, who traveled on foot, carrying the mail in a valise. His weekly arrival was a time of great interest. Nearly every man in the settlement might then have been found at the house of the postmaster. They did not have to wait long for the mail to be distributed, as it consisted generally of about three or four letters and perhaps twice that number of newspapers.

Nearly all of the early settlers have passed away. A few still remain who are feeling the infirmities of age. In a few more years the mournful inquiry will be made in regard to all of them—' The Fathers, where are they?'

Respected be the memories of those hardy sons of toil. Their labors converted the primitive forests into fruitful fields, and made possible the comforts which surround their children to-day.⁴

In 1817 there stood in what is now Jacob Snyder's door yard a log building which was the first school house, and in which the first school in the town was taught by James Blake, in 1813-14. It was in this house that the meeting was held for the organization of the town, in 1817. At the time of the organization every dwelling in the town was a log cabin in the woods, except that of Samuel Story. The meeting was held on Tuesday, April 9, 1817. Solomon Doud presided as the moderator.

The town officers elected were as follows:—

⁴ • From reminiscences of Rev. William Hunter. But few anecdotes of the early settlers have been preserved. One, however, is recorded by Mr. Hunter, which is worth mentioning. "The ladies of those times made use of two articles with which the ladies of our day have not much acquaintance; namely, the spinning-wheel and the side-saddle. Mrs. Zedock Grover sent to her neighbor, Mrs. Gaston, to borrow a spinning wheel. Mrs. Gaston answered, that she did not like to have the wheel go out of the house, but that Mrs. Grover was welcome to come and use it as much as she pleased. This did not suit Mrs. Grover's convenience, and she regarded the refusal as an unneighborly act. Not long after Mrs. Gaston sent to borrow Mrs. Grover's side-saddle. This furnished a good opportunity to pay her back in her own coin. So Mrs. Grover returned answer that she did not like to have the saddle go out of the house, but that Mrs. Gaston was quite welcome to come and ride it as long as she pleased.

Supervisor—Oliver Jennings.
Town Clerk—Hugh Wilson.
Assessors—Jonathan Lawrence, Solomon Doud,
Alexander McCoullouch.
Commissioners of Highways—Samuel Story,
Solomon Doud, Josiah Fuller.
School Commissioners—Samuel Story, Solomon
Doud, John Culver.
Overseers of the Poor—Henry Cole and Samuel
Story.
School Inspectors—Jno. W. Barnes, Ephraim
Calkins, Thomas Grover.
Constable and Collector—Jonathan Lawrence.
Pound Masters—Joab Gillett and Lorin Coleburn.

About the year 1824 an effort was made to form a new county from the towns of Cohocton, Naples, and a part of Springwater. A special town meeting was held at the house of Jacob Cannon, in the town of Springwater, on the first day of January, 1825, for the purpose of opposing this attempt. At that meeting the following resolution was passed :

—
" Resolved, That we deem it improper, impolitic, unjust, and altogether against our interest that any part of this town should be made a part of the new contemplated county."

A resolution was offered at this same meeting requesting that the members of the Legislature procure the passage of a law altering the name of the town from Springwater to that of Yeri. This was the proposition of

Alvah Southworth, but it was voted down, the people concluding it was better to retain the name of Springwater.

The Supervisors and Town Clerks from and including the year in which town was organized, are as follows : —

	Supervisors.	Town Clerks.
1817.	Oliver Jennings,	Hugh Wilson.
1818.	Alvah Southworth,	" "
1819-21.	" "	John W. Barnes.
1822.	" "	Isaac C. Howe.
1823.	" "	Martin Hopkins.
1824-26.	" "	Joel Hudson.
1827.	Zennos Ashley,	" "
1828.	Alvah Southworth,	" "

1829-30.	John Culver,	Martin D. Hopkins.
1831.	Salmon G. Grover,	" "
1832-33.	" "	Thomas C. Grover.
1834-35.	Thos. C. Grover,	Horatio Dyer.
1836.	Andrew Spafford,	Salmon Waterbury.
1837-38.	" "	Thomas C. Grover.
1839.	" "	Rufus G. Clark.
1840.	Horatio Dyer,	" "
1841.	Stephen Robinson,	" "
1842.	" "	" "
1843.	Thomas C. Grover,	" "
1844-45.	Andrew Spafford,	" "
1846.	John Ray,	" "
1847.	Stephen Robinson,	" "
1848-49.	Horatio Dyer,	Salmon G. Grover.
1850.	George C. Marvin,	" "
1851-52.	" "	Wm. A. Robinson.
1853.	H. H. Foskett,	Jerome B. Patterson.
1854.	Stephen Robinson,	N. Byron Hopkins.
1855.	Moses A. Commins,	" "
1856-57.	Arnold Gray,	Salmon G. Grover.
1858-59.	John S. Wiley,	" "
1860.	" "	Marcus O. Austin.
1861.	Orson Walbridge,	" "
1862.	" "	James G. Morris.
1863.	Thos. M. Fowler,	Marcus O. Austin.
1864.	" " "	George A. Pierce.
1865.	Orson Walbridge,	" " "
1866-67.	A. M. Withington,	" " "
1868-69.	Robert H. Wiley,	Edward S. Coats.
1870.	" " "	N. Byron Hopkins.
1871.	Robert H. Wiley,	A. M. Brown.
1872.	" "	Frank S. Grover.

1873-74.	Harvey H. Marvin,	"	"
1875.	E. A. Robinson,	Rufus G. Clark.	
1876.	John S. Wiley,	"	"
1877.	DeWitt C. Snyder,	"	"
1878-80.	"	"	George M. Wells.

The other town officers for 1880 were:—
 Assessors, John Wilhelm, Nelson Willis, Jonathan Howe
 ; Highway Commissioner, N. T. Wibbington; Justices, R.
 H. Wiley, L. R. Hopkins, Orson Walbridge, E. J. Page;
 Poormaster, Charles Lawrence ; Constable and Collector,
 E. C. Grover.

After the town of Springwater was organized in
 1817, and the civil offices filled by election or
 appointment by the Governor, it became necessary to
 organize a militia, and for that purpose the town was
 divided by the road and line of lots running east and west
 from the old Goff mill into two military departments,
 called the north and south departments. It has been the
 custom of the inhabitants for a number of years to hold
 reunions of the survivors of these military companies, the
 last reunion occurring on the 6th of September, 1880.
 Captain Ebenezer Smith, now seventy-three years old,
 commanded the parade, and had prepared a brief history
 of the militia, which, on account of his weakness, was
 read by Mr. R. H. Wiley, as follows :

—

"It must be understood that this little history is
 almost from recollection down to a boy of ten years old.
 There has been no record kept that is available, and all
 the old rolls are lost or destroyed.

"The first company of infantry in the south department— being the one with which I am the most acquainted, and of which I shall have the most to say— was organized and had a parade and drill in 1818. Captain Daniel Herrick was in command of the company, but at what time his commission was dated I am unable to say, or how long he commanded the company. He died March 22, 1821, and as he was in feeble health for a year or more before his death it is presumable that he resigned in 1820. Captain Daniel Herrick was a man of commanding aspect ; his height about five feet eleven inches, and in health would weigh 180 pounds. The next in command of the company was Captain William Roberts. He probably served under his commission three or four years. His successor was Captain Abijah Barnes. He died August 31, 1824. Captain Joab Grover succeeded Barnes, and, I think, had command of the company about three years. Captain Ethan Grover was the next in command, and I think served a full term of four years. Captain George Farnsworth was next; David Parshall, First Lieutenant; and Solomon Grover, Jr., Second Lieutenant. They served a full term, and, without doubt, were honorably discharged. Captain William Grover took command of the company about 1836, and resigned his command in 1839. About 1836, the 260th Regiment was organized and the two companies consolidated, so that the whole town came under one command. My commission is dated April 24, 1839, and the first parade I took charge of was held on the first Monday in September, 1839. Sylvanus Young was First Lieutenant and John Frazer Second Lieutenant under my

command, and Harvey Farley First Sergeant. From that time till I resigned I fulfilled the duties of my office to the best of my ability. I trained the company four years, and never had a word of difficulty with any man in or out of the ranks ; everything at all times was peaceable and orderly. Rufus G. Clark was my successor; Alonzo Snyder, First Lieutenant, and D. C. Snyder, Second Lieutenant. He held the office till the old law was repealed, and by that means he was discharged from the duties of the office."

Mr. Smith then produced his Captain's commission, which Mr. Wiley read. It was made and signed in the handwriting of William H. Seward, then Governor of New York State, at Albany, May 8th. 1839. His resignation and its acceptance was also read, which was dated May 30, 1843.

Captain Ebenezer Smith was born in Freetown, Bristol county, Mass., in the year 1808. He moved to the town of Springwater on the 24th day of March, 1816. Mr. Smith is respected as a man above the average in intelligence, and as an honest and industrious citizen.

The next reunion was appointed for the first Monday in September, 1881.

On the first day of June, 1880, the population of Springwater was

—
White population 2,276

Colored population 1

Number of voters at date 663

Number of actual resident voters 650

The ages of the population range as follows:—

Over 90 and less than 100.....	1
“ 80 “ 90.....	13
“ 70 “ 80.....	63
“ 60 “ 70.....	131
“ 50 “ 60.....	204
“ 40 “ 50.....	254
“ 30 “ 40.....	289
“ 20 “ 30.....	402
“ 10 “ 20.....	440
“ 1 “ 10.....	442
Born within census year.....	38
<hr/>	
Making a total of.....	2,277

Of the oldest of these, Jerusha Foster was ninety years old and upwards, and Joel Hudson was eighty-six. The above number of inhabitants are the members of 552 families, who reside in this town, in 514 dwellings. The town contains 378 farms, 4 churches, 18 school houses, 7 stores, 1 meat market, 8 saw mills, 3 grist-mills, 9 blacksmith shops, 2 wagon shops, 3 cider mills, 2 cheese factories, one manufactory of agricultural implements, three cooper shops, and two evaporating dry-houses for drying hops and fruits. The town has 18 school districts in which school houses are located, and 4 joint districts. In these districts there are 792 children over 5 and under 21 years of age. During the year 1880, school was taught 537 3-5 weeks, employing 19 teachers, and with an average attendance of 357. The number of children of school age attending some portion of the year was 641. The amount paid in wages to teachers was \$2,801.59.

The number of children of school age living out of the town, but attending school in the town was 24. Of this number there was an average attendance of 11. The total value of the district libraries is \$105, and the once valuable libraries of the town are rapidly deteriorating. During the year no expenditures were made for either libraries or school apparatus.

The total amount expended for school houses, sites, fences, repairs, and furniture was \$138.28. Total incidental expenses for the year, \$286.55. The school houses and sites—the latter containing an area of seven acres—have a total valuation of \$7,600. The total valuation of the districts is \$9,915.33. The houses are all frame buildings, a number of them being quite superior to the usual run of common school houses.

For these statistics relating to the schools of Springwater, we are indebted to Mr. Ezra N. Curtice, Commissioner of the Second District of the county,⁵ who has held that position six years, and who has proven to be a most efficient officer. Mr. Curtice has taken a deep interest, not only in the schools within his jurisdiction, but in all matters pertaining to the education of the young. He has introduced into the schools in his charge improvements in the methods of teaching; and besides the originality of his views, and his intelligent perception of educational requirements, is possessed of an additional quality valuable in public instructors—

⁵ Which comprises the towns of Mt. Morris, North Dansville, Nunda, Ossian, Portage, Sparta, Springwater and West Sparta, for which he furnished the statistics relating to Schools.

practical common sense. The residence of Mr. Curtice is in Springwater village.

It would be an instructive lesson to notice carefully the gradual elevation of these schools from the rude log-cabins of 1817, and the succeeding years, with their lack of educational facilities, and the primitive methods of instruction, to the present comfortable buildings with their efficient corps of teachers, and all the facilities for a thorough education which exist to-day.

The schools of those early days were the rudimentary departments in which were drawn the plans for the better system of education prevailing now, and the progress of those schools marked, surely and definitely, the progress of the town. The result of this growth and improvement in educational methods and facilities is seen in the intelligent prosperity of the farming community, in the thoroughness, aptitude, and culture of the mechanics and business men, and in the air of refinement and comfort which pervades all localities thus favored with the facilities for learning.

In the last census of the State, the town contained 22,343 acres of improved lands, 5,814 acres of woodland, and of other land, 4,422 acres. The cash value of these lands was \$1,332,725 ; of farm buildings, aside from dwellings, \$166,525 ; of tools and implements, \$51,042 ; of stock, \$183,688. The amount of gross sales from farms was \$123,414. The area plowed was 8,561 acres. 5,131 acres were mown, producing 6,154 tons of hay; and 6,795 acres were devoted to pasture lands. It is noticeable that for fertilizers but \$1,116 were expended,

which should speak well for the natural richness of the soil.

Webster's Crossing.

Webster's Crossing lies in the northwestern part of the town on the line of the Buffalo, New York and Erie Railroad. At this point there was no settlement of any kind until within the past ten years. The place derives its name from Elisha Webster, who had built there a saw-mill. It consists of one store kept by John Foster, a blacksmith shop, stave factory, E. Webster, proprietor, a barrel factory by Alonzo Webster, a cheese- factory, and twenty or twenty-five houses.

The post-office is kept by Harvey Humphrey.

Springwater.

On the line of the Erie road, and less than two miles west of the center of the town, is situated the beautiful village of Springwater. Nestling in the fertile Springwater Valley, with well cultivated farms crowning the slopes of the hills on either side and adding beauty to the pleasant low lands, and with an air of quiet comfort surrounding it, a more charming rural scene it would be difficult to find.

The valley is five miles long from north to south, and at this point is half a mile wide. In the earlier history of the town this valley was known as Hemlock Valley. It was here, or in the immediate vicinity, that the early

settlers located, and the pioneer history of the village is naturally included in the history of the town. This place in 1880 had a population of 344, and is the chief business center of the town. It consists of several stores, mechanics' shops, one hotel, the post-office, and three churches.

The post-master is George A. Pierce, who was appointed under Grant's administration in 1873. The hotel is a well conducted public house kept by George Smith. The village has also a well printed newspaper, The Springwater Enterprise, established in 1879, in connection with which is a suitably appointed job printing office. The editor and proprietor is H. J. Niles.

Merchants.—Allen & Whitlock, dealers in dry goods, groceries, and clothing, began business here eight years ago, and have a large trade. This firm is also interested in the hardware trade, under the name of Allen, Whitlock & Humphrey, in which they have been engaged one year. This branch of their business was previously conducted for some two years under the firm name of Allen, Whitlock & Miller.

Morris & Grover began business in dry goods, clothing, and general merchandise under this firm name six years ago. The firm was originally Grover & Morris, and then Morris & Withington. James G. Morris has been engaged in business in Springwater twenty-two years.

G. M. Willis, dealer in groceries and provisions, has been in business here five years.

H. H. Densmore, dealer in drugs, books, stationery and jewelry, began business here in March, 1866.

D. H. Grover & Son, dealers in groceries and boots and shoes, have been in business in Springwater since 1858.

Manufactories.—A considerable trade in manufactured goods is established here, consisting of agricultural implements from the manufactory of N. A. Kellogg ; sash, doors and blinds from the mill of S. Tyler ; pails and planed lumber from the factory of Frank Pursel; and Wiard chilled plows, and cultivators from the foundry of H. M. Rogers. Besides these are the carriage factory of H. E. Wilson, who has been engaged in that business here twelve years, and that of J. D. Hendershott, whose business has been established eight years. There is also a paint shop conducted by Hiram Conderman, a meat market by T. S. Wemoth, a barber shop by F. E. DeLang, and a millinery establishment by Mrs. J. D. Hendershott. Residing with Mrs. Hendershott is her mother, the widow of Hon. Salmon G. Grover, the first citizen of this town elected to the Legislature of the State.

In 1822 Mrs. Grover saved the life of Hon. William H. Seward. He had driven into Owasco creek to wash his carriage, and turning his horse's head up instead of down the stream, which was then very high and running with a strong current, he was swept from the carriage and born onward with the water. Mr. Seward, being unable to swim, would have drowned had it not been for the presence of mind of Mrs. Grover, whose attention was called to the scene by a crowd of persons assembled on the banks of the creek, none of whom attempted to save the drowning man. Mrs. Grover ran

out, seized a plank which was standing against a house near by, and running out on a log she extended it toward him as the current was sweeping him past, which he managed to reach and was rescued. As a token of his gratitude for her noble service. Mr. Seward afterward presented Mrs. Grover with a set of silver spoons, now in the possession of her family, bearing on one side of each the name of the brave lady, and on the Other the initials of the afterwards American statesman, "W. H. S."

PHYSICIANS.—The present physicians in the town and village are Dr. T. D. Cannor, who has been in practice here twenty years.

Dr. Irwin Woodin, two years in the town.

Dr. Mrs. Woodin, in practice here two years.

Dr. H. A. Whitfield, in practice three years in the town.

Dr. Boone, a graduate of Buffalo University, who began his medical practice ten years ago, and who has been a resident practitioner in the village four years.

Churches.—If in the early days of the town's history one had been passing over the Canadice hills, he might have met a tall, stout man with a bag of grain on his shoulder. This man was Elder John Cole, the first minister who resided in Springwater. It is said that he often carried grain from Richmond, a distance of twelve miles, over a hilly road. He presided over the Baptist church, which was organized in 1816 or '17, laboring through the week and preaching the gospel on the Sabbath, usually holding two services, and regaling

himself during intermission on a piece of johnnycake which he carried from home.

Elder Cole was a strong man physically, preached strong doctrine, and, according to the custom of those times, did not eschew what was then called a reasonable use of strong drink. The church over which he presided has long since ceased to exist, and there are no records extant whereby we can definitely trace its origin or dissolution. At that time the Methodists had a society, of which Phineas Gilbert, who came to Springwater in 1810, was the first-class leader. The organization of this society was mostly due to the exertions of Jonathan Lawrence, who may justly be called the father of the Methodist Episcopal church of Springwater.

At that early date the society consisted of a half dozen persons. The Methodist circuit then embraced Bloomfield and Springwater, and was supplied by Rev. Elisha House and an assistant.

The first quarterly meeting was held by Rev. Abner Chase in 1820 or '21, in the barn of Jonathan Lawrence, who was then class leader. The present church was dedicated April 3, 1834. The pastor for 1880 was Rev. E. M. Buck. The church has a membership of fifty.

Presbyterian Church.—The Presbyterian church was organized February 10th, 1821. It was at first formed as a Congregational church, and was composed of twelve members, as follows : Alpheus Phelps, Jotham Dyer. Alfred Phelps. Daniel Ward, Nathaniel Adams. Lucinda Ford, Esther Flanders, Mercy Adams, Clarissa Phelps, Nancy Brown, Melinda Gott, Mary Whalen. Previous to

this organization, and while the population was sparse, Rev. Lyman Barrett, pastor of the church of Naples, Ontario county, at times visited the place and preached. Under his ministrations the church was organized, and on the 16th of January, 1827, was received under the care of the Presbytery of Ontario. In 1843 the church consisted of forty-six members, the greatest number ever belonging to it at one time. In 1846 the membership was thirty-six. For about five years after the organization of the church Mr. Barrett occasionally preached, administered the sacrament, and acted as moderator in the sessions. After his departure Rev. James Cahoon performed similar services for three years. Rev. Seymour Thompson was stated supply nearly three years. Rev. Daniel B. Woods was ordained and installed as pastor September 19, 1839, and was dismissed from his pastoral charge August 25, 1841.

He was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Hunter in October of the same year, who was ordained and installed as pastor of the church, September 25, 1844.

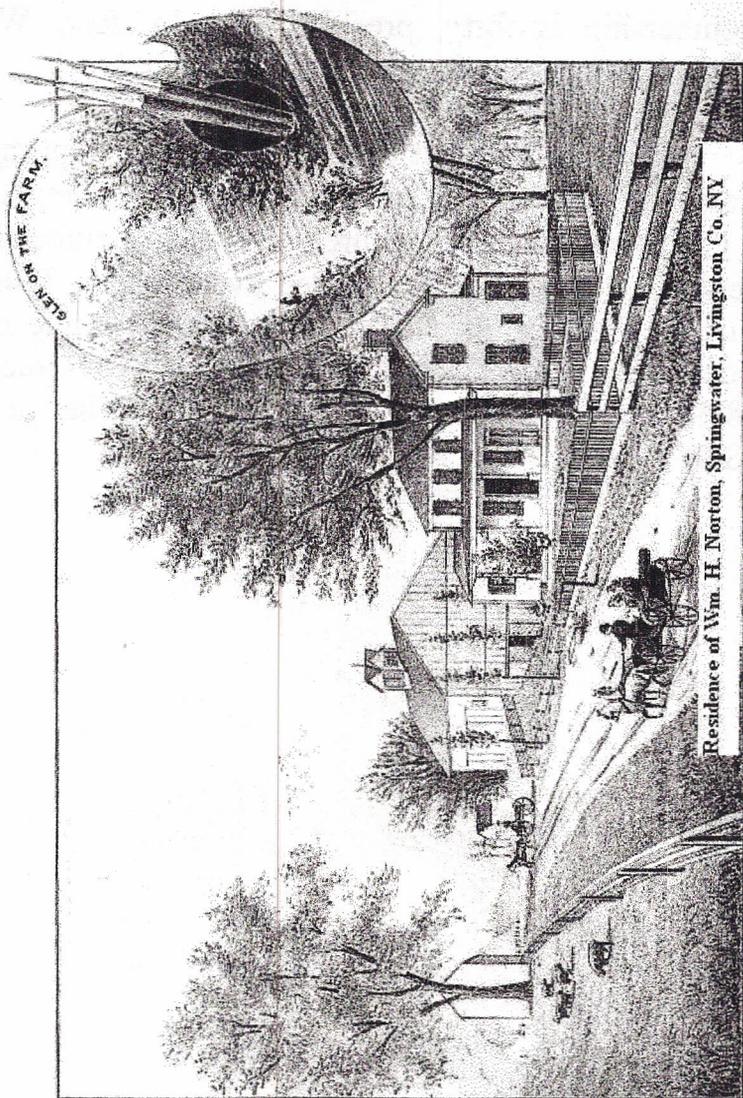
The most distinguished season of revival ever enjoyed by the church was in 1843, as the fruits of which twenty members were added to the church by profession.

The church was dedicated December 31, 1840. In 1872 it was repaired at a cost of \$1,600, and re-dedicated, the dedicatory sermon being delivered by Rev. Dr. Shaw of Rochester, N. Y.

The church edifice is fifty feet in length by thirty-six broad, is conveniently located on the Main street, and has connected with it a pleasant parsonage. The present

membership is forty, presided over by Rev. William Hunter, in the fortieth year of his pastorate.'

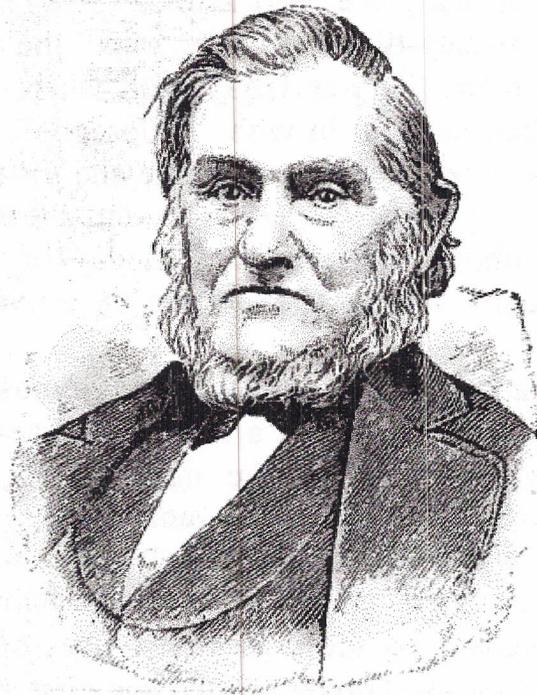
The First Advent Christian Church of Springwater was organized in 1871, in which year the society erected a neat and substantial church. It has a membership of between fifty and sixty presided over by Rev. Warren J. Hobbs. The Christian Church is located a mile or two from the village. The church building was erected in 1839. The society numbers about forty. The pastor in 1880 was Rev. George Hibbard.



Residence of Wm. H. Norton, Springwater, Livingston Co. NY

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

JOHN B. NORTON



John B. Norton

Photo by Betts, Dansville

Among the pioneers of Springwater none have left a more honored memory than he whose name appears at the head of this sketch. Dr. John Boardman Norton was

born April 21st, 1793, at Greenville, Greene county, N. Y. His father resided next at Aurelius, in Cayuga county, and John B. attended the seminary at Auburn some two years. In the war of 1812 he acted a conspicuous part as First Sergeant under Capt. Daniel Eldridge, at Sachem's Head Harbor, on Long Island Sound, in preventing the British stealing our shipping. Afterwards, Major Umstead ordered his company to Buffalo, under General Peter B. Porter, but it arrived too late to take a part in the military proceedings of that place. Fort Erie or Lundy's Lane. At the age of twenty-two he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Clary at Troups ville, where he stayed one year, when he went in with Dr. Joseph T. Pitney at Auburn, where he commenced to ride and visit patients, and after a stay of two years, left the pleasant little village of Auburn, and on the 18th day of February, 1820, started for Springwater, where he arrived on the 20th.

At that time Springwater was almost wholly unknown, consisting only of a few log houses, and the embryotic M. D. was just the man for the position. Young, energetic, willing and anxious to assist in building up, and to be built up by the then active little hamlet where he had cast his lot. He first pitched his tent above the orchard on the present premises of Webster Tyler, where Hosea Grover started the first store ever kept in town. In 1821 John B. associated himself with Harvey S. Tyler, in the mercantile business, but his health being rather delicate, dissolved partnership, or rather sold-out to Tyler, July 25, 1825, and then entered wholly into medicine. In the same month Dr. Arnold

Gray came into town, and in August following they entered into partnership, which lasted one year. On the 8th day of June, 1823, he married Jane C. Marvin, by whom he had eight children. One daughter, Mrs. Lovinia Andrus. Of Livonia Station, and four sons, viz : John and Oscar M., of Allegany county, Asher B., of Ontario county, and Wm. H., now the owner of the farm on which his father died, survived him, all of whom are successful farmers and business men.

S. G. Grover, John B. Norton and others, under the firm name of Grover, Norton & Co., bought of Timothy Ryder the land on which stands the present store of Allen & Whitlock, and built the old part of the said building in 1826. They dissolved soon afterwards, and Norton took thirty-five acres of land where the hotel and other buildings stand as his share of the gains and losses. At different times in life he has filled the offices of Commissioner or Inspector of Schools, Road Commissioner, and others, all of which were never sought for by him, but which were always filled in a satisfactory manner. A few years since he sold out, retired from practice, and purchased the farm on which he died.

In his old age he retained his memory remarkably well, his step was firm and elastic, and as he was a noted Nimrod in his youth, he still clung considerably to some of his boyish proclivities—fishing being a pastime in which he, during the last season of his life, spent many a pleasant day on the bosom of Hemlock Lake. He was a liberal Christian; was a firm friend to the system of popular education, in the belief that general education, by

lessening crime and imparting skill to effort, is an ample return for the burdens of taxation. Abroad he was social; at home, cheerful and pleasant. He contemplated the past in general with satisfaction, and the future he awaited with a tranquil mind. Ever honorable, benevolent and kind, he won and retained the esteem of all, and passed away on the 29th of August, 1878, mourned by a large circle of friends and kindred.

DR. ARNOLD GRAY



Dr. Arnold Gray

Photo by Betts, Dansville

Dr. Arnold Gray was born in Lower Canada, March 20, 1798. He moved with his parents to

Washington county, N. Y., when twelve years old. His mother, a strong-minded Christian woman, took great care in the moral and religious training of her large family. Dr. Gray received his medical education at Fairfield, Herkimer county, where he graduated in 1824, and the same year moved to Springwater.

He worked at home on the farm until he was twenty-two years old, and then prepared himself for teaching school. During a few years of teaching he earned sufficient money to defray the expenses of his medical education. In 1828, he married Frances Ackley, of Granville, Washington county, who died in 1860. He was again married in 1862 to Fanny Armstrong, of I'enn Yan, N. Y. Nature had endowed the Dr. with a remarkable constitution which endured the hardships of a new, rough and hilly country sparsely settled. He loved the practice of medicine, and his marked individuality together with a long practice, gave him a wide-spread notoriety. His aim was conservative, and though taking an active part in political life and serving as Supervisor in the town for several years, he was never an office-seeker.

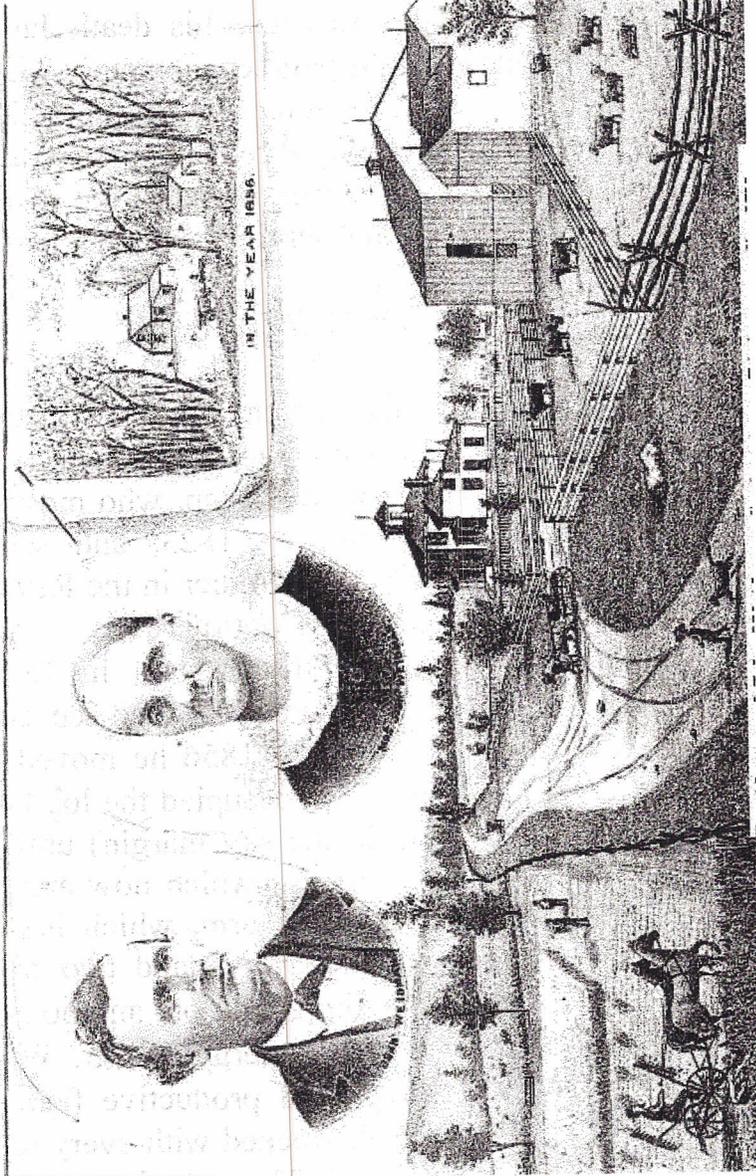
Not readily receiving new ideas, he was more disposed to inquire for the old ways and walk in old paths. With a strong will, positive opinions and likes and dislikes which were lasting, his nature still possessed a great deal of sunshine, and his ready joke and hearty laugh were frequently a benediction to the sick. The Doctor for more than thirty years was a liberal supporter, and for half that time a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. In response to a call of the late Mr. liaiier on December 8, he became so exhausted with the

hardships of the trip as to cause his death January 5, 1879. He was buried in "Evergreen Cemetery." Dr. Gray stood high in his profession, and his practice was extensive not only in Springwater but in several of the adjoining towns. He was a true friend to the poor, often rendering them professional services without charge.

JOHN WEIDMAN

John Weidroan, the sketch of whose place, with portrait of himself and estimable wife, appears in this work, was the son of Jacob Weidman, who moved from Northampton county, Penn., in 1823, and settled in Sparta, and whose father was a soldier in the Revolution, he himself having fought in the war of 1812.

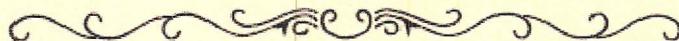
John, the subject of this sketch, in 1849 was married to Mary Ann Hartman. They had ten children, six of whom are now living. In 1856 he moved on the place where he now lives, and occupied the log house (a sketch of which appears in the sky margin) until 1872, when he built the fine residence which now attracts the attention of the passer-by. His farm, which is situated about three miles from Springwater and two from the Erie depot, is now in splendid condition, and no stronger evidence of the industry and energy of Mr. Weidman than a walk over his large and productive fields, with good fences, and barns well stocked with every requisite of a first-class farm, will give. Through close application to his business, he has made for himself a magnificent home out of what was but a few years ago a wilderness.



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