

FULTONVILLE.

The village of Fultonville, situated upon the Mohawk river and the Erie Canal, and separated by the former from the county seat, Fonda, on the line of the New York Central Railroad, was so named in honor of Robert Fulton. Its site was known as Van Epps' Swamp during the Revolution. It is the youngest village in the town, but already, because of the facilities for shipping and receiving goods afforded by the canal and its proximity to Fonda, has far outstripped its older rivals.

The business history of Fultonville begins with the establishment, by John Starin, about 1810, of a store just west of his tavern, on the river bank. The building was burned in 1834. Three years after the opening of Starin's store, the first river bridge at this point was built, its southern end being at the terminus of Washington street. Joseph, a son of John Starin, was treasurer of the bridge company. He, in partnership with Abram Hall, for a number of years kept the store built by John Starin, and then sold out to Thomas Robinson, a son-in-law of the latter. The Starin homestead, at the corner of Washington and River streets, was built by Joseph Starin about the year 1815. John Starin's property south of the river included the part of what is now Fultonville, bounded on the west by Washington street, on the south by Montgomery street, on the east by the property of A. J. Yates, and on the north by the river.

Myndert, son of John Starin, having carried on a large and successful business at Johnstown, and later at Sammonsville, joined, in 1822, with Thomas Robinson in buying a large tract of land, including the site of Fultonville. Here Starin and Robinson laid the foundation of the present village by building a store, a flour-mill, a distillery, a paper-mill, an ashery, a saw-mill, a blacksmith shop and nail factory, an establishment for carding, spinning, weaving and cloth-dressing, etc. A plaster-mill was also put up and streets laid out, and when the canal was completed it found a full-fledged village ready to take advantage of it.

In the autumn of 1825, the year in which the artificial river connecting the great lakes with the Hudson was opened to commerce, Henry P. Voorhees began the mercantile business upon the south bank of the canal, just east of the bridge, in the village of Fultonville. His store was opened in an old farm-house, but in the next year Mr. Voorhees, to meet the prospective demands of business, erected the store and store-house lately occupied by Peter Van Antwerp. He erected a shed for wagons on the corner where the Donaldson Block now stands. This shed was afterward raised and converted into a store, and later still was transformed into a dwelling-house and moved to the northwest corner of the Voorhees place, where it has been occupied by Dr. Sweatman. Soon this country place became a central point of active business, rendered attractive by the advantages of canal navigation. Several new business houses sprung into existence, though some of them endured but for a short time; and while those that survived secured a fair measure of patronage, the Voorhees establishment continued to transact an ever-increasing business. For many years this was a ready market for the agricultural products of all the region lying south, while the lumbermen of the northern forests found here an available depot at which to dispose of their lumber. At this point, also, were received and forwarded to the immense tanneries north, large quantities of hides and leather; it was at this point, too, that large quantities of deer-skins were received and forwarded to Gloversville, where they were manufactured into gloves and mittens, and then returned to this place, whence they were shipped to all parts of the State. Every enterprise for many years prospered, but Henry P. Voorhees was always in the van.

Mr. Voorhees was born near the settlement known as "Log Town," about the year 1794, his father, Peter Voorhees, being a successful merchant doing business in Voorheesville, now known as Glen village. When eleven

years old, and having had but nine months' schooling, "Harry," as he was called, entered his father's store as a clerk. After a few years his father removed to Lysander, N. Y., and Harry went with his uncle, John H. Voorhees, who established a country store in Florida, on the road leading from Mill Point to Minaville, about one mile from Schoharie creek. Young Voorhees remained here, it is supposed, until he established himself in business at Minaville, then known as Yankee Street, about the year 1815. He then kept a tavern and store, and also combined with these two branches the business of a potashery. About this time he married Jane, a daughter of Ruloff Conover, of that neighborhood, by whom he had three daughters. Two of his early clerks were John Stilwell and Garret Post. The duties of the first are said to have required his services as hostler, bartender, potash-boiler and clerk behind the counter, and so well did he perform his several duties, that Mr. Voorhees established him as a partner in a branch of his business-at-Amsterdam.

It is related that at one time, when the project of widening the canal was under discussion in the Legislature, Vrooman Berry, then a member from this district, suggested that such an undertaking was impracticable, as it would involve the destruction of Voorhees' store at Fultonville. In 1827 Mr. Voorhees erected the brick mansion latterly owned and occupied by Charles Donaldson, though it is still known among the residents of the village as the Voorhees mansion. Here Mr. Voorhees lived until the year 1856, when advancing age compelled him to retire from business life, and he then removed to New Castle, Delaware, where he died at an advanced age. His wife and children are also dead.

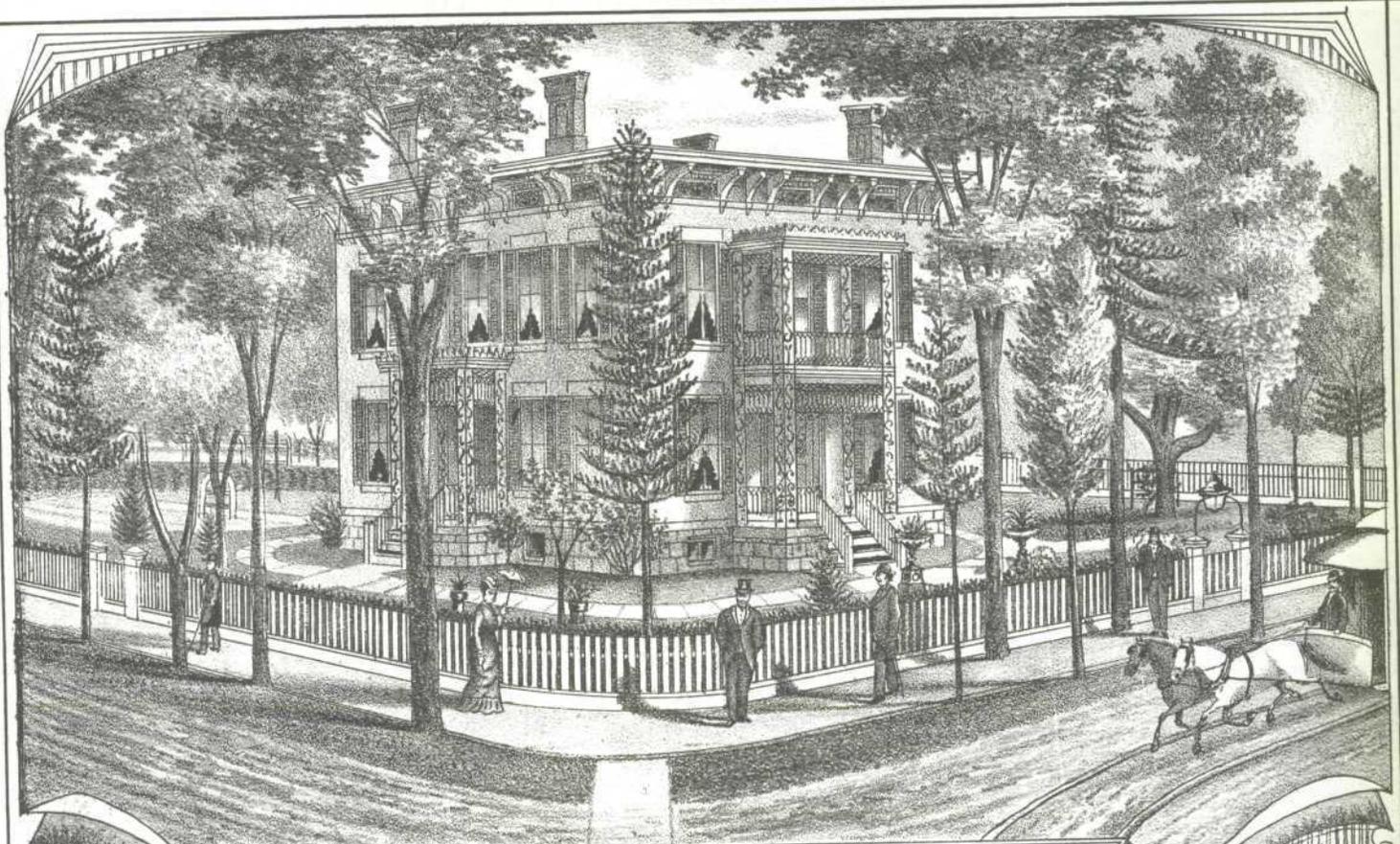
Mr. Voorhees was succeeded in business by Messrs. Mears and MacIntyre, who were followed in turn by A. J. Abel & Co., Abel Brothers, Abel & Morrison, and the present firm of J. H. Morrison & Co.

The Voorhees residence was purchased by William Enders Ecker, and remained in his possession until the year 1873. The old brass knocker which was formerly on the front door, and which bears the date "1827," is now in possession of Mr. Ecker.

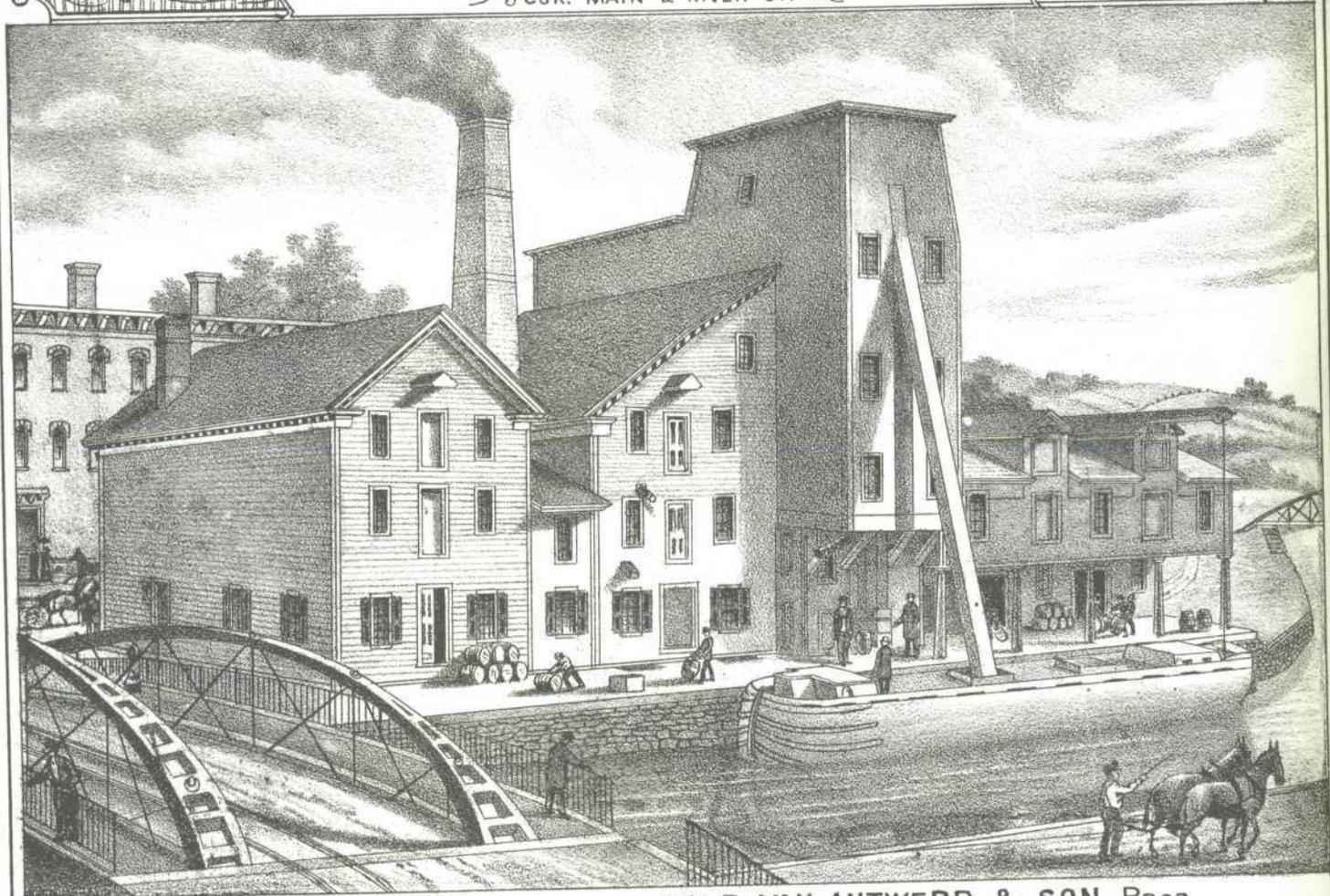
Among others who embarked in business life at Fultonville in its earlier days were Clark & Post, Devoe & Martin, Thomas Robinson, McArthur & McKinley, Plantz & Argersinger, Crumwell & Fink, Frisby & McConkey, Scott Campbell, S. F. Underwood, Shuler & Wilcox, Blood & Conyne, D. D. Starin, J. H. Starin, L. V. Peek & Co., and Chapman & Fonda. Peter Fonda and Henry Starin also kept canal stores at the old lock in the lower part of the village; but these two stores, when the canal was enlarged and the lock removed, were both carried on by Freeman & Farmer.

Among the earlier physicians who practiced in the town was Dr. Alexander Sheldon. He was Speaker of the Assembly for several sessions. Drs. Lathrop, Van Est and William Smith were also among the earlier practitioners. Dr. Thompson Burton came to the village of Fultonville about the year 1846. He was born in Charleston, and practiced several years in that town before coming to Glen. Dr. W. F. Sweatman came to Fultonville, from Schoharie county, in the year 1872, and now has an extensive and increasing practice. Dr. Leonard Proctor followed his profession in the town about 1840. Dr. James Davis, Dr. Richard Davis and Dr. Kelley were also located in the town about the same time. Among others may be mentioned Drs. Parson and Leach.

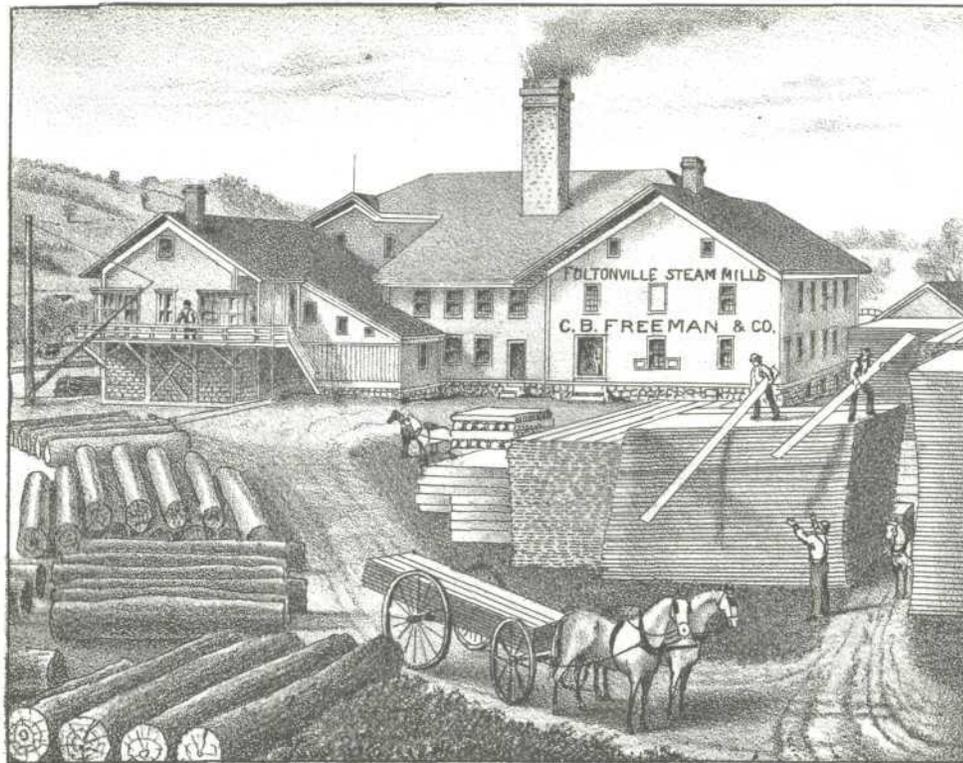
Isaac Hall Tiffany, Esq., was born at Keene, N. H., and died at Fultonville, Feb. 23, 1859, aged 80 years. While quite young he graduated at Dartmouth College, and read law with Aaron Burr in his palmy days. He was long a successful practitioner of law in Schoharie county, and also one of its judges. He was a gentleman of polished manners, social and companionable, who desired to be useful rather than conspicuous. He was



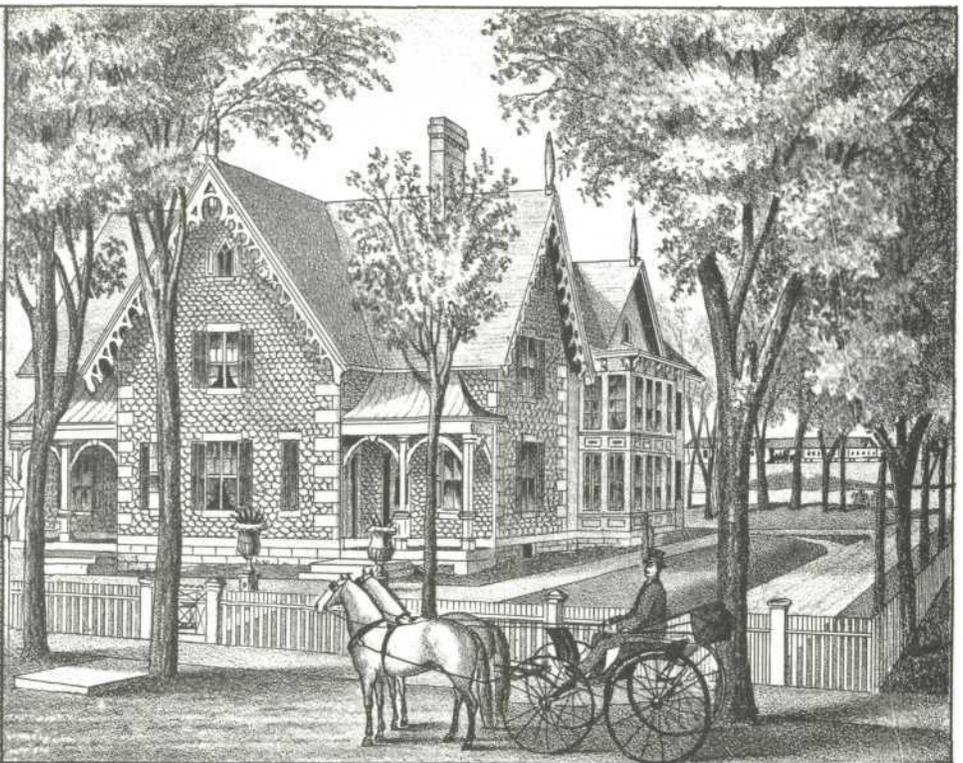
RES. OF P. VAN ANTWERP & SON, FULTONVILLE, N. Y.
COR. MAIN & RIVER ST.



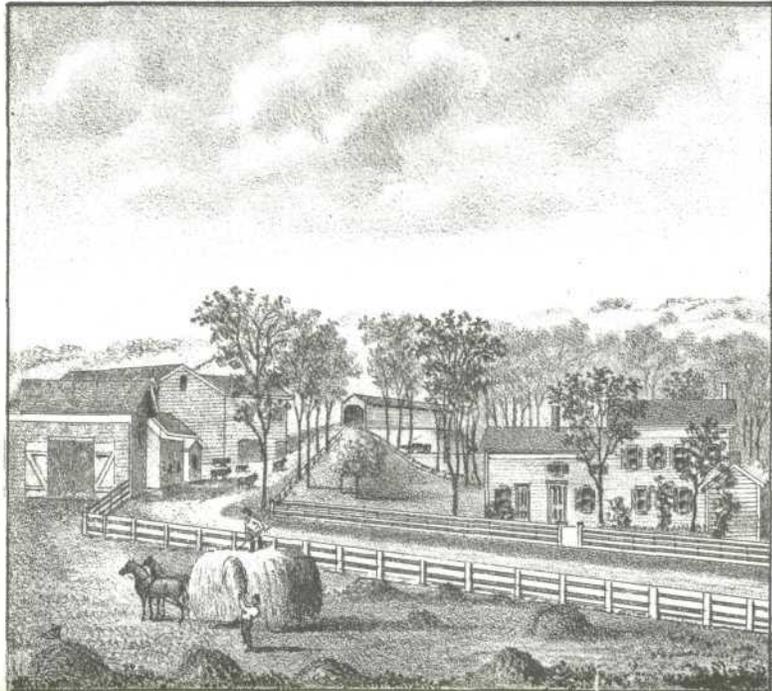
ELEVATOR & MILLS, FULTONVILLE, N. Y. P. VAN ANTWERP & SON, PROP.



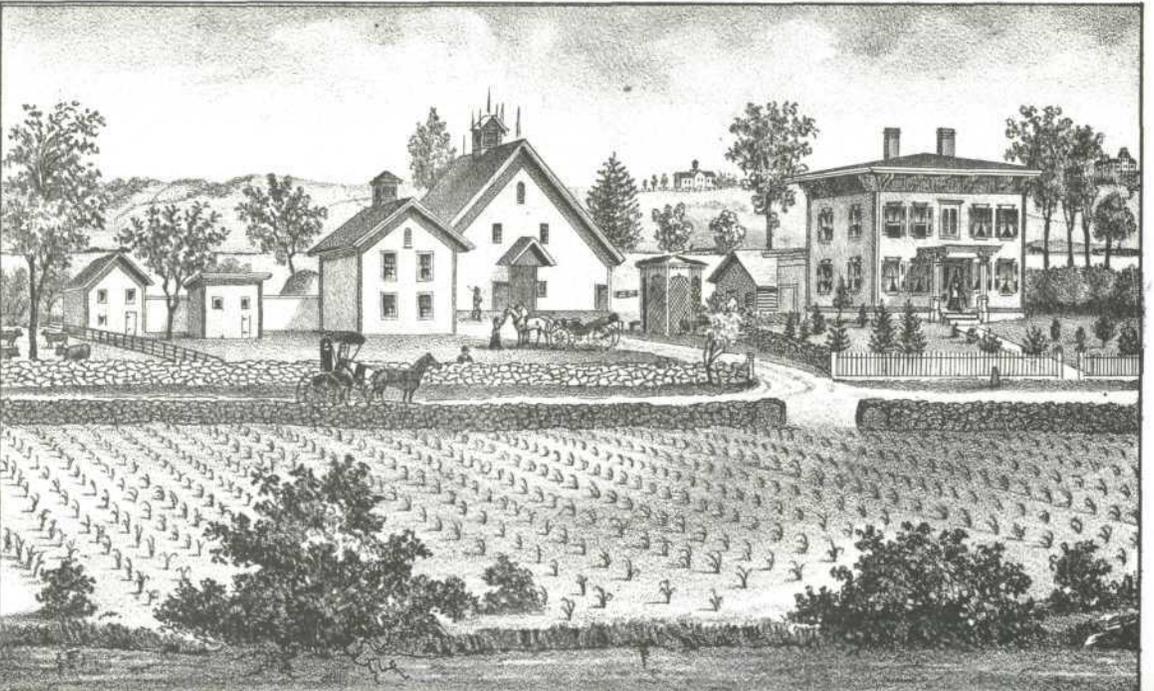
FULTONVILLE STEAM MILLS, C. B. FREEMAN & Co. PROP'S.



Res. of C. B. FREEMAN, FULTONVILLE, N. Y.



Homestead of the late HENRY SILMSER.



Residence of MICHAEL SILMSER.

- AND -
TOWN OF GLEN, MONTGOMERY CO. N. Y.

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The village of Fultonville was organized Aug. 9, 1848, by the election of the following board of trustees: Howland Fish, president; Andrew J. Yates, Wm. B. Wemple, Thomas R. Horton and Delancey D. Starin. At that time the population of the village was 630. In 1875 the population had increased to 1220.

The village at present contains two churches, a Reformed and a Methodist Episcopal; one newspaper office, *The Montgomery County Republican*; two hotels, the Perkins House and the Starin House, in addition to several others along the tow-path, for the accommodation of the boatmen; a steam flouring-mill, two steam saw-mills, a steam sash-and-blind factory, a furnace and machine shop, and eleven stores. There is also an extensive coal business carried on, this being the distributing point for a large section of country. The present trustees of the village are Charles H. Quackenbush, president; John W. Wilson and Horace B. Freeman.

In our record of the business of the town of Glen we would not forget to mention the hay business, in which John E. Hubbs, of Glen village, and Victor A. Putman, of Auriesville, are engaged.

FULTONVILLE CHURCHES.

REFORMED.

The Reformed Protestant (Dutch) Church of Fultonville was organized November 24, 1838, by a delegation of eight members from the church at Caughnawaga. Immediately after the organization the membership was largely increased by additions from other churches in the vicinity. Steps were taken to secure a church edifice, and in November, 1839, a neat wooden building was erected on ground donated by the Putman family. Rev. David Dyer was the first minister, and was succeeded by Rev. J. M. Van Buren. During the ministry of Mr. Van Buren, the church edifice, together with its contents, was destroyed by fire. No immediate steps were taken toward securing a new building; services were held regularly in the school-house. In 1852 Mr. Van Buren resigned, and the society was without a building or pastor. In 1856, the present church was erected, and in May, 1857, Rev. Dr. Wells, of Schoharie county, became the pastor; he remained for eleven years. Rev. H. S. Teller next officiated for a year, and on September 20, 1869, the present pastor, Rev. J. L. Kip, jr., of Livingston, N. Y., was called. The church now has under its care one hundred and five families, one hundred and thirty-six communicants and two Sabbath-schools, with one hundred and twenty-five scholars.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

The Methodist church of Fultonville was built in the year 1854. On the 31st day of January in that year, the organization of the society was effected, and in the following spring the work of building the church was begun. The first pastor was N. G. Spaulding. The number of members was twelve, and Peter Wiles was the builder of the church. The list of ministers who have officiated from time to time is quite lengthy. Among them were the following: J. W. Carhart, Homer Eaton, F. Widmer, A. J. Dievendorf, H. D. Kimball, John Pegg, Eri Baker, D. Cronk, Harmon Chase, P. P. Harover, J. P. Huller, and the pastor now in charge,

Rev. F. P. Youlen. Homer Eaton is the presiding elder. The list of members now includes sixty-six names. The building now used by the society is the original structure.

THE PRESS.

The press of Montgomery county has always been regarded as numbering in its circle some of the brightest and best papers published in the State. Among this galaxy the *Montgomery County Republican* ranks with the first. This paper was started at Fultonville, in May 1840, as a weekly, under the title of the *Montgomery County Whig*, by Flavius J. Mills. Within a year it was rented to Benjamin F. Pinkham, who retained the control until March, 1841, when the present editor and proprietor, Mr. Thomas R. Horton, became editor and publisher. Mr. Horton was only nineteen years of age, but the successful career of the paper from that time to the present, shows conclusively that the expectations of the original stockholders when they persuaded young Horton to assume control were well founded. The paper continued as the *Whig* until 1857, when the name was changed to the *Montgomery County Republican*.

The progress of the *Republican* has been attended with ever increasing success. Mr. Horton has, with the exception of two years from the first of August, 1862, during which he left the newspaper field for the more dangerous one of war, (leaving the editorship to his brother, J. W. Horton,) maintained control of the paper since first assuming charge, and it is to his efforts that the popularity and success of the *Republican* are due.

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In the year 1848 a public meeting of the citizens of Fultonville was called, to take some action in reference to the purchase of property for the use of a public cemetery. A subscription paper was circulated, and in the Autumn of that year a sufficient sum had been realized to purchase the needed ground from Garret Yates. The committee who made the purchase were Henry P. Voorhies, Cornelius Gardinier, Evert Yates, Joseph Miller, and Howland Fish. The property was laid out in plots, which were sold at auction. Additions have been twice made to the original purchase, and Hon. J. H. Starin, who has already done so much for his native village, has a tract as large as that now owned by the cemetery association which he proposes donating to the association, and laying out beautifully. Probably within a year or two these improvements will have been accomplished.

"Maple Avenue Cemetery" is located on the hill about half a mile east from the main part of Fultonville. It was at first laid out by Barney Gardinier as a private enterprise, but in the year 1873 the Maple Avenue Cemetery Association was formed and the grounds passed into its control. The cemetery occupies a prominent site; the walks and drives are in fine condition, and the grounds are beautified by a great variety of ornamental trees and shrubs.

With the erection of the first church (the Reformed) at Glen village, three acres of ground were set apart for the purpose of a cemetery. In this plot there are many old graves, the dates on the stones being past deciphering. One of the oldest on which the date can be read is that of one Woolston, and bears the date 1791. A curious feature in the plot is a wooden slab bearing the date 1813, which is still in an excellent state of preservation.

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