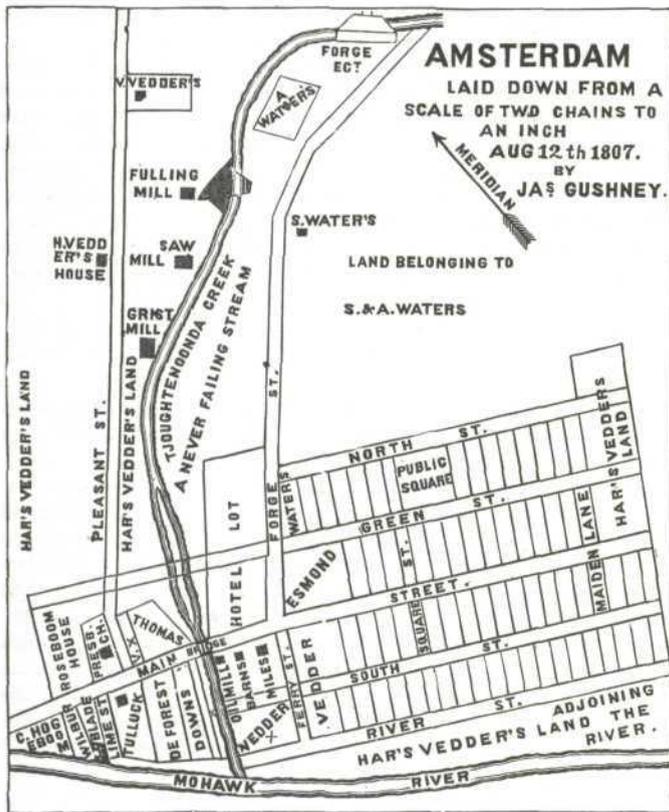


## THE VILLAGE OF AMSTERDAM.



Albert (or Aaron) Vedder settled near the mouth of the Chuctenunda creek during the Revolutionary war, and then and there laid the foundation of the present thriving village of Amsterdam, by erecting a saw-mill and a grist-mill. The latter stood on the ground now occupied by the Chuctenunda knitting-mills of Schuyler and Blood; the saw-mill long since gave way to other buildings.

As the settlement began to grow and the inhabitants to increase around "Vedder's mills," the place began, naturally enough, to be called "Veddersburg," which name, by common consent, it retained for many years. Mr. Vedder was at one time taken prisoner by the Indians and carried to Fort Johnson, where his captors proposed to tarry till the next day, and tied him to a tree for safe keeping. During the night one of their number, with whom Mr. Vedder had previously formed an acquaintance, cut the cords, released him, and allowed him to escape. Among the first to follow Mr. Vedder, at Vedder's mills, were E. E. De Graff, Nicholas Wilcox and Wm. Kline.

At the beginning of the present century the population of the town of Amsterdam was pretty equally divided between Holland Dutch and the descendants of the early German Palatines on one side, and those from New England and New York on the other. The Dutch, revering the name of Amsterdam, were desirous of calling their present village after the metropolis of their mother country. This desire culminated in the spring of 1804, when, at a town meeting, the question of changing the name Veddersburg to Amsterdam was submitted to a vote, which resulted

in a tie. James Allen, being president of the meeting, had the casting vote, and, out of modest courtesy to the Dutch element, decided upon the name "Amsterdam." Thus the name "Veddersburg" was discarded, to be eventually forgotten, and to-day exists only in history.

The village of Amsterdam is thus described by one writing in 1813: "On the Mohawk turnpike, near the mouth of the Chuctenunda creek, is a small collection of houses called Amsterdam or Veddersburg, where is a post-office, a Presbyterian church, a school-house, 25 dwellings and some stores, mechanics' shops, mills, &c.," with a population which probably did not exceed 150. Although its geographical position remains the same, its boundaries have been considerably enlarged. The "Mohawk turnpike"—at that time the most important thoroughfare west from Albany—has been, long since, reduced to the rank of an ordinary road; while to take its place have come, first, the Erie Canal, and later, the N. Y. Central Railroad, with its quadruple track. The village now extends along the north bank of the Mohawk river for nearly two miles. It has grown to be the largest and most important village in the county, containing a population of nearly 7,000. The principal streets are well paved, and lighted with gas, and street-cars traverse the village to its utmost limits, east and west.

Possessing, as it does, the splendid water power afforded by the rapidly descending Chuctenunda, Amsterdam has become an important center for various manufacturing interests. It contains, within its corporate limits, nine knitting or hosiery mills, all in active operation, with an aggregate of sixty sets of machinery, which alone give employment to over 1,000 persons of both sexes, and produce \$1,500,000 worth of knit goods annually. There are two extensive carpet manufactories, a steel spring factory, a burial case and coffin manufactory, a large foundry and machine shop; steam boiler works, two broom factories, linseed oil works, a boot and shoe manufactory, paper mills, a kerosene oil refinery, a paper box factory, and a large number of smaller factories and shops. Fully one-third of the population of the village is employed in these factories, a large proportion of them being females.

On the 2d of April, 1830, a charter was granted for the incorporation of Amsterdam, but no action seems to have been taken under that act. The following year, however, the enactment was renewed, the organization completed by the election of officers, and the place became an incorporated village. By the original charter, the trustees were made elective and the president was chosen by them from among their own members. In 1854 very important changes were made, and greatly enlarged corporate privileges were conferred by amendments to this charter. The president also became elective.

### THE FERRY.

Among the first buildings of any pretensions erected in this village was one but recently destroyed. It stood on the margin of the river at the foot of Pearl street, and was the original ferry house of the once important ferry across the Mohawk to the Florida shore. This ferry early obtained the right of way across the river, which franchise has never been relinquished, but has compelled the maintenance of a viaduct under the railroad, as well as the open arch beneath the building, No. 129 Main street.

### THE BRIDGE.

Not until 1821 was a bridge erected across the Mohawk, at this place. This bridge originally contemplated but two spans, but a portion of it

falling before completion, the plan was changed and an additional pier erected. It did good service till 1839, when an unusual flood destroyed it. Its successor met a similar fate in 1842. The third one stood firm until 1865, when the northern span was torn away by an ice flood. It was replaced by a light, but strong, iron arch; but, in 1876, the major part was again swept away, and, the same year, the present substantial structure was completed, at a cost of about \$25,000.

CEMETERIES.

The first burial place for public use was located immediately west of Bridge street, between Main and the river. Many tombstones were standing there when the Central railroad was built, but encroaching buildings have long since obliterated all trace of their existence. The second graveyard crowned the hill, upon Market and Prospect streets. This came to be well peopled, and ceased to afford proper facilities for interments within its limits. In November, 1857, an association was organized, and in the spring of 1858 a tract of fourteen acres was purchased, and Green Hill Cemetery located on an eminence on the north side of the village. The grounds, possessing a natural beauty, have been artistically platted, and beautifully ornamented with forest trees and evergreens; gracefully winding carriage drives, underlaid with stone, make every part accessible at all seasons of the year. It has a commodious receiving vault, built of undressed, blue limestone, and conveniently located for use in winter. A few years have wrought this spot into one of rare loveliness, and many a visitor is daily attracted to this "city of the dead." Anthony Holmes, a native of England, is the present superintendent, having had charge of the grounds since 1858.

SCHOOLS.

The first public school house, built previous to 1800, stood upon the site of the present Ward School No. 1, near Liberty street. Daniel Shepard was the first to teach in it. This red school house, later, had a second story added, and was, for some time, under the charge of a Mr. Sill. It was burned in 1856, but was immediately followed by a new brick building, which, in 1876, was enlarged to over twice its original size. Horace Sprague once taught in the first school building, as he did also in the stone building No. 5 Church street. He afterward erected a building near No. 8 Grove street, and occupied it as a private academy. It was subsequently converted into a dwelling, but was long known as the "old academy." Mrs. Fisk once occupied part of the Van Wyck house on Church street for a young ladies' seminary, which attained a considerable reputation. In 1839, the 2d ward stone school house was built on Division street. It was enlarged in 1865, and in 1877 a handsome and commodious three-story edifice was added.

Amsterdam Academy was first incorporated by the Legislature March 29th, 1839, and the Regents of the University February 16th, 1841, under the name of Amsterdam Female Seminary. The Globe Hotel, situated in the central part of the village, was purchased for its location. A boarding department attached was for ladies only; its day department, for both sexes. Dr. Sterling, its first principal, was followed successively by Rev. Gilbert Morgan, William McLaren, D. H. Crittenden, M. T. Cavert, Rev. William Howell, M. T. Cavert (2d term), O. E. Hovey and William Aumock, reaching down to 1865. On April 27th of that year, a new charter was obtained, and its name changed to Amsterdam Academy. The old building was sold, and the present substantial and commodious one on Academy Hill was erected, and fitted up with all the modern improvements, at a cost of \$40,000. The boarding department, as formerly, is for ladies, while the day school is for both sexes. The first Board of Trustees under the new charter were: Hon. Stephen Sanford, M. C., president; Hon. S. Pulver Heath, secretary; D. W. Shuler, treasurer; Hon. Samuel Belding, Hon. Adam W. Kline, Abram V. Morris, S. McElwain, Hon. John Kellogg, John McDonnell, Leonard Y. Gardner and Chandler Bartlett. Dr. C. C. Wetsell was the first principal, and was followed by W. B. Sims. The present incumbent is W. W. Thompson, who is assisted by a competent board of teachers.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

As early as 1820, Amsterdam had established quite a respectable public library. Mr. William Reid, for a long time a resident of this place, was

its faithful custodian. Frank E. Spinner, late Treasurer of the United States, then resided here, and is said to have read every volume in that library.

SOCIETIES.

MASONIC LODGE.

Artisans' Lodge, No. 84, received its charter from the Grand Lodge of the State in 1824, and completed its organization, through the active zeal of W. U. Chase. It held its meetings in the second story of the stone shop, erected by Mr. Chase in 1823, on the bank of the river at the foot of Pearl street, until, through the decline of interest in Masonry, it became defunct. In 1854 it was resuscitated, and soon thereafter was enabled to regain its forfeited No., 84, which it now wears, occupying handsome rooms on Chuctenunda street.

Y. M. C. A.

The Young Men's Christian Association was organized June 11th, 1858, as the result of a happy revival of religion in that year. It has ever since maintained an existence, occupying various localities until establishing itself in its present quarters. It now occupies the whole upper floor over the First National Bank building, corner of Main and Chuctenunda streets. The annual election of president and trustees occurs on the last Tuesday of June. The regular meetings of the Board of Trustees occur on the first Tuesday of each month. The first president elected was James H. Bronson. The present presiding officer is N. J. De Graff.

TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATION.

St. Mary's Total Abstinence and Catholic Benevolent Society was organized Jan. 4th, 1874. The first officers were: John Kennedy, Pres.; John Kavanaugh, Treas., and John McNally, Sec. It meets at Sanford's Hall, on the 1st and 3d Tuesdays in each month, and numbers 80 members. The present officers are: Pres., Jas. E. Dolan; Treas., J. H. Bergen; Sec. John Donahoe.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

E. S. Young Post No. 33, G. A. R., was organized April 10th, 1875 with E. S. Young and twenty others as charter members. The present membership numbers 53. It meets every Tuesday evening, at Headquarters, Harmony Hall. Since the organization this Post has expended several hundred dollars for charitable purposes. Considerable time and attention has been given by its members to searching for the names of those soldiers of the late war who were killed and left no record. Ten names have thus far been rescued from oblivion, and engraved on stones placed near the soldiers' monument in Green Hill Cemetery.

THE PRESS OF AMSTERDAM.

The first newspaper published in Amsterdam was called *The Mohawk Herald*. Its first appearance was in Dec. 1821. It was issued weekly, by Darius Wells, editor and proprietor. While here Mr. Wells commenced the manufacture of wood type. In 1824, he removed to Paterson, N. J., and the *Herald* passed into the hands of Philip Reynolds, who moved the office to Johnstown, Fulton county, where the paper was published by him till 1834, under the title of *The Johnstown Herald*.

In 1833, the publication of *The Mohawk Gazette* was commenced by Joseph Noonan. In 1834, it became the *Intelligencer*, and under the proprietorship successively of Wing & Davis, Jas. Riggs, and L. H. Nichols, it continued to be published till 1836, when it became the property of Simeon B. Marsh, who retained the position of editor and proprietor for eighteen years. In 1854, the *Intelligencer* was purchased by Xenophon Haywood, who changed its name to the *Recorder*, and published it as such till 1868, when it was sold to A. Z. Neff, by whom it has since been continued under the same title.

In 1860, Winegar & Van Allen were induced to try the experiment of publishing a daily paper. It was called *The Daily Dispatch*, and was edited by C. P. Winegar. It made its appearance regularly for about six months, when it was changed to a weekly, and continued as such till Nov. 1864, at which time it ceased to exist.

*The Amsterdam Democrat* was started Oct. 14, 1870, by Geo. O. Smith and Walter B. Matthewson. In about three months Mr. Smith sold his share of the concern to Angell Matthewson, of Fort Plain, who in March, 1871, turned it over to Mr. John E. Ashe, and went west. Mr. Ashe, who graduated at Union College, in 1866, was nominated for the Assembly by a Democratic convention, at Fonda, in the autumn of 1872, but was beaten in the ensuing election. His partnership in the *Democrat* establishment lasted until August, 1873. The concern was subsequently purchased by Mr. W. J. Kline, of Fultonville, who as editor and proprietor of the paper still manages it.

#### CORPORATIONS OF AMSTERDAM.

##### AQUEDUCT COMPANY.

In 1820, a charter was granted by the Legislature of this State to Marcus T. Reynolds, Benedict Arnold, and Welcome U. Chase, under the corporate title of the "Amsterdam Aqueduct Company." An organization was effected and the work commenced for supplying the village with water for domestic purposes. A spring was secured and pipes laid for that portion of the village west of the creek. Subsequently additional springs were purchased and a like work undertaken for the village east of the Chuctenunda, availing itself of the original "Aqueduct" charter. These works have done good service in their day, but neither the source nor conduits are at all adequate to the present needs of the village.

##### GAS-LIGHT COMPANY.

The Chuctenunda Gas-light Company was organized in 1860. It experienced unusual difficulty in laying pipes and mains, on account of the rocky stratum under the shallow soil. Until 1866, gas was produced from resin; in that year the works were destroyed by fire. They were re-built and ready for use again in Nov. 1867, since which time gas has been manufactured from coal exclusively. The increasing demand for light necessitated an enlargement of the works, and in 1876, the present large and substantial buildings on the bank of the river opposite the depot were completed.

##### THE STREET RAILWAY.

The Street Railway Company, of Amsterdam, obtained a charter running for fifty years, and in 1873 laid the track and commenced running their cars through Main, Market and Division streets. The route is one mile and three-quarters in length, and the trip is made once in twenty minutes.

##### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The earliest movement in the way of protection against fire, was the procuring, by the private enterprise of Jas. Holliday, of a fire engine of very limited powers. It came to be known by the derisive title of the "Tub," and was available only at short range and very diminutive fires. In the early days of the village, leather buckets were required to be kept in every house, the ratio increasing with the dimensions of the building, and when a fire occurred every man and woman was a self constituted fireman. It was not till 1839 that a full grown fire engine was purchased and the "Mohawk Engine Company" organized. The engine house on Chuctenunda street was built for it. Several years later another engine was bought and the "Cascade Engine Company" formed. The engine house on Market street was built for it in 1855. In June, 1870, the steam fire engine "J. D. Serviss" was procured at a cost of \$3,000, and a new company organized with sixty members at first, soon after increased to one hundred. The following year Steamer No. 2, "E. D. Bronson," was pur-

chased, at an expense of \$3,400, and the second company formed. Each of these companies is supplied with two sets of hose, making in all 4,000 feet. The steamer J. D. Serviss occupies the engine house on Chuctenunda street, and the E. D. Bronson the one on Market street. Each engine is kept ready for instant service.

A hook and ladder company, newly organized and equipped, with a truck and apparatus which cost \$450, constitutes an important adjunct to the fire department of the village.

##### THE JAIL.

The first "calaboose," or place of detention for alleged criminals, was a small room in the second story of the stone shop No. 5 Church street. It answered the small need of the quiet town till it was burned down. It is supposed to have been set on fire by an insane person who was lodged there for safety over night, and who perished in the flames. In 1855, a two story building was erected, the first floor for jail purposes, the second story for the use of the common council. This body, however, in the spring of 1877, transferred their room to the Hook and Ladder Company.

##### BANKS.

Not until 1839 did the village attain to the dignity of a bank, at which date the "Farmer's Bank" was duly established, with Cornelius Miller president, and D. P. Corey cashier; capital, \$100,000. It first occupied the south half of a brick building on Market street. Thence it was moved to a small brick structure erected for its use at the corner of Spring and Market streets. It again migrated to Main street, near No. 2 Market street, where it was continued until 1852, when a good building and vault were erected for it by Marquis Barnes. In 1859 it increased its stock to \$200,000, and in 1865, under the U. S. Banking law, it added to its title the distinctive "National." In 1875 it erected the fine building it now occupies, corner of Main and Railroad streets. Its present officers are Isaac Jackson, president; D. D. Cassidy, cashier.

The "Bank of Amsterdam" was organized in 1860. Its first officers were Cornelius Miller, president; Jay Cady, vice president; Charles De Wolfe, cashier. In 1865, it re-organized under the National law, and became the First National Bank of Amsterdam. Its location was in South Arch Block, Main street, until 1868, when it removed to the beautiful structure it had reared and now occupies at the corner of Main and Chuctenunda streets. Mr. John McDonnell has been its President since 1862. In April, 1873, David Cady was called to be its cashier.

The "Manufacturers' Bank" was first organized as a State bank in May, 1873, and at once built and occupied the neat structure at the corner of Main and Church streets. Its officers were Adam W. Kline, president; and Chas. De Wolfe, cashier. On March 25th, 1875, it was re-organized under the National law and became the "Manufacturers' National Bank." It has a cash capital of \$100,000, with \$20,000 surplus. The present officers are A. W. Kline, president, and H. P. Kline, cashier.

##### PROFESSIONAL MEN.

###### LAWYERS.

The first lawyer to locate in Amsterdam was Marcus T. Reynolds, who, in 1825, sought a wider field of operations in Albany. The profession now has fifteen representatives, prominent among whom are L. A. Sessions, H. G. Moore, Richard Peck, Z. S. Westbrook, R. A. McDuffie, P. J. Lewis, and H. B. Waldron.

###### PHYSICIANS.

Chas. A. Devendorf, M.D., was born in 1839. He graduated from Williams College in 1859, and afterward took a medical course and graduated at Bellevue Hospital. He served as surgeon in the army four years, and in 1866, located at Amsterdam, where he has since practiced his profession.

J. H. Scoon, M.D., was born in Schenectady county, N. Y., Oct. 26th, 1815, and was educated at Amsterdam Academy. He commenced the study of medicine in 1845, and graduated at the Albany Medical College,

January 23d, 1849. He first located as a physician at Galway, Saratoga Co. In August, 1862, he was appointed assistant surgeon in the 32d N.Y. Regiment; was subsequently promoted to surgeon of volunteers, and served in the Department of the Gulf for four years; associated a part of the time with Maj. Gen. A. J. Smith, as Medical Director of the Trans-Mississippi Department. He was mustered out of service in March, 1867, and immediately settled in Amsterdam, where he still continues in the practice of his profession.

S. D. Lewis, M.D., a nephew of Prof. Taylor Lewis, late of Union College, was born in Ontario County, N. Y., in 1829. He graduated from Union College in 1856, when he entered the law office of Hon. Ira Harris, of Albany; was admitted to the bar, and practiced that profession for several years. He afterwards turned his attention to medicine, entered the Albany Medical College, received his diploma, and went to Illinois, where he continued the practice of medicine for ten years. In April, 1876, he returned to New York and located in this place, where he still follows his last calling.

S. H. French, M.D., was born in Broome County, N. Y., in 1837. He is a graduate of Albany Medical College, class of 1859. He commenced dispensing medicine in Lisle, Broome county, N. Y., in 1859. In 1862 he was appointed surgeon in the army, and served in that capacity two years, when he renewed his practice in Broome county. In 1872, he removed to Amsterdam, where he continues to administer to the wants of the afflicted.

Dr. Wm. H. Robb located in Amsterdam in April, 1862, and became a student of Dr. J. G. Snell. He graduated in medical science Dec. 25th, 1865, and on January 1st, 1866, became a partner with Dr. Snell, since which time he has been in constant practice as a physician.

Dr. C. H. Tilton, dentist, was born in N. H., in 1835. He graduated at the Boston Dental College in 1861, and practiced the science of dentistry in that city till 1865, when he removed to Amsterdam. He is the oldest resident dentist in the village.

J. N. White, M.D., surgeon, was born in Deerfield, Oneida county, N.Y., and came to Amsterdam March 15th, 1855, where he has since resided at 14 Division street. His father, Joseph White, was from Warwick, Mass.

#### MILLS AND MANUFACTORIES.

The village of Amsterdam early contained a grist mill and saw mills; also an oil mill, a tannery, a scythe factory, mechanics' shops, etc., yet these enterprises were all upon a quite moderate scale, and not until 1840 were the special manufactories inaugurated which have since become so large an element in the prosperity of the village. In that year, Messrs. Wait, Green & Co., leased a small satinett factory at Hagaman's Mills, and there commenced the manufacture of ingrain carpets. At the end of two years, this copartnership was dissolved, and Wm. R. Greene, of the above firm, came to Amsterdam village, and, in a small building, long since demolished, but then standing on the present site of the Greene Hosiery mills, set up the first carpet looms in this place. Subsequently Mr. John Sanford became interested in the enterprise, a much larger structure higher up the creek, known as the Harris mill, was purchased, and their operations largely extended. Mr. Greene at length withdrew from the firm, and the business was continued by J. Sanford & Son till 1853, when J. Sanford retired, leaving the entire management to his son, Stephen Sanford. Since that time wonderful changes have taken place in nearly every branch of the carpet manufacture. The slow and cumbrous hand-loom has been superseded by the swift-working power-loom, and new and convenient appliances have taken the place of old and complicated machinery. Mr. Sanford has availed himself of every useful improvement, and has from time to time enlarged the business until his are now the largest works of the kind owned by any individual in the country. The wools are taken in the raw condition and worked, through all the different processes, into all grades of ingrain and three-ply carpets, tapestry, brussels, rugs and mats. This factory has a capacity of producing 5,000 yards of carpeting daily, and gives employment to over 700 persons.

In 1857, Wm. K. Greene, jr., in company with John McDonnell, commenced the manufacture of knit goods with two sets of machinery in an old mill, which stood on ground now occupied by W. K. Greene's Son & Co.'s hosiery mill. In the spring of 1868 Mr. McDonnell withdrew from the firm, Mr. Greene remaining alone, who soon after added a third set of machinery. He subsequently built a much larger mill, and, from time to

time, increased his facilities for manufacturing, until in 1870 he was operating with thirteen sets of machinery. His death occurring in that year, the business was thereafter conducted by Wm. K. Greene's Sons & Co., till January 1st, 1877, when, one of the sons dying, the firm name was changed to Wm. K. Greene's Son & Co. This firm employ 300 hands, and manufacture 250 dozen shirts and drawers per day, producing \$300,000 worth of goods annually.

Adam W. Kline was one of the first to engage in the manufacture of knit goods in this town. He began the business in 1857 in company with John Maxwell, at what is now known as Rock City. Being burned out in 1860, he disposed of his remaining interest to Mr. Maxwell, came to this village, and, in company with his son, erected a mill near the railroad on the east bank of the Chuctenunda, and with four sets of machinery prosecuted the business till 1866, when their mill was entirely destroyed by fire. They soon after built a grist mill on the same site, operating it successfully for two years, but preferring their former occupation the building was converted into the Pioneer Hosiery Mills, and they again turned their attention to knit goods. They are at present working four sets of machinery, making ninety dozen shirts and drawers per day, employing fifty hands, and doing a business amounting to \$100,000 per year.

The knitting machinery used by Maxwell & Kline while in partnership was invented and built by the former, and patented in March, 1853. Mr. Maxwell, who is now proprietor of the Amity Knitting Mills at Amsterdam, was also the inventor of improvements patented September 22d, 1864, and February 17th, 1874.

The Chuctenunda Hosiery Mills, situated on Market street, are operated by Schuyler & Blood, proprietors, who began this branch of industry in 1864. They are at present running six sets of machinery, giving employment to one hundred operators and manufacturing about \$150,000 worth of knit goods annually.

Warren DeForest & Co. are proprietors of the Riverside Hosiery Mills. This firm first commenced the business in 1871 in what was known as the "old furnace property," near the railroad, but upon the laying of the quadruple track they were forced to vacate, when their present new mill on Market street was erected. This firm are running ten sets of machinery, employing 140 hands, and doing a business of from \$150,000 to \$200,000 per annum.

The Mohawk Valley Hosiery Mills were established in 1873. They are located on the river near Main street. Gardner & Thomas, the proprietors, manufacture from ten to twenty different grades of white and colored goods. They give employment to one hundred men and women, running six sets of machinery, making 30,000 dozen shirts and drawers a year, being a business of about \$150,000.

In the year 1848, Supplina Kellogg commenced the manufacture of linseed oil at West Galway. In 1851 he was succeeded by his two sons, L. and J. Kellogg, who soon after removed their works to Amsterdam village, locating on Church street. Subsequently James A. Miller became associated with them, since which the business has been prosecuted under the firm name of Kelloggs & Miller. In the early days of this factory ten bushels of seed was the average amount used per day; the present consumption of seed is from 900 to 1,000 bushels daily, which produce from 2,000 to 2,500 gallons of oil. The concern is giving employment to 50 workmen, and doing an average business of \$950,000 annually.

The burial case manufactory of I. C. Shuler & Co., situated on the corner of Spring and Market streets, was established in 1858. They make an endless variety of metallic and wooden burial cases, which are shipped to all parts of the country. They give constant employment to from 70 to 80 hands, and turn out half a million of dollars worth of work annually. Mr. Shuler was born near Manny's Corners in 1823. His father, George Shuler, was born before the Revolution, and the family to which he belonged was so endangered by the Indians as to be obliged to remove to a place of safety. Mr. Shuler began the furniture and undertaking business on a small scale in 1853, and by 1858 had a large wholesale trade. His business is now the largest done by a single house in this line. The founder of the Shuler family in this country was Lawrence Shuler, who immigrated from Germany.

In 1866 the firm of Stewart & Carmichael, of the Forest City Paper Mills, commenced the manufacture of straw wrapping paper, changing from that to brown hanging paper at the end of two years. In 1874 this also was dropped, and the firm have since applied themselves to the production of white hanging papers exclusively. They manufacture 600 tons of

this paper annually. The mill is kept constantly in operation, employing in all forty hands. The sales amount to \$100,000 per annum.

The manufacture of paper boxes was begun in Amsterdam in 1874 by Horace Inman, who is at present doing an extensive business, employing 22 workmen, consuming 125 tons of paper, manufacturing 300,000 boxes of various kinds, and doing a business amounting to \$20,000 per annum.

The first foundry in Amsterdam was established by Bell Marcellus, in 1837. It was purchased in 1842 by H. S. McElwain, who has from time to time enlarged his operations as the demands of the community required, and is at present the only representative of this branch of industry in the town, giving employment to about 30 men, and doing a business amounting to from \$50,000 to \$75,000 annually.

Wm. Bredau, a native of England, who settled in Amsterdam in 1864, manufactures knitting machine needles, thus supplying the wants of the numerous hosiery mills in this direction. He occupies a part of the Riverside Hosiery Mills and makes \$6,000 worth of this kind of needles annually.

The boot and shoe manufactory of A. & W. McElwain was established in 1868, by the present firm, who now turn out \$100,000 worth of their productions yearly, and give constant employment to 60 operatives.

The steam broom factory of G. W. Bronson, located on Cedar street, manufactures from \$40,000 to \$50,000 worth of brooms annually, and employs 25 workmen. The broom factory of J. D. Blood & Son, located on Union street, near the railroad, was established in 1868. This firm employ 60 workmen, and manufacture \$100,000 worth of brooms and brushes annually.

#### OTHER BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The first exclusive boot and shoe store in Amsterdam was commenced in May, 1820, by Chandler Bartlett, who still continues the business, having occupied his present location since 1822. There are now six establishments of this kind, N. J. DeGraff and John Kavanaugh being prominent representatives of the business.

One of the foremost business establishments of Amsterdam is the crockery store of Edward L. Smith, which has been kept for the last twenty years. It was bought April 1, 1874, by Avery & White, who carried on both a wholesale and retail trade, until September, 1876, when Mr. J. A. Snell bought out Mr. White. The gentleman now at the head of the business, Mr. E. S. Smith, entered the firm in 1877. During that year the wholesale trade, which had been rapidly growing, attained such proportions as to make it inconvenient to carry on both that and the retail business conjointly, and Messrs Avery & Snell removed the wholesale department to Schenectady, leaving Mr. Smith to conduct the retail branch at the old stand. This is one of the most enterprising concerns in the village, and the only store which is devoted so exclusively to the crockery trade. Included in the stock are glass and plated ware, cutlery and wall paper. The house does a business of about \$50,000 annually, principally in Montgomery, Fulton, Saratoga, Schenectady and Schoharie counties.

L. L. Dean & Co., hardware dealers, Main street, are successors to Dean & Vischer, who commenced the business in 1864. This is the oldest house of the kind in the town. The sales amount to from \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year.

Vischer & Schuyler, Main street, are hardware merchants. Mr. Vischer began the hardware trade in this location in 1868; subsequently J. D. Schuyler became interested with him. This trade has steadily increased until it now amounts to from \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually.

C. W. Williams, dealer in hardware, on Main street, is a native of this State; he settled in Amsterdam in 1855, and embarked in his present business in 1872. He is at present selling goods to the amount of \$25,000 per annum.

Almarin Young was born in 1808 at Fort Jackson, opposite Amsterdam, where he resided until 1859, when he removed to Amsterdam village. He received the appointment of post master in 1861, and held that office sixteen consecutive years, resigning in July 1877.

#### CHURCH HISTORY OF AMSTERDAM.

Tradition and history concur in the statement that missionary work was done in this region some time previous to any religious organization. Rev. Messrs Kirkland and Ames are spoken of as having labored here from

time to time, also Rev. Sampson Occum, a Mohican Indian, educated by Rev. Mr. Wheelock, and converted to christianity, who devoted himself to spreading the gospel among his own race. He is said to have often preached in a barn standing on the present "Lambier property." History speaks of him as being "a man of vigor and piety." His death is recorded in 1792.

#### REFORMED AND PRESBYTERIAN.

The first religious organization in this town was formed in 1792, in connection with the Dutch Reformed Church. Its consistory was composed of Michael Spore, Tunis Swart, Jeremiah De Graff and Ahazuera Marcelus. Its existence, however, was of short duration, and it was not till 1795 that an organization was effected with sufficient strength to sustain life. It occurred at a meeting held in the open air about three miles north of Amsterdam village, and the title fixed upon was the "Dutch Reformed Church of Amsterdam." Jeremiah Voorhees and Cornelius VanVranckin were elected elders, and the following Sabbath a clergyman from Albany performed the rite of ordination. Yet this body was too weak at first to support a pastor, and it was only at intervals that they were favored with preaching. The missionary Kirkland was among the first to minister to this houseless flock. The first record of baptism occurs on the 25th of July, 1799. Hester, infant daughter of Manning Marcellus and Deborah De Graff, was baptized by Rev. John Demorest, who was, doubtless, only officiating for the time being, for it was not until the following May that this society assumed the responsibility of calling a pastor, and that only in conjunction with the churches at Fonda's Bush and Mayfield. In that month the Rev. Conrad Ten Eyck became their first regular pastor. The baptismal record opened by Mr. Demorest was from this time regularly kept, thus reaching in an unbroken chain from May, 1799, down to the present time. There was as yet no church edifice, and meetings were held in barns, groves or dwellings, as suited the members, by which several additions were made to their numbers. On July 3d, 1795, Joseph Clizbe was chosen elder, and Aaron Lindsley deacon; also Dec. 30th of the same year, Nicholas Marcellus and Isaac Vedder were elected elders and John Mauley and John Cram, deacons.

In 1800, the first church building in the town was erected, by this organization, at Manny's Corners, about two miles north of Cranesville. The location of the building here caused a dissatisfaction with the village members of the congregation, who, in consequence, withdrew, and in the same year erected a church edifice at Amsterdam village, on what is now the corner of Main and Market streets, conferring upon it the title of the "Dutch Reformed Church of Veddersburg." Rev. Mr. Ten Eyck continued to preside over both churches for a time, but each congregation being weakened by the separation, he was at length induced to resign his care of the Amsterdam church, and the following year that of the Veddersburg church also.

At the end of two years, in 1803, the Rev. John Christie was settled over the church at Manny's Corners, in conjunction with the church at West Galway, they having, in the meantime, changed their ecclesiastical connection, and united with the Presbyterian Synod. The Veddersburg church remained without a pastor eleven years. Wearied at last with the effort to sustain two distinct organizations, the Veddersburg church, in the spring of 1812, also became Presbyterian, and the two congregations were again united as the "Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam." In the fall of 1813 the Rev. Ebenezer H. Sillman was formally called, and settled as the first pastor of the re-united church. He remained with it until his death, which occurred October 15th, 1815, his age being 32. During his pastorate, I. Collins, Abraham Hoagland and Luther Stiles were constituted elders. He was followed in 1816 by the Rev. Holsey A. Wood. One hundred and thirty members were added to the church as the fruits of a revival carried on by this devout man. His ministrations were also terminated by death, November 26th, 1825, in the 33rd year of his age. During his stay, Nathaniel Hendrick, Aaron Marcellus, Thomas Allen, Barney Stiles and Joseph Hagaman were elected elders. He was followed by his brother, Rev. James Wood, who was ordained and installed as pastor September 5th, 1826.

On March 3d, 1832, one hundred and four of the village members took letters of dismissal from the "Church of Amsterdam," and, having obtained the sanction of the Presbytery, were formally organized, the same day, as the "Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam Village." They at once

commenced the erection of a new brick edifice on the corner of Church and Grove streets, which was finished and dedicated in August of the same year. The Rev. Mr. Wood now confined his efforts to the village church, until 1833, when he resigned, and was succeeded, February 14th, 1834, by the Rev. Hugh M. Kontz, who was called from his labors by death, August 1st, 1836. In December of that year, the Rev. Dr. Goodale commenced his pastorate over this church, which continued the rather unusual period of 34 years. He resigned, on account of impaired health, in November, 1870, and is now enjoying a mellow sunset of life among this people.

In 1834, Mr. Simeon B. Marsh, (editor of the *Intelligencer* for 18 years from 1836) set up in this church a small organ, mainly of his own construction, which did service after its fashion, for several years, and was the first organ used in the town. He played it, as also, later, his daughter, an accomplished musician, who became Mrs. J. Watts Van Deveer. (*Apropos* to the subject, the first piano brought to this town was that of Mrs. Marcus T. Reynolds, 1824, and it was an object of no little curiosity to the many who had never seen an instrument of the kind.) Mr. Marsh had been for several years a teacher of music, establishing and maintaining the usual country singing schools, in many villages of this vicinity. He originated infant singing classes, in which he was most successful, as well as highly popular in his adult schools. He was a good singer and teacher, and a respectable performer upon violin and organ. For several years he was leader of the singing in the Presbyterian church of this village. He also possessed considerable ability as a composer, and published many tunes of real merit, one of which has since girdled the earth, and to-day is, perhaps, oftener sung in christian worship than any other tune. Ages may pass before the simple melody and sweet harmony of "Martyn" will cease to charm, expressing, as it does, the deep emotion of christian hearts. This tune was composed on horseback, took there its concrete form, and was soon given to his various schools on the black-board. It won its sweet way, found place in singing books and papers, and has now its niche firm and sure in the popular heart.

The last religious services held in the brick church built in 1832 occurred May 9th, 1869, immediately after which the structure was razed, and the erection of the present edifice commenced on the same site, the corner stone of which was laid with appropriate ceremonies, July 22nd following. A box deposited within this stone contains many *souvenirs*, such as books, newspapers, a map of the village, United States flag, coins, cards of business houses, catalogue of church members, village officers, etc., etc. The building was completed at a cost of over \$40,000, and dedicated June 1st, 1870. It is constructed of brick, with gray limestone ornamental trimmings, in the Romanesque style of architecture. Its dimensions are 66 by 104 feet, and, with the galleries, it has a capacity for seating one thousand persons. It is elaborately finished and furnished inside, and contains a large organ and a ponderous bell. Annexed to the church, on Grove street, is a chapel, which will accommodate 250 people, and is used for weekly services, and the infant branch of the Sunday school. Just south of the church, on the same lot, stands the pleasant and commodious brick parsonage. In November, 1870, Rev. Dr. Goodale was elected pastor *emeritus*, and on the 21st of December following Rev. Henry L. Teller was installed pastor in charge, who still continues in that capacity.

In February, 1781, by direction of the presbytery, upon application, the church at Manny's Corners was designated as the "First" and the village church as the "Second Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam." The present membership numbers 470. Its Sabbath school has an enrollment of 300 scholars, constituting two departments. Its session now consists of Rev. H. L. Teller, Moderator; Chandler Bartlett, Jas. H. Bronson, Jas. A. Miller, David Cady, Dan'l. I. McMartin, Gardiner Blood, Henry Herrick and J. J. Van Deveer, Elders; Josiah Sharpley, Thos. S. Stanley and Nicholas J. De Graff, Deacons. The officers have been as follows:

1832—Elders: Joseph Clizbee, Israel Collins, Thomas Allen, Luther Stiles, Barney Stiles, Chandler Bartlett. Deacons: Chas. Stiles, John Jenne, John Efner, John Freemyre.

1838—Elders: Jeremiah Warring, Ellis Clizbee. Deacons: Geo. W. Bronson, W. B. Hull.

1842—Elder: Samuel Lefferts.

1849—Elders: John J. Schuyler, John Sanford. Deacons: Wm. H. Young, Hiram Pardee.

1857—Elders: John E. Hawley, Maley C. Young, Xenophon Haywood

1864—Elders: George W. Striker, James C. Duell, James H. Bronson.

1869—Elders: Joseph H. Sturtevant, James A. Miller, David Cady, C. C. Wetsell, T. Romeyn Bunn. Deacons: Thomas S. Stanley, Joshua Sharpley.

1875—Elders: Daniel I. McMartin, Henry Herrick, Gardiner Blood, John J. Van Deveer. Deacon: Nicholas J. De Graff.

The Reformed Church of Cranesville was organized June 24th, 1871, by delegates from the classis of Schenectady, with eleven members; H. P. P. Chute and H. J. Swart were elected elders, and Geo. A. Brewster and Geo. Combs deacons. The church edifice was erected in 1870-1, at a cost of nearly \$4,000. The present membership is forty-eight.

The church at Manny's Corners, enfeebled by the withdrawal of its pastor and one hundred and four of its members, was by no means discouraged, and January 1st, 1833, called and settled the Rev. Charles Jenks. The session then consisted of Nicholas Marcellus, Abraham Hoagland, Joseph Hagaman and N. Hendrick. In 1835 the church building at Hagaman's Mills was erected in connection with this church, and for fourteen years services were held alternately in the two houses, they being denominated respectively the North church and the South church. Thus began a growth and development on the north such as had already taken place on the west. In April, 1838, Mr. Jenks resigned, and was followed by Mr. Stewart (now the Rev. Dr. Stewart of Minneapolis, Minn.), who was ordained and installed February 20th, 1839, remaining, however, but little over a year. The records now show the peculiar fact that during the interim that the church was without a pastor thirty-six members were added to it at a meeting presided over by Rev. James Arnold. The next pastor was Alex. Proudfit, ordained and installed February 16th, 1841. In March, 1842, Manning Marcellus, Thomas P. Johnson and Francis Hagaman were elected elders. Rev. Mr. Proudfit was succeeded by Rev. Charles Milne, September 13th, 1848, whose labors with the church terminated in January, 1850, at which time a separation took place between the north and south branches, thus diminishing the membership of the mother church by sixty-eight. Nicholas and Manning Marcellus were now the only remaining elders. In January, 1852, Sylvester Judson, and in June, 1854, Dr. Pruyn and John C. Marcellus were elected elders. After the withdrawal of the north branch a succession of ministers followed in the order named: Rev. Messrs. Proudfit, Ingalls, James B. Eastman, Morey, James Frothingham and Snyder, down to 1863. On November 1st of that year, Rev. W. J. Blain assumed the pastorate of this church, which he has held to the present, a period of fourteen years. The old church building, the first in the town, still remains in good repair. The present elders are T. P. Johnson, J. C. Marcellus and Alexander Scott.

The Reformed Church of Hagaman's Mills was organized January 21st, 1850, with sixty-eight members, and first known as the "Presbyterian Church of Hagaman's Mills." It was, however, independent of the Presbytery and General Assembly. In October, 1855, it was, by application, taken under the care of the Classis of Montgomery, and was afterward known as the "Protestant Dutch Church." In 1867, the General Synod of the denomination dropped the word Dutch, and from that time this church has been known as the "Reformed Church of Hagaman's Mills." Rev. Charles Milne, who assisted in its organization, became its first pastor. He was followed successively by Revs. Kellogg, Amos W. Seely, J. Lanning Pearce and E. Slingerland. In the fall of 1863, the Rev. A. J. Hagaman accepted the pastorate, and still continues in that capacity.

#### ST. ANN'S EPISCOPAL.

This church is a lineal descendant of Queen Anne's chapel, built at Fort Hunter in 1712 (see Church History of Florida), and named in honor of its benefactress, Queen Anne of England. That edifice was used as a place of worship until 1820, when it was destroyed to make way for the Erie canal. From its ashes sprung St. Ann's Church of Port Jackson, opposite Amsterdam. This church was organized December 22d, 1835. A building was erected in 1836, and completed and consecrated in 1837. It soon became apparent, however, that the location of the church edifice at this place was disadvantageous to the growth and maintenance of the parish, and it was resolved to sell the building, which was disposed of June 19th, 1849, for \$2,400. At this time the officers were: Dr. Abraham Pulling and Henry Elder, wardens; and George Warnick, Charles Devendorf, Jubal Livermore, William H. Hill, James Riggs, Henry A. Hindle, Cyrus B. Chase and Francis Newkirk, vestrymen. The last rector of St. Ann's

of Port Jackson, the Rev. A. N. Littlejohn, had resigned April 15th, 1849, and the Rev. Thomas L. Franklin—now the Rev. Dr. Franklin of Philadelphia—was called as rector, November 14th, 1849, remaining till December 1st, 1853. During his rectorship, the new names of H. N. Hadley and S. R. Voorhees appear as vestrymen; and the present St. Ann's of Amsterdam was erected on Division street, and consecrated June 15th, 1851, by Bishop De Lancy of Western New York. The tower of the church, however, was not completed till 1863. The Rev. William H. Trapnell was rector from January 27th, 1854, to April 24th, 1857; followed, August 26th, 1858, by Rev. J. A. Robinson, who remained five or six years. Then came the Rev. Porter Thomas, from 1864 to 1869. On November 14th, 1869, Rev. Thomas G. Clemson was elected rector; he resigned December 10th, 1870, and was succeeded in April, 1871, by the Rev. Howard T. Widdemer, who remained till January 1st, 1875. During his ministry here a new organ was bought, the house and lot adjoining the church on the west purchased for a rectory, and a new iron fence for the church. Rev. J. C. Hewett became rector in 1875, and remained fourteen months. The present rector, Rev. William N. Irish, took charge of the parish July 1st, 1876. The present officers are: Wardens—W. Max Reid, John J. Hand. Vestrymen—Cyrus B. Chase, D. Carmichael, George S. Devendorf, Abram V. Morris, William Ryland, James T. Sugden, L. S. Strang, John K. Warnick. Clerk—E. H. Finlayson. This church is supported by the contributions made at the Sunday offertories. The seats are free. Connected with it is a prosperous Sunday school; L. S. Strang, superintendent.

"A most interesting, though unusual, service was held in this church on the evening of July 3d, 1876. The singing was very appropriate and excellent. After a short service, and remarks by the rector, at 11:55 at night, the whole congregation joined with devout reverence in silent prayer, and at the hour of twelve, amid profound silence, the signal was given that the nation had entered upon its Centennial year. The ringing of bells, the firing of cannon, the general illumination—for there was, in an instant, light in all the dwellings—and the glare of fireworks, proclaimed the joy without, while the voices of a grateful congregation within, rising from their knees, added solemnity to a scene never to be forgotten, by singing the *Te Deum*; and the whole congregation then joined heartily in the national anthem:

'God bless our native land!  
Firm may she ever stand  
Thro' storm and night.'"

#### BAPTIST.

The first formal organization of a Baptist church in this village seems to have been about 1825. Four years thereafter the congregation erected a brick church building on Main street, now occupied as a private residence, No. 198. It was occupied by the society till 1842, when the present edifice was built on Market street. This was enlarged in 1870, and has the distinction of containing a fire-alarm bell and the only town clock in the village. [Repeated efforts and solicitations have been made to obtain a more complete history of this church, but without success.—*Publishers.*]

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC.

The first Catholic services of a public character in Amsterdam were held in 1837, by Rev. Father Beauchamp, of Rome, N. Y. The building secured for the occasion was then a Universalist church, now the grocery store of T. F. Kennedy, corner of Main and Market streets. The first formal organization of a church in this vicinity occurred in 1844. A building standing near the canal bank, in the town of Florida, about a mile and a half east of the village, was rented and converted into a temporary place of worship, and the Rev. Father McCluskey, of Schenectady, ministered to the wants of the congregation as a part of his extensive mission. In 1847 Father Cull, also of Schenectady, located here and assumed charge of the church. Encouraged by the number and liberality of his congregation, he was enabled, June 19th, 1849, to purchase the Episcopal church property at Port Jackson. He was, soon after this transaction, induced to resign, and was succeeded, in 1850, by Rev. Father McCallion, after whom came successively Fathers Sheehan, McGue, O'Sullivan and Furlong, the latter

of whom, while here, secured of Isaac Jackson a location in Amsterdam, preparatory to the erection of a new church, which, however, was soon lost. Father Furlong was followed in 1855 by Rev. J. P. Fitzpatrick, who, after a pastorate of five years, was succeeded by Rev. Father Carroll for a short time. In 1862 the congregation was favored with the services of Rev. E. P. Clark, through whose instrumentality, and the co-operation of the people, the church was released from an old debt, and the present site of St. Mary's again purchased and paid for. Failing in health, he was forced to resign, and was followed, in 1866, by Rev. Philip Keveney, now of St. Peter's church, Troy, N. Y., who remained until the close of 1874. In 1869 the present St. Mary's church edifice, on Main street, was erected. It is built of brick, with gray limestone ornamental facings, in the Romanesque style of architecture. Its dimensions are 60 by 130 feet, and 174 feet to the top of the spire, which is surmounted by a large gilt cross. At its completion an organ costing over \$3,500 was bought and placed in position. Immediately after the walls of the structure were erected, the entire west side tumbled down, severely injuring two workmen and causing considerable delay and additional expense. The parochial residence, built the same year, is a two story brick building, 30 by 40 feet, with a wing and piazzas. In 1875 the present pastor, Rev. W. B. Hannett, assumed charge of the parish, which had previously been reduced to the villages and vicinities of Amsterdam, Port Jackson, Tribe's Hill and Fort Hunter. Since that time he has added to the church a beautiful wooden altar, at a cost of \$1,500, besides a ponderous bell, weighing nearly 3,000 pounds. In Sept., 1875, the Rev. John F. Hyland was called as assistant pastor. In Feb., 1876, during a funeral service, a hurricane blew down the spire and tower of the church, which, in falling, demolished the roof of, and otherwise seriously damaged the priest's house. Fortunately, no one was hurt, and in repairing the damage several improvements were made, both to the residence and church. There are in connection with this church a number of auxiliary societies, besides a large Sunday-school, numbering 500 pupils, under the superintendency of John Kavanaugh.

The presence of two priests in this parish induced the Hon. James Shanahan, of Tribes Hill—assisted by a few of his neighbors—to purchase an unoccupied church, located on Main street, in that village, which was enlarged, remodeled, tastily finished and furnished, and presented to the bishop of the diocese, and where services are now regularly held.

#### LUTHERAN.

The German Lutheran Church of Amsterdam was formally organized by Rev. Mr. Peterson, in Sept., 1866, although a society of this persuasion had been in existence since Nov., 1863, which was formed at that time by a Mr. Hauch. The meetings were at first held in private dwellings, afterwards in the Presbyterian session-room. Rev. Mr. Peterson was succeeded, in 1868, by the Rev. Mr. Matchart, during whose pastorate, which lasted but little over a year, the corner-stone of a church was laid, and a parsonage built; but this property was afterward sold, and the money appropriated to other uses. In 1869 a church edifice was erected, and on Jan. 11th, 1870, it was dedicated by the Rev. Dr. Pholman, of Albany, under the name of "Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Kirche." In March, 1870, the present pastor, Rev. J. P. Krechting, was duly installed, and under his ministrations the number of communicant members has increased from 20 to 311. There are in connection with this church a growing Sunday-school and a young people's literary society.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

The "West Amsterdam M. E. Church" was organized about 1810. The present church building was erected in 1860, and is located on Fort Johnson creek, about four miles north-west of Amsterdam village.

The old "Dutch Reformed Church of Veddersburg," built in 1800, was, upon the erection of the brick church, in 1832, sold to the M. E. society, and by them removed up Main street to what is now the corner of Wall street, where it stood, devoid of its steeple, until 1845, when it was again removed to Market street, where it still remains, a part of the present Methodist church building.