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SOUVENIR PROGRAM AND HISTORY

150th Anniversary Celebration

Town of Mendon

August 14th through 18th

1963

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IN THE TOWN OF MENDON

AND THE VILLAGE OF HONEOYE FALLS

1813 – 1963

AN ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE OUR

PRESENT GENERATION

WITH A TASTE OF OUR FLAVORFUL PAST

Printed by O'Brien Bros. Printing Co., Inc., Honeoye Falls, N. Y.
August, 1963

TOWN OF MENDON

Honeoye Falls, New York — Mendon, New York

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INTRODUCTION

Mendon is a town of growing communities and a rich agricultural section, the home of nationally known manufacturers and a county park.

It is a town where the past and the present blend harmoniously together. It is distinguished by rolling countryside, by its ponds and its creeks, its geologically distinctive kames and its eskers and other glacial phenomena, and its high land of the Hopper Hills.

The town is said to have been named by an old sea captain who had run across the name in a French novel. Less hard to believe is the story that from Mendon, Massachusetts, had come settlers, who, transplanted to Monroe County, had wished to retain in their new surroundings, a nostalgic link with their past.

Our town has spelled home to seven generations of some families. Others of more recent origin have adopted the township as home. Some have chosen to live in simple country fashion in the comfortable farm houses of the past century.

There are old stone buildings built to last the centuries by artisans of stone masonry; there are sturdy old frame houses with hand hewn beams; there are the handsome structures of the Greek Revival; and there are brick dwellings that reflect the high-ceilinged magnificence of the Victorian age. Many new residences of modern architectural trends emphasize the old and the new contrasts in the town.

Manufacturing has ranged from flour to fine cashmere; from furniture to sweet-toned ocarinas; from door chimes to space-age products in the 150-year old history of our town. Landmarks for generations to come are the old stone mills already in their second century of existence. Several commercial locations have disappeared, their usefulness long gone, forever ended in destructive fires.

Old crossroads hamlets, dating to the long ago, where the stagecoach stopped, or cheese was made, or a mill was located still bear names associated with an importance long vanished from the Mendon scene. They are names meaningful only to those of long residence in the town or a student of history.

There have been old characters remembered with affection, and townspeople who have left to win fame and distinction in the outside world.

Mendon has claim to historical importance. The most powerful tribe of the Iroquois had their principal village within the boundaries of the town. Scarcely a field that has not yielded some evidence of the long period in which the Senecas were masters.

Further enhancing Mendon's prestige as a town is Monroe County's largest county park. Mendon Ponds Park was an ancient Indian hunting and fishing site and a camping grounds for early French soldiers. It has present day value as a favorite haunt for nature lovers and picnickers with its seasonal sports and its wildlife sanctuary.

Seneca war cries were stilled and the dark-skinned tribesmen of the Iroquois had disappeared from the woods of the town when the land company, Phelps and Gorham, purchased a large tract of land that extended all the way from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. Township 11, range 5, became Mendon, and was the last sale made by the early land promoters before transfer of their property to Sir William Pulteney and his associates. The sale was made to "Franklin and

Boughton," but subdivided soon after that. Jeremiah Wadsworth became owner of 11,000 acres on the east side, Catlin and Ferris were early landowners on the northwest, and Waddington and Pepoon and Captain Ball purchased land in the southwest section of the town.

It was from Captain Jonathan Ball that the millwright Zebulon Norton purchased 1820 acres including water rights on Honeoye Creek. He paid for his holdings the sum of 12½ cents an acre. With erection of a rustic mill by the pioneer Norton in 1791, the settlement of Norton's Mills came into being, the predecessor of West Mendon. For the past 125 years the community, established 170 years ago on an old mill stream, has been known as Honeoye Falls.

Other settlers, induced by land selling for negligible sums and manufacturing possibilities all along the swift flowing creeks, drifted in and mills went up in swift succession. All day the bustling frontier settlement rang with the shriek of the saw mills and the clink of hammers on stone.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

It has been my sincere attempt to record in these pages the highlights of the history of the Town of Mendon.

I gratefully acknowledge all of the help received in the preparation of this sesquicentennial booklet. My mother's notes, so carefully compiled, and her scrap books, kept for more than half a century, were of an invaluable source of information. They represented her lifetime of interest in the town in which her grandfather was a pioneer.

—AMO T. KREIGER
Town Historian

July 12, 1963

The Official Seal
of the Mendon Sesquicentennial
designed by Leslie Drojak
in Art Competition held at
Honeoye Falls Central School
in the Spring of 1963

HISTORY OF
OUR TOWN OF MENDON

Pioneers worshipped first in log cabins with itinerant missionaries to administer to their spiritual needs. With the influx of settlers and steady commercial and industrial growth, they turned their thougts to building churches.

The Presbyterian Church of West Mendon, later to be known as Honeoye Falls, was organized March 31, 1831. Six members constituted the first roster of membership. Incorporation of the church was effected May 30, 1831, and a frame meeting house built that summer. First meetings were held in 1828 under the Board of Home Missions. The present colonial styled church, one of the finest examples in Western New York of classic Greek Revival architecture, was built in 1841 at a cost of $4,500, defrayed almost entirely by subscriptions. The lot was given by Dr. Harry Allen and his wife, Lydia Norton Allen, and they were among the largest contributors to the cost of the erection. According to tradition, women of the church entered into a pact to wear only calico dresses during the building to ensure completion. The many-paned windows which followed the colonial mode were sheltered with blinds, whale oil lamps sent a dim glow into its interior, and it was heated with wood stoves. So-called "straight-jacket" pews were enclosed by doors with fasteners, and church goers used small foot-warmers in the cold months of the year.

The church bell was rung for the first time in 1865, a memorial to a church member killed in the Civil War. It served to warn people of fire, and when a death occurred the church bell tolled slowly the age of the person deceased, then faster at the end, one stroke for a man, two for a woman. The first manse was located across Honeoye Creek on Hyde Park (known later as the "flats") and a foot-bridge connected the church and parsonage. From a member of this church comes an anecdote about a former pastor, the Reverend W. W. Ketchum, a speaker of marked ability. During the height of his eloquence one day he stepped too near the edge of the rostrum and walked off into the collection plate, for the collection had been taken. He lost no word of his sermon as he rose from his awkward position and walked up the steps of the rostrum again. "He just didn't stop talking from the time he stepped off until he was back up there again," as this member told it, adding, "We laughed our heads off."

Harry Allen Community Fark was the site of three village schools built on land given by Dr. Harry Allen for educational purposes. Dr. Allen had come here as a pioneer physician, a member of the first class in medicine to graduate from Dartmouth College. He saw a thriving community with a great need for educational facilities.

The first school erected was a two-room brick structure near the rear of the park. It contained two rooms, a "district" and the other a "select" school. This was followed by a stone building slightly larger than its predecessor with three rooms and three teachers, the date of its erection painted in large black lettering on the wooden belfry—1855. A picket fence surrounded the school grounds with entrance over a stile. Lucius Allen, Dr. Allen's son, was principal here. Honeoye Falls Union Free School was built in 1879, an imposing red brick building. In 1892 the principal received $875 per year, the preceptress $450, and primary and grade teachers $9 a week. This school was enlarged in 1896 to become Honeoye Falls High School with seven teachers and 319 pupils and the largest school

library in the county. Like the other schools on this village educational site, the building was razed when East Street was chosen as the location for the new and modern school building.

The first small school was built opposite the park in 1810 by Ezra Norton. In the 1790's an abandoned and draughty log cabin was Nortons Mills school, and Welcome Garfield taught the three R's for the sum of $1.50 a week. First school board met July 12, 1800.

On the lawn nearly opposite the Presbyterian Church was the village's first Post Office and the first mailing address, West Mendon. This establishment of a post office here was in 1822. Old records give postal rates at 25¢, 18½¢, 12½¢ and 10¢. The first Postmaster was Squire Horace Wheeler.

On March 13, 1838, the Village of West Mendon became the Incorporated Village of Honeoye Falls by Act of the New York State Legislature.

The first clearing of the village extended from a point nearly opposite this church to the Palmer residence on West Main Street. Village life from earliest times has centered about Honeoye Creek—oxen pulled heavy wagons over the first crude bridge of 1810, main industries were located on the former "roaring stream," as an early writer described the Honeoye Creek, baptisms occurred at a point above the falls in the creek, and circus attendants brought elephants here for watering, in the varied, chequered village life of 150 years. Bands have played gay airs near the creek bank, and there have been drownings.

Honeoye Falls had achieved a reputation in the olden days as a "rip-roaring" town, to use modern parlance. There are some really good stories kept alive in the past probably by the cracker-barrel crowd that gathered daily in the village stores. Take the one about the black horses that turned white, and the white horses black, in the mysterious underground stable that fronted Honeoye Creek at the rear of the present park. The horse market maintained here was said to have been a scandal. Horse stealing at that period was a commonplace occurrence. According to this story, horses were taken from the upper Honeoye Valley under cover of darkness and brought to this hidden rendezvous of the horse thieves where the paint was applied. So skillfully was the dye job done that only an expert could detect it. A notorious character of the day combined quite profitably, it is related, a liquor business and a livery stable at the rear. When the village board passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale of liquor, the saloon was boarded up and an ingenious revolving counter devised where men placed their money on a shelf and then turned the wheel to receive their glass of whiskey. No one saw the bartender.

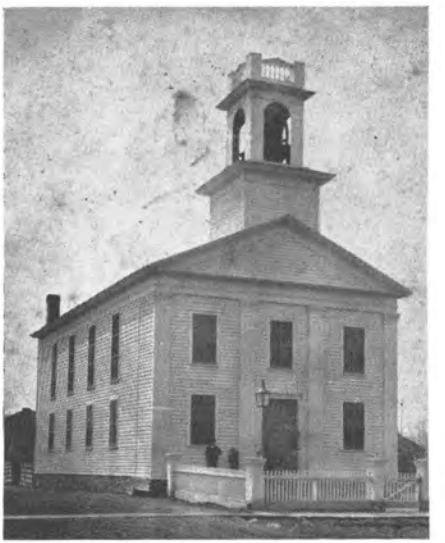
Every community had a town pump and Honeoye Falls was no exception. It was located in the driveway between the park and business block. A rusty cup hung by its side, used by all, a place of distribution of gossip and germs.

Street fights and barroom brawls were common. Seven drinking places, then spoken of as saloons, were in operation in the village. Drunken revelers, and this was particularly true Saturday nights, were confined in the village jail known as the lockup, uniquely located opposite the Methodist Church. The weathered old building still stands.

The village is proud of its Masonic Temple, formerly the imposing Wilcox House, operated by Sylvester (Jack) Wilcox about 1865. He lived in the large brick home on Monroe Street. The former hotel was preceded by a brick tavern

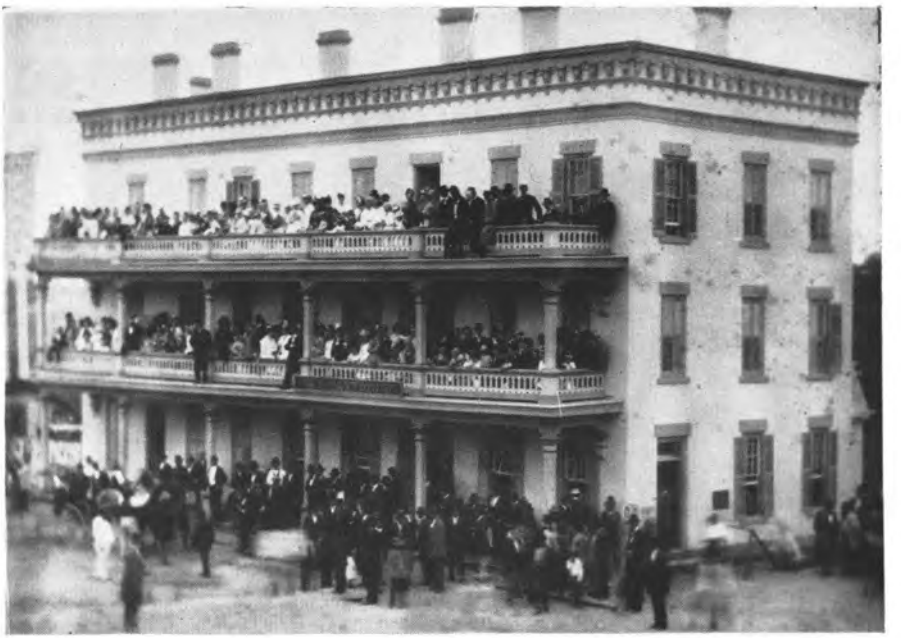
Presbyterian Church, Honeoye Falls, photo taken about 1845. Schoolhouse was built on adjoining lot.

Old Gray Stone School about 1855.



First Methodist Church . . .
. . . later became Village Hall.

E. K. Harnish Drug Store; J. S. Brown, Bakery and Grocery Store; Second story housed the Telephone Office.



Watching parade from the Wilcox House, July 4, 1878

built by Daniel Gibson in 1827. The Masonic Temple became officially the home of the Masonic Lodge in 1920. Both the lodge and Union Star Chapter meet in the third floor of the temple, the former ballroom of the hotel where the village dances were held. Town offices and the loan cupboard are located in the Masonic Temple.

Freeman A. Hopkins and his wife, Cora, purchased the Cottage Hotel in 1902 from the former proprietor, Joseph Shellman. The hotel catered to traveling men who stopped in the village, and a porter met all trains. It was located on North Main Street opposite a hardware store and is now a business block and apartment house.

There is the story of the "elephant" that led the 4th of July parade of 1876, known as the "Horribles." It looked so real the village board feared to allow what they believed to be a real live circus elephant to cross Main Street bridge, not considered very safe at that time. The "animal" had been given a most realistic paint job by a village artist of the day. It was seven feet high, made of barrel hoops and covered with canvas. It was made in a room over the tin shop, and only the committee knew of the prank before the parade started and in which nearly everybody for miles around took part. After the parade the "elephant" was abandoned in the vacant lot across the creek.

The Emblidge Pharmacy is located on the four corners where a drug store has been continuously operated for more than a hundred years. Alba Allen, brother of Dr. Allen, opened the first pharmacy here in 1838. In 1884, F. L. Remington became the owner of this store and operated it under the name of Remington Drug Store. In 1897 Edwin K. Harnish purchased the store, operated as the E. K. Harnish Drug Store until 1909 when Jay Harnish entered the business. It then became the Harnish Brothers Drug Store. Following Jay's death in 1921, the store reverted to its original name. The "Harnish Drug Store," as it was known, became a village institution in its more than 40 years on the village four corners. The first telephone office (Bell Telephone) was located in a rear room on the main floor, later being changed to the second floor. Cordon Frank became owner of the store in 1937, operating the business until his death in 1954.

The massive old stone mill at our falls has been much photographed and is a favorite subject for artists. It is not uncommon to see an easel propped up near the creek bank where an artist is striving to place on canvas in oil or in water color the pleasant village scene of mill and stream. Zebulon Norton built the first rustic mill here in 1791 and the settlement was then named Nortons Mills. This mill burned and a mill was built again, destroyed by fire and rebuilt for the third time. Three generations of Nortons operated the three mills—Zebulon, his son, Ezra, and his grandson, Lyman—all millers.

The stone mill is said to have been built in 1837 by Col. Henry P. Culver who sold it to Hiram Finch. The industrialist Finch, according to legend, shipped a barrel of his finest flour from handpicked wheat to Queen Victoria to introduce the Honeoye Falls product to English buyers. The mill passed through various hands, including D. Y. Smith who with his descendants operated it for three generations. William Hamilton took over ownership in 1888. It was known as the "upper" mill or Hamilton mill. In 1939, the mechanized beat of the motor resounded through the village 24 hours a day. It was war time and six freight cars filled with wheat would be converted to flour at the rate of 450 barrels a day. The mill has gone through the transition from water power to steam, gasoline and deisel engine.

The present $70,000 Honeoye Falls Post Office was opened for transaction of postal business November 1, 1941. Site of this federal building was for 70 years the location of the Catholic Church. In early times Joseph Dixon ran a store here.

St. John's Episcopal Church is believed unique among churches in its unusual claim to ownership of its own street. The pillared stone church stands at the end of Episcopal Avenue. Pioneer builders gave a dignified approach to the church by twin rows of maples that extended originally from the church to the street. It was given further significance by the set of chimes, said at the time of installation, December 11, 1927, to be the largest for size of church in the world.

Incorporation of the parish took place June 29, 1840, in the school building. Hiram Sibley, then industrialist at Sibleyville, and later organizer of the Western Union Telegraph Company, was a member of the building committee. The first church bell was given by Mrs. Hiram Sibley.

The Totiakton Garden Club, husbands helping, has spent many hours in the civic beautification projects in Honeoye Falls and along the banks of the tree-shaded winding creek. Since the club organized in 1959, two Sears and Roebuck Foundation Civic Beautification Awards have been won by the enterprising gardeners. The totem pole, although historically not belonging to the Senecas, was presented to the club with a colorful ceremonial. It serves as a village "conversation piece."

The first wooden railroad bridge across the creek was a covered structure, and the first train steamed into the village of Honeoye Falls over the bridge on July 3, 1853. Hundreds of townspepole waited with thrilled expectation to watch the wood-burning locomotive as it brought an excursion train into the village on the way to Niagara Falls, the big event of that day a hundred years ago. The Peanut Branch was so named for a shipment of peanuts carried and spilled, so it is told. It connected the Pennsylvania Railroad at Canandaigua and the New York Central at Batavia. An iron bridge replaced the weathered old structure in 1893. Flat cars brought in the bridge in three sections set up on a temporary framework and when the last trains went across Saturday night, a large force of men went to work and installed the bridge in time for Monday morning train service. Imported western stock was herded into railroad enclosures for auctions. At least a dozen trains daily traveled the "Peanut Line" in the heyday of the road and freights of over 100 cars were not unusual. The soot-blackened railroad station was taken down and the small "scales house" was made into a dwelling. Only the freight house remains—silent through long trainless hours.

The apartment house near this site was the location of Zebulon Norton's block house, where the Nortons moved from the first log cabin further up West Main Street in the fall of 1791.

Honeoye Falls Plaza has been a commercial and industrial site since 1807 when a woolen mill was built here. In 1825 Eldrick Smith built a custom and carding machine where the Yorks furnace was located and later sold to O. J. Gilbert, who carried on woolen manufacture for several years. The building burned and he erected the stone structure which Horace and Zenus Smith used as an iron foundry. John B. Yorks used the structure as a machine shop, and later E. L. and W. R. Yorks, his sons, used both the machine shop and the furnace. In 1908, Henry E. Yorks, son of W. R. Yorks, took over the shop and furnace, but fire destroyed the shop, and it was torn down. Later farm machinery was sold here.

"Meet me by gaslight-alone" might have appropriately designated the former gas-lit Palmer hickory grove on West Main Street. Rural folks from miles around gathered here to listen to the village band play and eat homemade ice cream, and gas lamps lighted the street. For 50 years, with the exception of one winter, a gas light burned day and night in a living room of the Palmer home. The original hickory nut trees were planted by Zebulon Norton on a quarter acre of cleared ground here. Five generations of Palmers have called this stately village residence home since James L. Palmer acquired the former 175-acre farm in 1870. He added the third floor and rear section of the home. Palmer boys started a milk route with a hand cart that held milk cans with long handled pint ladles. A horse-drawn vehicle later replaced the delivery by foot. They walked about the village carrying the cans, the cart left at the four corners as base of supply. If customers wanted more than a quart, they got a bargain. They then paid four cents a quart for their milk. The business started by the enterprising youths was carried on for 56 years.

The Sportacade opened in 1948 and is now completing its 15th year. This commercial area was until recently farm land.

The Star Headlight and Lantern Company, incorporated in 1899 as manufacturers of railroad lighting equipment, moved its business here in 1953.

Valuable Indian artifacts have been taken by archeologists from farm lands in the area of Dann's Corners formerly known as Rogers' Corners (originally the Ball farm) one mile west of Honeoye Falls, where the Senecas relocated after the French burned their village at Rochester Junction. It was the late John E. Dann's accidental discovery on his farm that led to thousands of dollars worth of Indian relics being found here, a large number sold to the State Museum at Albany. The spring-fed stream just west of here was the site of the Indian village encampment and all of this area once was part of the populous village of the Senecas.

The monument at the fork of the Lima-Honeoye Falls Road was erected in tribute to the missionaries at Totiakton, a most historical site in the early French colonial history—the Jesuit Chapel was called LaConception. Its dedication took place October 29, 1933. The monument stands between the sites of the two villages of the Senecas, a place of unusual importance in the 17th century secular history, and near a meeting point of ancient trails and modern roads.

About 1900 an electric trolley ran up the north side of Lima Road to Dann's Corners and then crossed the fields towards Lima. A slightly raised road bed is visible at the west side of the intersection. Generators were shut off at midnight with the exception of rare occasions when arrangements were made to have lights on for a late party. The trolley starting point was the rear of the freight house. The fare was 50 cents a couple for the trip to evening dancing parties. The trolley trip of four miles took twenty minutes. There was a charge of 10 cents, 15 cents round trip, and children under 12 for half fare. You could get on at any place along the line by flagging down the trolley, and you could get off by simply ringing the bell. There were two cars, a passenger, and one which was half passenger and half freight. Many people went to Lima just for the trip, and Lima folks came to Honeoye Falls and boarded our Lehigh train for Rochester. It made a long day, they tell, and they did not do it very often. The trolley service closed in 1916.

The only business to date from pioneer times is Pride Hardware, organized by Asa Pride, who started a tinsmith shop in 1838, the same year the village pharmacy

was started. In the building opposite the hardware store, the first issue of the Mendon Free Press was published in January, 1863 by Francis S. Jory, a florid faced Englishman with broad cockney accent. His small rotund figure was topped with a high silk hat and he flourished a cane for further elegance. He is remembered as a "fat little man with a red face." He offered for sale in his newspaper for 50 cents photographs of the "'littlest man editor in the world." He strolled daily about the village ever alert for material for his "biting" editorials with which he sought to mold village opinion. He sold Harpers Weeklies, school supplies, dime store novels, and long sticks of peppermint candy. Successors were the Honeoye Falls Gazette and 1882 the Honeoye Falls Times, founded by William O'Brien, which publication is still owned and operated by the O'Brien family after three generations. The Honeoye Standard, first newspaper, was published in 1838 by Gary Hough, a member of a traveling theatrical troupe.

"Tammany Hall" and Phil Kaufman's shoe shop were synonymous terms to the street corner habitues of the day. At election times this shoe "emporium" was the political "hot bed" of the town. It was a gathering place for many of the elderly men who wore shawls in winter for further protection. When the daily paper arrived, Phil, with his mouth full of nails would ejaculate, "That is the truth-teller," when the editorial viewpoint matched his own. Major Downey conducted a general store on the site of the Cargill Department Store for many years. The Lillibridge Drug Store was located in this area for nearly half a century.

The red brick building just across the bridge on East Street serves as our village hall and some fire-fighting equipment is stored here. It was built in 1886. The former village building was the old Methodist Church moved here and destroyed by fire in 1885 when the entire block was consumed.

The internationally famous Iron Fireman, with a history that includes raids and attempts to capture the famed mascot from our firemen, was placed on his perch atop the village hall tower a century after the first hardy pioneers from New England came to town. The iron figure was cast by a St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada, blacksmith. It was at one time possessed by a Rochester volunteer fire department. Its final capture from Avon occurred on the night of October 28, 1891. It was also the night of the wedding reception of Mrs. Edward G. (Jen) Brooks, a senior citizen now in her 93rd year. "The boys went from our reception," she told. A pair of fast-stepping horses speeded up the trip, and the thrilling capture ended when the loot was securely padlocked to a coffee grinder in a village store.

On Decoration Day night, 1885, three weeks after organization of the Village Fire Department, occurred one of Honeoye Falls' worst fires when "just about everything in sight burned," as one old resident put it. The skating rink and saw mill and village hall all went up in smoke. Fire had started in the shavings of the saw mill. The skating rink, really a carriage shop with harness and buggies but with room for skaters, had a supply of 300 pairs of roller skates.

The large brick house on Ontario Street was for many years the Fairchild residence. It was built on land deeded by Stephen Barrett to Colonel Culver in November, 1838, and the builder was Francis Nafie.

When Hiram Finch, the miller, purchased the house from Col. Culver, he spent what was described as a "fortune" on it, the sum of "nearly $20,000," and it became known locally as "Finch's Folly." His ownership passed to the Clarke brothers of Lima, who operated the mill. It was during this period that Robert

Beale of Lima was engaged to put in the ornamental ceilings of the living rooms. He had learned the "artists' craft" in England.

The house was purchased in 1889 by Charles Fairchild. In the course of ownership of the 125-year-old brick building, it has successively served as a miller's house, boarding house, private residence, hospital, apartment house and doctors' offices. It was purchased in 1936 by its present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Niels G. Madsen.

A fair ground and a mile-track for horse racing once was located on land in the Peer Street section, and fast horses are said to have been brought here from distant areas. One of our senior citizens recalled that they sold whips. Hop picking was quite a business, and women and school children were employed in the peak season. Often the school openings in the fall would be delayed in order to permit children to work here. The pay was six cents a bushel, and the seasonal picking lasted about ten days. The kiln was a two-story affair with a cupola on top for ventilation. The hop raising industry was started on the Barret-Shuart farm, later owned by Ben Peer, who continued to raise hops for a time. There were no houses then between this village farm and Honeoye Creek.

The Ben Peer farm and former Ben Peer house built by Captain Barrett became the home of the late Dr. E. G. Thompson. Denton G. Shuart, first elected surrogate of Monroe County, resided here with his family. He later built the Allen home where his son, Clarence Shuart, and his bride started their married life in 1883. Denton Shuart resided with them and the house was sold to Ben Peer.

Itinerant preachers administered to spiritual needs of Methodist worshipers until the chapel was built. The Methodist Church was built in 1820 on a lot purchased from Thomas Sanford. The building was painted on the inside a dark yellow color. It had a high pulpit common in the day, resembling the prisoner's box seen in the older court rooms. The pulpit was reached by a flight of eleven or twelve steps. It was said that the preacher was alone in his glory—when seated being entirely invisible to the congregation, but when standing his head seemed to be among the clouds.

Zebulon Norton and his son-in-law, Jacob Young, became members of the First Methodist Class organized in Norton's home in 1797. Young, who lived to be 103, achieved a record as a church member. He was a member of the Methodist Church for 95 years. In 1837 the first bell was purchased by subscription and placed in the church. It was the first large bell in this vicinity and served as town clock—it was rung three times a day, at five in the morning, at noon and at nine in the evening. In 1872 plans for a new church got under way, and the new brick edifice was dedicated in August, 1874. The old church, removed to a new site, became the village hall, later destroyed by fire on May 30, 1885.

The centennial observance of the church took place December 9-13, 1897. On October 27, 1957, the Alfred H. Lord Memorial Chimes were formally dedicated.

Hyde Park was an important street until 1836, for it was the only means of getting into the village from the north until construction in 1836 of the former picturesque stone arch bridge across the creek on North Main Street. In 1935 when the sewer line on Hyde Park was being built, remnants of an old white oak corduroy road were uncovered from 6 to 8 feet below the road level. The logs were about two to two and a half feet in diameter, closely spaced and at right angles to the road line. The logs, except for about an inch of decay, were solid, white,

and like new wood when cut, according to a surveyor's report. The log road encountered, extended several hundred feet.

Circuses were held on Hyde Park and once a deadly gila monster escaped and was found slithering across a North Main Street yard. It was captured, and the circus management lost no time in coming after it. They were greatly relieved when told that no one had been bitten although several had handled the "harmless" looking lizard.

The red brick house of Victorian style where Hyde Park joins North Main Street was built by Andrew Young, a grandson of Zebulon Norton.

The North Main Street hill has been greatly improved. It was formerly steep, and in the early days of the Honeoye Falls Fire Department it took 50 men to pull the old so-called "steamer" up the hill. A North Main Street resident, who doubted the efficiency of the new apparatus, made a wager that water from a hose laid at the foot of the hill would not reach his house. The stream knocked off a chimney, and the resident paid the wager and built a new chimney.

An old long-unused road to the north from this hill leads to the site of the old Hunt's woolen mill, established in 1866. Spring was a busy time at the mill when rag carpets were washed by the factory and hung out to dry in the area outside. The price for washing carpets was 75 cents for 25 yards or less. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1912. Trees have grown tall in the ruins of this once busy spot, and the mill race was long ago emptied of creek water.

Dutch Hollow Foods, Inc., started as a small creamery on the bank of Honeoye Creek, a busy site for farmers who brought their cream here. On December 5, 1894, the Honeoye Falls Elgin Creamery Company, Inc., was formed and incorporated. The company was made up of 24 local producers to create a market for their milk. The small creamery built up quite a reputation for its creamery butter, and the Powers Hotel and many leading grocery stores and families were supplied by the company. Elston Hunt was manager until his death in 1912. He was succeeded by William Shepard. The creamery closed in 1918. The plant was purchased in 1921 by Honeoye Falls Cream Products Company, Inc., and the present name adopted in 1953.

History has now repeated itself in the case of the old stone mill, now a place of storage. "But a sad farewell to the dear old mill for now 'tis dismantled, deserted, and still," wrote the Rev. L. C. Browne, a blind poet of North Main Street in 1898 when the former six-storied H. E. Boardman's Roller Flouring Mill had shut down and "Boardman's Best," as the brand of flour was known, was no longer manufactured. A village landmark, associated for more than a century with village industrial life, the mill was built from stone quarried from Honeoye Creek bed. Builder was the miller, Hiram Finch, and time of its erection was in 1827 when Honeoye Falls was known as West Mendon. It was designated as "lower" mill to distinguish it from the "upper" stone mill at the falls. Industry was geared to an all-time high then—a dozen assorted enterprises lined the banks of Honeoye Creek.

Shortly after the verses were written which bemoaned the end of flouring here, the mill entered into a prosperity undreamed of in the early industrial picture. The Tomkinson, Kenyon and Tomkinson Company was formed and the mill leased. They had operated only a short time when fire on a frigid February night in 1901 destroyed the mill, leaving stone walls standing. These were held by hundreds of feet of elevator cable attached to trees. Within six months the mill was rebuilt and new flouring machinery installed. A whistle blew at starting time and again at

Upper Mill, photo taken from Old Railroad Bridge

Postmaster Roy Earl and Clerk May Lillibridge behind the scenes in the old Post Office in the Snoddy Block—1917.

Former St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, built about 1870. Now site of modern Post Office.

Chambers' Store on West Main Street - approximate date 1870

Covered Railroad Bridge before 1893

York's Foundry, West Main Street above the falls

noon. So accurate was the engineer for time, vilagers could set their clocks by it. By reason of its size, the mill whistle could drown out a whistle on a manufacturing enterprise nearby, the woodworking shop, later destroyed by fire. The lake-fed creek was source of water-power conveyed by a mill race from the industrial dam at Hyde Park. A steam engine furnished auxiliary power, later gas engines were installed, and finally an oil-burning motor was necessary.

The output of flour was 150 barrels daily, shipped to markets all over the world. During World War I this was a busy spot; flour from here was shipped to France, leaving here via the railroad branch line to the Lehigh.

Many community problems were settled in the old office, for Miss Kenyon, bookkeeper and firm member, was a member of the school board, president of the Fortnightly Club and a teacher of an adult class in the Methodist Sunday School named for her.

The beautiful cut stone house, another village landmark on Maplewood Avenue, formerly Mill Street, was the home of Dr. Harry Allen. There is a circular stairway, and all of the appurtenances of a lovely old home of earlier times. There are six fireplaces, four operable. A room in the cellar was the place for smoking hams and curing meat, and there is a fireplace with a rod for cooking pots.

A residence on Maplewood Avenue was the location of the Reformed Evangelical Church known as the German Church that served the religious needs of the German emigrants who came to this area in the 1860's and 1870's. The church was erected in 1866. It was organized March 26, 1862, with seven members.

In this area is the Lakelands Concrete Products, Inc., which had its beginning in November 1951, manufacturing in Avon. In the spring of 1953 the factory was moved to Honeoye Falls, where it has enjoyed a steady growth.

St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church on the corner of Monroe Street and Locust Street, of Gothic design and costing $50,000, is a comparatively recent church edifice. Its dedication took place on October 30, 1940, with His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, officiating. The first permanent work of organization of a Catholic Church here began under the direction of the Rev. Francis Clarke of Lima, who also served the Honeoye Falls parish. This work was continued under the Rev. William A. Gregg. On May 29, 1869, His Excellency the Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, Bishop of the Rochester Diocese, dedicated a $4,000 frame building that served the spiritual needs of Catholic worshipers for 70 years. The building and site were purchased by the Post Office Department for location of our present Post Office. The Rev. Martin J. Cluney was assigned St. Paul of the Cross Parish on November 10, 1890. During his long pastorate which included the parish at Rush, a new parish house at Monroe and Maplewood Avenue was erected and a new cemetery ground south of Honeoye Falls laid out. Upon his death in July 22, 1935, the Rev. William J. Killackey, a native of Honeoye Falls, became pastor and consummated the plans for the present church. The present parish house was purchased in October, 1954, during the pastorate of the Rev. Howard Geck, Pastor Emeritus of the parish.

The village was very much interested when news first came that the famous Cunningham plant of Rochester was locating on the outskirts of our village. Manufacturers of carriages at first, the street leading to this modern, attractive plant (built in 1961) was appropriately named "Carriage Street." The establishment of

the first plant in Rochester occurred in the year of incorporation of our village in 1838.

The Edward F. Dibble Seed Company started in a small building in 1891 where the Seelos Feed Mill now stands. It grew under the late Mr. Dibble's guiding hand into being a nationally-known seed company. A fire destroyed some of the building, but it was rebuilt.

Further down the street to the right was the site of the late W. H. Tring's grain elevator and warehouse, and this plant burned in 1902. There wasn't much fire protection in that day.

An old house here has dates of 1837 and 1860 carved on a stone under the porch. The lot was purchased for $150 from John Dixon in 1837. This house was known as the old Nafie house.

The former W. E. Despard coal building was sold to Kingston Farm Machinery, Inc. The apartment house on Norton Street was the depot restaurant run by Mrs. Mortimer Locke, and travelers and railroad employees could get a good meal here. Humphrey and Holdridge, and Downey and Lay were former business firms on this street.

The Frank P. Seelos and Son Feed Mill marked a quarter of a century in business June 23. Founded in 1938 by the late Frank P. Seelos, it is operated by his son, Frank P. Seelos, Jr.

The Lehigh Valley Station on Lehigh Street is another almost abandoned spot in the town, victim of transportation changes. The only train that comes through brings freight and comes around midnight, and it is only then that the village folks can hear the toot of a railroad whistle. The Lehigh came to Honeoye Falls with construction in 1892 of the Rochester and Honeoye Valley road. Excursions to Hemlock Lake were run on weekends, and frequent trains met the main line at the Junction.

The Beam Milling Company suffered a serious fire since purchase of the plant here on Lehigh Street, but rebuilt. This series of buildings was formerly the F. P. Jobes plant.

The Honeoye Falls Village Library really was dreamed up by the Fortnightly Club. As early as June, 1912, a movement was started by the club, oldest women's organization in the village, to promote a library association. After several conferences, a board of trustees was appointed, and contributions made it possible to start a modest library. Gifts increased, the library progressed, and in 1928, a bequest of $10,000 was received from the will of Jonathon Noxon. The Honeoye Falls Library Association surrendered its charter to the Board of Regents, and its property and equipment were given over to the newly-founded Honeoye Falls Library, Inc. The new building costing $12,000 was completed May 2, 1936. It was built on the site of what was known as the John Dann house, built in 1875. Miss Ermina Fairchild served as librarian for 34 years.

Opposite the library stood an important church of the past century, the Christian Church built of cobblestone and completed in 1840 at a cost of $4,000. Elder Badger was the first pastor. The chapel was described in early records as "new and commodious," the "best in town." On April 20, 1841, 29 persons were baptized in Honeoye Creek. The Rev. Oliver Barr succeeded "Elder" Badger as pastor. "Elder" W. J. Hepps was the last pastor in 1877, and the membership was then 75.

The Christian Church was organized in 1817, and as records state, a meeting house built a "little north" of the white schoolhouse after 1826. Its congregation split over doctrinal issues, and the old stone church building, as it was known, became the site of undertaking parlors, a millinery shop, and a select school. It burned in 1887, and the stone walls were taken down.

The Honeoye Falls Fire House represented for the Honeoye Falls firemen an important step in modernization of their department. Started in 1944, the building was completed on July 3, 1945. There are club rooms for the firemen and storage facilities for equipment. Originally made up of four companies, the present volunteer department is of one unit.

There was warmth of contest that colored fire elections when rival candidates vied heatedly for the post of chief. There was dash, too, in the dress parades of former times that swept majestically down Main Street in a blaze of color, the chiefs, as befitted their position, striding ahead of their companies in full dress suits and high-topped hats. They were led by the 54th Regiment Band of Rochester in full scarlet and gold regalia. The Active Hose Company members were resplendent in royal purples, the "Protectives" wore green, the "Steamers" wore navy blue, and the Hook and Ladder marchers were attired in tan. "That purple color worn by the 'Actives' was a blinger," chuckled an old resident in recollection. High-stepping grays pulled the steamer on those important occasions. Firemen carried their speaking trumpets garlanded with flowers.

The old fire engine, belching steam and smoke as it was pulled through the darkness-enshrouded streets by a half a hundred boys and men, forms a vivid memory for old village residents. Coal boxes containing from 500 to 600 pounds of coal were stationed at strategic points in the village business section. A coal cart drawn by members of the company followed the steamer. At the first clamor of the bell men would run from shops and offices. Storage cisterns antedated village waterworks as emergency supplies.

Honeoye Falls was always a band town. On December 10, 1881, the Juvenile Band was organized with Frank Hunt, local tailor, instructor. He received $2 a week. His son, Lynn Bogue Hunt, became a world-famous painter of wild life. To raise funds, the "Juveniles" put on a concert, and a "good, round sum noted," the receipts totaling $50. The John R. Dann Band was organized in 1885. Funds were contributed and a band wagon furnished to transport the band to surrounding towns when "pole raisings" during political campaigns, were the order of the day. The Honeoye Falls Military Band of 1934 played for summer concerts and filled engagements for nearby fairs.

The former Nau Undertaking Building, Druschel Carriage Works (destroyed by fire in December, 1956), the Fred Wolfsberger Hardware Store and blacksmith shop were located in the business block on East Street.

Honeoye Falls Central School was opened on East Street as Honeoye Falls High School in 1926. Centralization came into effect in 1947, and the school with several additions including the Manor School further up the street now has an enrollment of 1350 with 70 teachers.

In 1820 there were 10 school districts in the Town of Mendon, and children between the ages of 5 and 14 numbered 632. By 1835 there were 17 districts and 1,015 children. By 1858, 18 districts were listed and 913 children, and still in 1875 —998 children and the 23 teachers salaries, including the library fund, was $2,337.97.

Population in 1820 was listed as 1,435—five years later in 1825 it had jumped to 1,922 and in 1830 to 2,399. By 1835 the population was 3,404, making Mendon the fourth largest town in Monroe County, populationwise. Highest in the past century is given as 3,535 in 1850. Population of the town of Mendon a century later is 3,902, and of the Incorporated Village of Honeoye Falls, 2,143.

Emerson-Rittenhouse Company, nationally-known for the manufacture of electric door chimes and intercom-radio systems, was established in 1913. Formerly known as the Rittenhouse Company, the present name was adopted in 1961, when the firm was merged with Emerson Electric Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

In the early 1900's a race track was located on East Street (Southern Manor) and the grandstand on the north side of the track.

Boughton Hill Road is one of the most historically interesting roads in the town, and also has much of human interest. Its roller-coaster undulations are caused by piles of debris left by the receding ice-cap. It was a well-trodden Indian trail leading from the largest of the Seneca villages, Gannagaro, on the top of Boughton Hill in Ontario County, to Totiakton in the Honeoye Creek valley. It was settled early, soon after the Phelps and Gorham Purchase, by men who naturally chose to settle near a ready-made trail. On the road are many houses well over a hundred years old.

The section of the road between Quaker Meeting House Road and West Bloomfield Road was called Mutton Street in the middle 1800's. An old school paper called "The Mutton Street Herald" dated 1845, and written by the girls of School 13, had a humorous verse describing the residents of the street, many of whose houses are still standing. The school was situated on a rise on the north side of the road at the bend just west of the Shepard farm. The name of Mutton Street came from the fact that a man who lived to the east helped himself to the farmers' sheep whenever his larder was empty, and if the victim complained or tried to use the due process of law, his barn would burn down—an early form of the extortion racket—so they let him get away with it.

Schoolhouse No. 10 can be seen on the west side of West Bloomfield Road about 300 yards south of Boughton Hill Road.

The two Lanning farms, after which the road was named, are at the northwest corner of Lanning and Boughton Hill Roads and the northwest corner of Lanning and Parish Roads.

School No. 4 at the southeast corner of the intersection of Boughton Hill and Lanning Roads is now converted into a dwelling house that is built on land originally deeded to the district in 1859 by Clement Goodall for a school. The school was finally closed in 1948 when the town's schools were centralized. In the block bounded by Boughton Hill, Lanning, Parish and Mendon-Ionia Roads there are several old houses built 120 or more years ago, many with cobblestone basements and hand-hewn timbers.

Mendon-Ionia Road, state highway #64, was first surveyed in September, 1797, and Mathew Harrison, Asher Saxton and Joe Steel were the commissioners. The road was the route of a stage coach line begun by Sam Hildreth in 1817. The line originated in Canandaigua and was a bi-weekly stage to Buffalo. The trip took three days and the fare was $2.00. This stage is said to have had a stop at the present junction of Mendon-Ionia and Boughton Hill Roads known as Tomlin-

sons Corners. Two of the houses in existence at that time are still standing at the crossroads. Wide-spreading branches of willows and century-old elms shade these rural residences.

This was a goodsized settlement, with stagecoach inn, several residences, a a cooperage and blacksmith shop forming part of the busy life at the "corners." On the northeastern corner of the intersection was the inn (the Houghton home) where daily arrival of stages that discharged passengers to eat in the "grand tavern" created a flurry of excitement. A "ballroom" added glamour. Dances were held in a building (with spring floors) annexed to the barn. There was said to have been room for a dozen coaches inside the old barn where there were twelve stalls for reserve horses changed here on the route. Speakers stood on the second floor balcony of the house, and people assembled here to hear them discuss topics of the day. The Inn was operated by John Tomlinson. It was later converted into a residence by Henry Richards. The residence on the northwestern corner was built by Samuel Wilcox whose family numbered 13 children. Moved to its present site, a mile north, was a farmhouse that once stood here.

White oak trees from an oak grove here were converted into barrel staves shaped over glowing wood fires in the cooper shop, and white oak went into the framework of pork barrels. Apple, flour and wine barrels were fashioned of elm wood.

The old stones in Sandy Hill Cemetery on Boughton Hill Road go back to 1811. Here are buried the young victims of the scarlet fever epidemic of 1828 in Mendon. A granite tombstone marks the site of Brigham Young's first wife, Miram Works Young, whose death occurred in 1832. The marker was unveiled by Mrs. Robert Hutchinson and leaders of the Latter Day Saints of Salt Lake City attended the ceremony.

Here in the Hopper Hills is the highest point in Monroe County—1020 feet above sea level. The area is marked by small hills with sharp, steep slopes and intervening, small kettle-like valleys. Most of the town of Mendon is geologically distinctive.

An ocarina factory was located on Parish Road, and the old kiln still exists in a small enclosure in a nearby field. The sweet-toned little instruments, shaped like a sweet potato, were made of clay. At this spot for 20 years before the dawn of the century, Rudolph Teschner was the only manufacturer in the United States of the ocarina. He continued manufacturing ocarinas until his death in 1921—his last order was for 5,000 for a Chicago firm.

West of this was a farmhouse of the 1820's, the oldest house on Parish Road, originally set on a foundation in the shape of a cross. Opposite is the former home of the Parish family.

Records show that a survey in 1804 was made on the present Cheese Factory Road which was originally known as Maple Street. Early settlement on the road dates to the late 1790's. In 1870 a cheese factory stood on the northeast corner of the intersection of Cheese Factory Road and West Bloomfield Road, known as Ford's Corners. Dances were held on the second floor of the old building. After the cheese factory ceased to function about 1910, a cider mill was operated here, and they made good cider, it was recalled by an old resident. An early school in the town of Mendon was located one mile north of the cheese factory.

On Cheese Factory Road near Chamberlain Road was a school house, District

No. 3, established in 1820. The first log school stood in a setting of lilacs near an old well. Laura Braddish earned the sum of $28.50 for teaching nine weeks in the summer term of 1850. In 1855 library books cost the district $3.50 and in 1858 the school board paid 16 cents for a broom, according to an old account book.

The crossroads was formerly known as Treats Corners. On the northwest corner of the intersection was Thomas Ewer's home where the first meeting of the Town Board was held on April 4, 1813. This was adjourned to "said" cow barn, according to the minutes of the meeting.

The "Resolves" passed at the "said" meeting included appointments of Jonas Allen as supervisor; Daniel Dunks, as clerk; William Smith, Cornelius Treat and Cholett Cady as assessors; John Newton, Thomas Vandevere and Daniel Shaw, commissioners; Hezekiah Newcomb and Charles Day, overseers of the poor; and Calvin Mansfield, constable and collector; Jonas Allen, Timothy Barnard and William Brown were appointed commissioners of the school fund, and Cornelius Treat, Charles Day and Daniels Dunks, inspectors of the schools and school funds. All were elected for one year.

Ninety dollars was noted for contingent expenses and $100 for the support of the poor. All were appointed fence viewers for the year. Owners were liable to a fine of $5.00 for rams running at large after the first day of September until the first day of November. Owners had to pay a fine of $2.00 for male swine running at large after the first day of March until the first day of November. The town was to raise as much "monies" as the town drew from the State for School Funds. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at John Newton's house.

The Town of Mendon was taken from Bloomfield, Ontario County, May 26, 1812, and became part of Monroe County when it was formed February 13, 1821.

Hutchinson's Corners is a rural location famed in Mormon history where Brigham Young, acknowledged head of the Mormon movement, plied his carpentry trade and worked in his small chair factory. Located at the edge of the woods on a small stream, a crosscut saw, fastened to an overshot wheel, cut timber for his chairs which sold for fifty cents. In rooms over his factory lived his wife and three children. Young built the rear of the present Hutchinson home and the upright of the house opposite, moved to its present site. The Hutchinsons possess a Brigham Young chair made on their farm, and a handmade brick, bearing the "B" initial of the builder. Brigham Young and his friend and neighbor, Heber Kimball, were converted and followed Joseph Smith out west. Young, as "Chief Apostle," took over leadership of the Mormon people after Smith was assassinated, and led them into the wilderness of Utah.

Starting with Christian Sheeler, four generations have resided on Cheese Factory Road.

The first survey of Harloff Road, eastern extremity of the town, was recorded as June 12, 1819. It was described as the road from the "east line of the town of Mendon" past the distillery of Ralph Stong (1800) and known for many years as the Hill Road. It was named Harloff Road in the early 1930's.

An epidemic of cholera in 1834 in Rochester brought terror to Mendon residents. From July 24th to August 16th, there were fourteen deaths. Passengers from a southbound stagecoach were taken ill here, and twelve were buried in Mendon Cemetery under what is now the road, and two in a Taylor Road burial plot.

The former Baptist church, oldest church society of the town, organized in

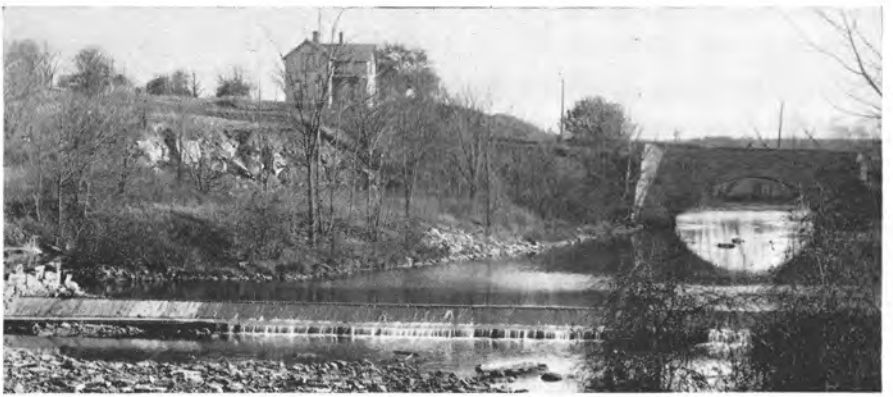
Town Hall and Old Iron Bridge

St. John's Episcopal Church - Organized June, 1840
"The church among the trees."

The Iron Man

Trolley that ran between Honeoye Falls and Lima before 1910

Lower Mill, "near the old stone bridge, at the foot of the hill"



Old Stone Bridge, 1836, and dam for Woolen Mill

Hunt's Woolen Mill, established 1866. This was Spring carpet-cleaning time

1807, was also one of the strongest in early days. There were 400 members at one time. The church yard is now the Mendon Cemetery. A high pulpit, pews with doors fastened with brass buttons, a crackling wood fire, the choir in the gallery, and red serge curtains behind which the choir master would withdraw, when finding the tune—are all part of the reminiscence of older residents. There were stained glass windows, and a bell that could be heard all around the Mendon area.

Cornelius Treat, a veteran of the patriot army, arrived in Mendon in 1793, one of the first settlers on Mendon-Ionia Road. He started out with an ax and hoe on his back and walked 270 miles in eight days to this new country of the "west." He fashioned a hut from bark of an elm tree and existed mostly on pork, beans and bread. In 1795 he took twenty bushels of corn to Canandaigua and in return brought back a barrel of salt. In 1813 he served as assessor, appointed at the first town meeting. He had previously been married and had a family of three small children. His wife died in 1795, which was the first death in the town.

Other settlers were attracted by the fertility of the soil here, and by water power facilities along the streams, and many families with neighbors and friends left their comfortable homes for a rugged life on the frontier. Jonas Allen came in 1797, Joseph Bryant, 1796, Samuel Lane, 1799, etc.; mentioned as a few arrivals in the 1790's.

Mendon Academy, a distinctive old cobblestone building, now the Mendon Fire House, one of the few early academies in the early 19th century, was built in 1835 and incorporated April 30, 1836. It was conducted at first as a private school. Tuition for elementary students was $3 a quarter; "higher English," $4 a a quarter, and charges for Latin, Greek and French were $5. In 1839, according to a Regents report, there were 93 students at Mendon Academy. There were two departments and two teachers. School board ranged from $1.50 to $2.50 a week. Reverend Marcenus Stone was the first principal and Mr. Buell and Miss Raymond were instructors. The old academy became the property of School District No. 2, January 3, 1839. On July 1, 1949, centralization came into effect, and the last day of school was June 23, 1950. Mrs. Warren MacGill, who had taught here for 25 years, came to Honeoye Falls Central School where the former Mendon teacher remained until her retirement.

The old building is marked by a state plaque, the design at the top of the descriptive marker, a miniature of the first Monroe County Courthouse. Old "grads" are loyal to the school, and as Mendon Alumni School Mates and Old Friends Association, gather annually at Mendon Grange Hall.

The old cobblestone house opposite was built in 1833, the frame portion at an earlier date in 1822.

St. Catherine's Church of Mendon was dedicated May 23, 1902 by Bishop McQuaid, Bishop of the Rochester diocese. The church edifice was built under the supervision of the Rev. John J. Donnelly, pastor of Victor and Mendon parishes. Mrs. William Furlong was credited with being a moving spirit in establishment of a church here. Services were first held in Finucane's Hall May 18, 1900. Prior to this Mass was celebrated in a village residence. The 60th Anniversary was celebrated in May, 1962. A house has been purchased opposite the church to serve as a parish house when completed. St. Catherine's has grown from 24 families to 75 families.

The first Lutheran service of worship was conducted in the kitchen shed of

the Mendon Grange Hall on September 5, 1901. Then meetings were held in Thomas Finucane's Hall with rent of $50 a year. Ground breaking for the church on the Victor-Mendon Road took place April 12, 1904. Field stones were hauled here by members for the foundations. In September, 1904, the dedicatory ceremonies, first in the German language, then in English, marked the beginning of a new regime for the members. A Golden Jubilee took place in November, 1951.

Settlers located in the Town of Mendon from 1800 to 1810 included: Charles Foot, James Parmelee, Ambrose Ford, William Gibson, Samuel Lane, Samuel Wright, Seth Ewer, Charles Day, Calvin Mansfield, John Dolbier, Thomas Ewer, William Allen, Joseph Smith, Abner Sheldon, Moses Everett, Elijah Deland, Moses Rowell, Thomas Sanford, Daniel Sines, Reuben Earl, Zebulon Townsend, Thomas Wait, Abijah Marshall, Rufus Colvin, John Staymen, Joseph Lunt, Elijah Bond, Gideon Ball, Joseph Watson, William Brown, Timothy Barnard, Daniel Dunks, Comfort Goff, Benjamin DeGraw, George Babcock, Luther Gates, Stephen Burton, Abner Bond, Squire Goff, Stephen Porter, Joseph Townsend, Abram Shuart, and J. D. Harris.

Addison Hodge, village barber, is a Mendonite who knows just about everybody in the village of Mendon. He remembers back for a good many years and to him we are indebted for many of the stories of Mendon's past. He tells of the organization of Mendon's fire department and says that actually the women really started it. "They got scared," he said, and some meetings were held. One was in his barber shop. The upshot of this was a wagon, ladders, and pails. Addison Hodge has the original ladder. Mr. Furlong gave a wagon, lengthened to hold ladders, and some pails were added to the necessities. Water was taken from pumps and wells.

The barber shop, operated by Mr. Hodge for the past 55 years, was built by Charles Durling in 1879. It was later leased to Dr. John Guyett for a doctor's office. The doctor and his wife lived in an adjoining double house while a new house was being built for them. This house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Furlong in April, 1903. He entered the hardware partnership and operated under the name of Hicks and Furlong. Later this dissolved and Mr. Furlong conducted the business until his death. It is still in the family, as Broomfield Hardware, Inc.

Mendon needed a doctor and benefactor Noah Henry Cole promised to build a house if Mendon would get a doctor. The present Turner home resulted from this planning—a doctor's office with a separate entrance, and rooms for the doctor's family.

An old building opposite there was formerly a harness shop, on one side, and a cobbler shop on the other. Adam Baer opened the harness shop after his return from the Civil War. His son, Fred J. Baer, continued on with his harness-making until his retirement. Barney Murphy, also a Civil War veteran, occupied the other half of the building as a cobbler. For a few years Mendon Fire Department stored equipment here until purchase of a building on Mendon-Pittsford Road. It is one of the oldest buildings of the village. Next to this building was a little shop used as a meat market and operated by Fred Richards. In the early 1900's the building became an office for produce buyers. Moved to its present site near the Lehigh Valley Railroad, it continued to serve in that capacity.

In 1885 Mendon was a bustling community with a steam flouring mill, a steam saw mill, a coal and lumber business, a farm produce business, two general

stores, three hotels—the American, the Cottage and the Mendon—and 200 inhabitants. Also Shackleton's blacksmith shop which was known to the villagers as "Shacks."

The former Mendon Hotel built about 1812, now the site of a gas station, was in its halcyon days a "handsome structure," from a description by an old resident, and center for numerous exciting events interwoven with community life .The Tomlinsons ran the hotel and then the Jacob Schlafers purchased it in 1890. It was during this period that the hotel was at the height of its popularity. Traveling men stopped here, stagecoaches arrived with passengers, and local folk assembled for the dances held in the third floor ballroom. There was lively music from an orchestra consisting of a parlor organ and two violins. There were dressing rooms where the ladies arriving in carriages changed from traveling attire to party dresses. Men changed outfits, too. The midnight suppers were bountiful, and the dancers trouped down the long stairs when supper was ready. Prominent folk from miles around arrived with horses and carriages for these functions.

The Cottage Hotel on the opposite corner was also a stage coach tavern and was first operated by a man named Fowler. Thomas Finucane operated the hotel for many years under the name it bears today. As many as fourteen stagecoaches could be counted in close proximity to the four corners. The stagecoaches changed horses here. The horses were kept in a barn that was located behind what is now the Mendon Post Office. Thomas Loveland, who came from Massachusetts, was Mendon's Postmaster in 1816, and for his year's work in this federal office, he received $10.23.

The date of June 7, 1825, was memorable for early Mendon. General Marquis De Lafayette rode into the village in a stagecoach on his tour of Western New York. He was welcomed by a committee from Canandaigua and local citizens and then dined in "handsome style," to quote from a descriptive account in an early newspaper of the famous Frenchman's visit here. Afterward a reception took place in the Mendon Hotel and a "great many people" came to meet the distinguished visitor.

The history of Mendon's Presbyterian Society goes back 147 years. On January 5, 1816, a handful of pioneers met in the home of Ezra Sheldon and formed the First Mendon Congregational Society. On July 4, 1822, it became the First Presbyterian Church of Mendon. Services were first held in the District #2 School. Cornerstone of the Mendon Presbyterian Church was laid July 13, 1825, and the first meeting held in the completed church about a year later, June 25, 1826. In 1839 the church was moved from the hilltop site west of Mendon to a new site in the village, in the swamp, as it was known, because of the marshy conditions caused by several springs here. Thirteen members constituted the first church membership.

Supporting a minister in those early days was no problem—the minister was paid ¼ in cash and ¾ in produce. In periods of depression they hired a minister for as many Sundays as funds would permit. Elders and teachers took over the balance of the Sundays. The old church is now the front section of the Mendon Grange Hall, and the brick edifice of modified Gothic design was built in 1899 and dedicated in February, 1900. A pipe organ was placed in the church in 1906 as a memorial to Noah Cole.

The Lehigh Valley depot was built at the time the Lehigh Valley Railroad was built through Mendon, about 1890. Clive Harmon was the first station master,

succeeded by Darwin H. Turner about 1900, who served at this post until March 21, 1938. Prior to this, Mr. Turner was a conductor on the Empire State of the New York Central. At one time special round trip rates to Rochester were 78 cents. Arrangements could be made for through trains to discharge or take on passengers although these stops were infrequent. For many years there was a heavy shipment of milk to Buffalo. At first signals were hand-operated. The depot was torn down in 1952. The sign purchased for the sum of $1.00 is on the Turner barn.

Spring-fed Irondequoit Creek that widens picturesquely in the village was an early source of water power. A foundry was located on the south side of Victor-Mendon Road on the eastern bank of Irondequoit Creek in the early part of the last century.

The Mendon Feed Mill was located on a part of the 11,000-acre Wadsworth Tract. A deed dated July, 1798, records transfer of property from Ebenezer Barnard to Jonas Allen. An old document mentions the right to raise the water (Irondequoit Creek) 10 feet in height, and a property boundary landmark was a butternut tree. This old feed mill suffered the fate of other mills of earlier times. "It just fell in," as one resident put it. There was a saw mill here, and a mill pond with swimming and skating for young folks.

Searjeant Metal Products, Inc. (1944) ships its products (guards, controls, and handtools for use on machines) all over the world. Dunn Oil Company, Inc. (1912), started as a produce and lumber business by Fred Dunn. Later coal and farm machinery were added, and in 1934 the heating oil business was started.

On the outskirts of the village on Mendon-Pittsford Road is a cobblestone house, an example of the craft of the stone masons. It is the home of the Wallace Habeckers, both members of old Mendon families.

The old Mendon burial site, before the Baptist Church yard on the hill south of the village became officially Mendon's cemetery, was located here. Intriguing epitaphs, poetic and flowery, reflecting the stilted phraseology of the day, one finds on the old tombstones of Mendon's old cemeteries of the early 1800's.

On what is known as the old Zuber farm, the Webster House stood before it was destroyed by fire. For the men who cradled the grain in the years gone by, whiskey was provided and purchased here, farm folks paying $1 for five gallons.

There is a beautiful sweeping view of the countryside from a spacious and attractive modern hilltop residence at the southwest corner of the intersection of Pittsford-Mendon and Smith Roads. The old house, known as the old Peck place, burned 45 years ago, and the barns burned later on a Christmas Eve.

The old and the new are sharply contrasted on Smith Road—a modern structure, much of it glass-enclosed—and old farm homesteads, where once stood log cabins. The road received its name from an old family who lived here. On the northeastern end of the road lived the Gibson family who cleared the land and built a log habitation about 1820.

In 1832 the old cobblestone house on Mile Square Road was started, completed three years later. Builder of the house was Mason Cole. Joseph Olney was an early settler here in 1823. Where the road joins Probst Road stands an old red brick school house on a rise of ground. The sign above its doorway reads, "District 15, 1856." One hundred years ago the district paid Joseph Olney the sum of

$40 to build a school house on his land. This sum was returned 100 years later - to the present owners of the farm land, according to terms of the original agreement.

The Coles and the Ecklers owned a large tract of land on Mendon-Pittsford Road where Cole Road joins the main highway. Abram Cole arrived in Mendon on March 14, 1811. The family came from Otsego County and originally from Rhode Island. On the second day after their arrival, they felled trees and built a log cabin in which they lived for many years. Abram was the son of Noah who became the first tavern keeper of Monroe County. Abram fought in the War of 1812 and was elected assessor before he had reached the age of 21. Known as the "boy assessor," he later was elected supervisor. The ballot box in those days was a hat held by a young lady while the votes were being cast. In 1813, for lack of market facilities, he hauled grain to Albany by ox sled. He received $1 a bushel for the grain.

(Noah) Henry Cole built a large Victorian brick house at the "corners" in 1876, costing $8,000 to build. He made the money selling sheep wool at shearing time. He brought the bricks from a brick yard near Cobbs Hill in Rochester. An earlier home on the site of the present garden burned.

The former Frank Eckler farm was the home of pioneer Benjamin Eckler in 1812. Frank Eckler served as supervisor of Mendon. His wife was Sarah Cole. The property is now owned by Mrs. Jane Messler Firestone, wife of Raymond C. Firestone, son of the world-famous industrialist, the late Harvey S. Firestone.

Alongside the New York State Thruway on the West Bloomfield-Pittsford Road is an area made famous locally by the Barnard family, ancestors of Senator Kenneth B. Keating. The late Mrs. Louise Barnard Keating, the senator's mother, was born in the old frame Barnard house on the corner of Canfield and West Bloomfield Roads. Scratched on the window pane on the second floor is some history of the Barnard family. The intersection here was known locally as "Barnard's Corners." The mailing address of this locality in early times was: "Barnard, near Canandaigua."

The first Timothy Barnard was paymaster for George Washington, carrying the pay for the soldiers from New York City to Valley Forge in his saddle bags. He traveled under the guise of country gentleman with slave, and "Dick," the colored servant, who came with him to Mendon, was his only guard as he rode through the woods at night. "It was sometimes scary," as a descendant related it, but General Washington had thought the money was safer that way.

"Judge" Barnard, as he was known to Mendon (he had been appointed Judge of Ontario County Court) liked fine horses, and when lumber wagons were the order of the day, he was driven about Mendon in his carriage by the colored servant he had freed.

He had disapproved of the "Clinton Ditch," as the Erie Canal was known, as "raising the price of oats."

The "Hon." Timothy Barnard was moderator of the first town board meeting in 1813, according to the old record.

Timothy Barnard, the son of Capt. Ebenezer, and Thankful (Nichols) Barnard came to Mendon as a settler in 1809 with his wife and five children, the youngest 18 months. The journey by oxen took two weeks from Lenox, Massachusetts.

When Lafayette rode into the village of Mendon in his stagecoach, he leaned out and greeted Timothy whom he recognized in the crowd that had gathered

on the platform of the Mendon Hotel. "Judge" Timothy Barnard, Jr., was Mendon's first Postmaster and was also a merchant and tavernkeeper. He lived to be 92. Timothy Barnard Sr. lived to be 95. Daniel, brother of Timothy, was elected to Congress in 1826, first representative from Monroe County. He made the journey from the homestead in Mendon to Washington by horseback. Later he served as ambassador to the Court of Berlin for eight years. On occasion of the opening of the Erie Canal in Rochester, with Lafayette as guest of honor, Daniel Barnard delivered the address of welcome for the City of Rochester.

Pond Road, which extends from Clover Road to the Pittsford-West Bloomfield Road, is only about three miles long, yet it contains some of the finest old houses in the area. The old cobblestone house was built by Samuel Whitcomb in 1845. The land was purchased from the Cocks family in 1824 and, according to the deed, this section of the road was called Whitcomb Road. Incidentally, the present owners recently found a grist stone clearly dated 1824 near one of the old barns.

Mendon Farms, a "showplace" on the road, was an old house which has been remodeled several times, and its brick exterior added. Opposite is the Mendon Hatchery where upwards of 3500 quail, pheasants, mallard ducks and partridge are raised annually and freed for hunting.

The large white frame house on Pond Road, in a setting of trees, sheltered five generations of the Wing family. A Mr. Sladew built the house in 1842, living in a log cabin here during building operations. The lumber was hauled from Springwater across Hemlock Lake, and the last load nearly went into the lake because the ice was beginning to break up. Mr. Sladew planted the trees on the front lawn, hand-hewed the large beams, and made the cellar floor of flagstone.

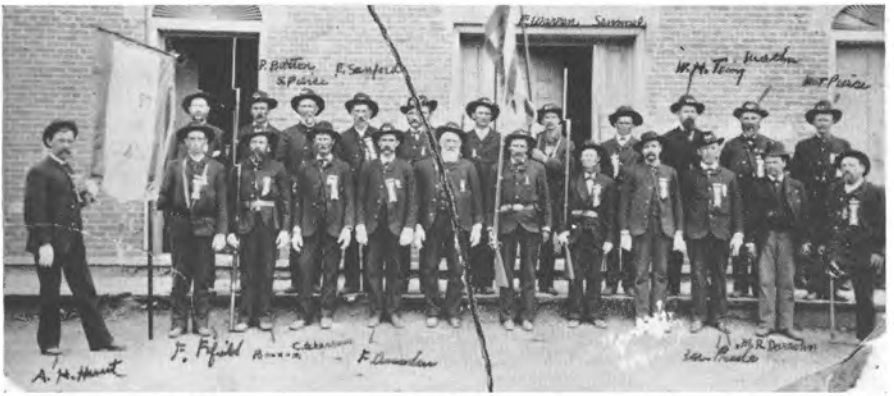
Pond Road intersects the Pittsford-Mendon Center Road at what is known as Coles Corners. Lewis Cole, a resident here for many years, served as supervisor of the town of Mendon. These corners were known earlier as Black and White Corners because a family of negroes lived on the southeast side and the family of H. E. White on the northwest side.

Add-En-On Kennels was a stopping place for runaway slaves during the abolition period. An underground chamber with a stone-arched ceiling was accidentally discovered during remodeling operations. This was known as the "Staymen place," and in early times the Peter Shaw Farm.

In 1855 George Quick built a house near Mud Pond, where the original Pond Road, once an Indian trail, winds into the park. Theodore E. Sykes was the builder, assisted by Joseph Simmons. Acocrding to an old account book it cost about $686 for material and about $435 for labor. Linsley Quick, his son, a "birthright" Quaker, spent his lifetime here, second of the five generations to call this Mendon Ponds area home. There was originally a log cabin at the rear of the house in what used to be an orchard. Peter Shaw deeded the land to Isaac Ewer in 1836 and Isaac Ewer to George Quick in 1848.

On a knoll slightly northwest of 100-acre pond, Mendon Ponds Park, stands the Stewart Canfield homestead, a cobblestone house built by Jeremiah Stewart in 1825. It is a fine example of post-colonial architecture. Oak and tamarack from the hills surrounding provided the frame, the colorful cobblestone "hardheads" were gathered from the adjoining slopes, and ox teams hauled flagstones for window and door sills from a Scottsville quarry. Pioneer relics include the massive kitchen fireplace, a powder compartment, hand hewn timbers, spindle stair rail and old smoke house.

Pierce's Woodworking Shop—destroyed by fire 1923



G.A.R. picture taken in North Bloomfield May 30, 1884

Old Stone House—former Legion House, North Main Street

Business places on East Street—1905

An early band picture—about 1881

Blacksmith Shop on East Street

Facilities of Mendon Ponds Park, largest Monroe County Park, were made available to the public in 1928. The "Mendon Kames" area is nationally known for its display of glacial topography. There are Indian trails and campsites with their ancient lore and tradition and along the trails there is ample evidence of former campfires and Indian occupation. Fishermen searching for bait often find ashes and refuse from ancient fires. Many of the slopes about Mendon Park show traces of aboriginal occupation. One main campsite was near the center, on the east shore, of 100-acre pond, believed to have been Algonkian, with traces of Iroquoian. The former came long before the Iroquois and probably fished the ponds for centuries before being driven out.

The pioneer who cleared the land and first found the Indian trail was Caleb Hopkins about 1815. North of the former Hopkins farmhouse site, ruins of a cabin and pieces of blue china were turned up by a plow a few years ago.

Joshua Lillie came to Mendon in 1806, first to settle the picturesque rolling farm land, going to Canandaigua on horseback for his seed. The burial site of this first settler is a small family plot on Wilmarth Road.

The Mendon Pond Trail is considered to be the best example of a surviving Indian trail in the vicinity of Rochester. Clover Road follows the old Irondequoit Gauarqua trail, followed by Denonville when he invaded the Seneca Country in 1687.

On the return march to Lake Ontario, Denonville's army camped on the night of July 23, 1687, on high land west of Deep Pond. In the account of the expedition, the ponds noted are described as "three pretty little lakes," first mention of Mendon Ponds in history.

Mendon Park superintendents have included Mendon residents Lewis Cole, Frank P. Seelos Sr., and Alfred Treat (these three deceased), Robert Strong and Charles Powell.

On the southeast corner of the intersection where Pond Road crosses Clover and becomes Williams Road, named after J. B. Williams, an early resident, was formerly a farm residence.

"The house is haunted," they told of the "old Garland Place" that stood in the shadow of a giant fir. The story current before the house was torn down drew many people here. Abandoned and mysterious, strange sounds might be heard by the venturesome who peered within. Many hesitated to pass the place on foot after dark when the night wind blew and the blinds rattled, giving the house a true ghostly appearance.

William Garland had purchased the house in 1875 where he had worked in 1840 at a wage of $10 a month. In the spring of 1859 the first steam engine for threshing in Monroe County was introduced here by the thresher Garland. The farm was a "stop" on the underground. Today only the field stone smoke house remains. On an adjoining lot was District School No. 14.

Just north of this intersection on Clover Road is a fine old cobblestone residence known as the Adzit house. Clover Road was known as "Oak Openings," then Arab Street, before its present designation as Clover Road.

A several-storied flour mill once stood on a busy industrial site in the hamlet of Mendon Center. The Mendon Center Roller Mill was operated by Eugene Krenzer. In halcyon days, the mill, powered by the outlet from the Pond here, ground the farmers' grain for miles around. Democrat wagons would line up all

along the dirt road with their grist for the mill. The mill pond was a place for skating in the winter and an old swimming hole in summer. The old miller's house still stands. Heavy rains and a carelessly tended dam caused a serious flood, the tweny-foot high structure let the impounded water out and flooded the low land here to a depth of 8 feet. The machinery was sold and the mill torn down. Harold Bushman and his wife reside in the fine old farm homestead, Valley View Farm, home for four generations of Bushmans. In 1840, Mendon Center was a thriving little community with two general stores, an excellent cider mill, a grist mill and a blacksmith shop and a tavern serving the nearly 100 people who lived nearby. In early days there was a Post Office here. Mail came from Victor by Democrat wagon.

Daniel Lines, an early settler at the "Centre" as it was known, erected a mill there soon after the close of the War of 1812.

Generations of Mendon Center school children attended the old Mendon Center School No. 7 that still stands near the northeast corner of Mendon Center Road. Early settlers in the Mendon Center area included Truman Smith whose home was on Mendon Center-Pittsford Road, Zebedee Bond in 1808; E. T. Harris in 1821; N. Powell in 1832 and H. E. Ely in 1833.

Truman Smith, who came in 1805, was a teacher in early schools receiving from $10 to $14 a month. Upon arrival in "East" Mendon the pioneering family lived in a log farm house west of the village. Zebedee Bond came with his family from New Jersey when he was ten. Old farm homesteads on Mendon Center Road and one on Clover Road, northwest of the intersection, were associated in earlier days with Bond residence.

Mendon Center is irrevocably bound with Quaker life and tradition. The Quakers were industrious farmers and in this rich agricultural area their farms were productive and they prospered. Old deeds today show that much of this farmland was owned by the Quakers who made an important contribution to the growth of Mendon. Survey of the Catlin-Ferris Tract of which the Quaker farms were a part, was in the summer of 1792.

Present-day members of the Society of Friends are Dr. and Mrs. William D. Lotspeich and family. Dr. Lotspeich is chairman of the Department of Physiology of the Medical School of the University of Rochester. With his wife, the grandaughter of William Howard Taft, and children, he has served on International Student Seminars and work camps of the Friends in this country and in Europe. The family residence is an old "Ewer" farm on the Mendon Center Road.

The Mendon Center Road farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Powell and family, who represent the sixth and seventh generation as Mendon residents, was once owned by the Quaker, Edwin Ewer, and was part of the Catlin and Elijah Ferris tract. On a knoll at the rear of the farm buildings are outlines of a log cabin that once stood here, 20 by 40 feet, and a large stone (the only stone in the field) was part of the foundation. An area here of clear sand was supposed to have been the floor of the early habitation.

Litigation followed the original purchase of the tract and some settlers with only "squatters rights" moved on. On a corner of a woodlot is the old Canfield family cemetery, "four rods square," in which flag stones marked the graves of the early 1830's. On one of the stones is carved an old "walking plow."

"House Content" was the name given to the quaintly styled home of William Wasson Cox and his mother at the "Centre." She was a "preacher" in the Quaker

community. Cox's artistic talent was displayed in the paintings which he applied to the walls and doors of the old home.

"Strawberry Acres," an old red house in this neighborhood, was once the home of carpet weavers. Boys of the neighborhood made baseballs of the "weavers' strings," it was recalled.

A stately Greek Revival home on a rise of ground that dominates Mendon Center, was in early days known as Locust Grove; the locust trees now are practically all cut down. This happened before the late assemblyman, a birthright Quaker, Edward H. White, purchased the farm home. He was visited by many notables, including William Jennings Bryan and Charles Lindbergh. Then the large-size white frame house, surrounded by wide lawns, was known as the "Whitehouse." The house was also known as the Turner home, built in 1851 by the Turner Brothers. The ornate decorations on the plaster work of the front rooms were done in 1850 by Robert Beale. He walked to Mendon Center from his home in Lima every morning arriving at 7 a.m. and walked home in the evening after working until 6 p.m. A Rochester newspaper carried a picture of this house in their series, "The Charm of Old Country Houses." During their eight years the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Pease, have remodeled some, maintaining the original architectural design where changes were made.

Charles Lord's farm home, shown on the old Monroe County map, was built about 1850 by Benjamin Birdsall, Jr., Esq. A cobblestone outbuilding on the farm and cobblestone foundation walls are the work of the early stone masons. Fragments of stone walls were found in the field east of the house, pointing to a former building. It is supposed that this is the remains of a tavern said to have been kept by Jasper Parrish in the early days.

Livermore's Corners is a familiar landmark in Mendon. From this vantage point is a wide view of the Mendon countryside, rimmed by the distant hills. Local folks never tire of this view as they approach the village of Honeoye Falls from the north. The spacious old cobblestone residence on Quaker Hill Farm has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Livermore since 1920. For two decades, beginning with 1900, the Fred Lord family lived here at the intersection of Clover and Rush-Mendon Roads, then known as Lord's Corners.

The Quaker, William Cornell, purchased the farm in 1840. The house was built a little earlier. In 1850, his son, John Cornell, added the frame section to the home. In his "journal," John Cornell noted his "trials and tribulations" with his conscience as he became a "traveler" for the Friends.

Davis Hill Farm (Hillbrook Farm) was the fine hilltop residence of the Davis family on Clover Road. The house of Greek Revival architecture was built by John Davis in 1820. John Davis served as supervisor for several terms and was a representative to the State Assembly in 1869. His son Martin, helped organize the Friends Society. Miss Olive Davis became financial manager at Wellesley College where a campus building was named Davis Hall to honor her. The farm was once a link on the underground.

Long unused and weed choked is the stretch of Stoney Lonesome Road starting from Quaker Meeting House Road and extending east to Bull Saw Mill Road. A few crumbling stone ruins mark sites of a few habitations. Here once lived a little old lady, so the story goes, alone except for a pet pig with whom she shared her food. A daughter of a wealthy British family who had eloped with the family coachman, she had eventually drifted with her husband to this lonely spot.

Hayes Corners was the name given to the junction of Stoney Lonesome and Clover Roads. A family named Hayes had resided here. Jonathan Noxon, a Quaker, was an early resident of Stoney Lonesome Road. "Maplewood," the Noxon home, was a center of hospitality for visiting "Friends" at "Mendon Meeting."

The old burial site of the Quakers with its uniform headstones marks the site of a once busy spot when Quaker worshippers, or "Friends" as they termed themselves, met on First Day (Sunday) for their silent mode of worship—for to speak when the spirit moved was the Quaker way.

For many years the frame meeting house stood in a setting of locusts near the junction of Rush-Mendon and Quaker Meeting House Roads. As many as 400 "Friends" attended the meetings, famous speakers came, including the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, on a lecture tour of the 1840's. Here in a log meeting house met the first small group of worshippers, their early organization effected in 1828. In 1832 the frame meeting house was built, later enlarged. It was a sad day for older members of the sect when the old building was torn down, its demise bringing with it the end of the Quaker era in Mendon Center. First couple to be married here was Lydia Ann Powell and Isaac G. Ewer. The marriage united two prominent Quaker families.

Charles W. Markus Park is located on Quaker Meeting House Road. The philanthropist left money for its construction and maintenance as a JYMA and JYWA day camp for children.

At Courtney's Corners, the intersection of Cheese Factory and Quaker Meeting House Roads, there is an old farm house, the rear portion of which was built by Thomas Sanford when he came with his father in 1810 to Mendon. Stephen Burton, an early settler, located on Quaker Meeting House Road near Burton's corners.

The Chamberlain Road is named for the Chamberlain family and was formerly a continuation of Taylor Road.

Semmel Road received its name from the Semmel family which originally located in the recently burned house on this road, known for many years as the Michael Windle homestead. They later moved to the Luther Gates farm, the present Semmel homestead. Luther Gates, an early settler, purchased this farm in 1804.

Taylor Road was surveyed in May 1811, and since not designated as a new road in early records, it would appear the road was already in existence. The road was named Taylor Street in 1821. The Reverend Jabez Taylor who graduated from Yale College came to Mendon in 1817. He resided here until 1832, and the road was named for him.

A restrictive clause in sale of lots and buildings has insured a well-planned rural residential section. Some new and some very old homes make a most interesting stretch of old road.

The old Philetus Chamberlain homestead is on a 300 acre estate purchased in 1860. The Arthur V. D. Chamberlain home is unchanged outwardly except for the breezeway addition; there are original clapboards on the house. Care was used to preserve the interior style and original woodwork. This house was the 1815 home of Dr. John Browning. He and his wife, Betsy, and two small children, aged three and one, came here in the winter by sleigh drawn by one horse, the cow following. It took ten days, and the doctor walked most of the way. The Historical

Society has a copy of Betsy's letter to her relatives in Hardwick, Massachusetts, in 1818. "The town of Mendon is so healthy, the doctor has little to do. He has had to teach school to earn a living." Dr. Browning practiced medicine in Mendon for almost 50 years, riding horseback all over Monroe County. The old brown and shiny saddlebags, still holding medicines used in the Mendon practice, are in the possession of an ear specialist, Dr. Craig Hoyt of Pittsburg, a great-great-great grandson of Dr. Browning.

East of this residence was the Amherst Hastings home built about 1815. The century and a half old house has been completely restored by the present owners. Hastings was a cabinet maker, and torn down, was the outbuilding where he had his melodeon shop with diagrams for their construction on the door. A Honeoye Falls resident has in her possession a rolling pin made from a maple limb by Hastings which has been in constant use for 120 years and is in perfect shape.

The home on the northwest corner of the intersection of Taylor and West Bloomfield-Pittsford Roads follows the lines of the old house, torn down, that preceded it. The front window glass is a reproduction with the original glass in the rear. Here lived the Isaac Smith Badgers from the time of their marriage until her death in 1865. Isaac, a fine shoemaker, made for his bride, Eliza, a daughter of the Brownings, a pair of slippers from silk like the wedding gown, with a design handtooled on the leather soles. A Mendon descendant has a keepsake - one of the slippers.

Converted into a residence, the school house, District No. 11, dating to 1821, stood on the southwest corner. Originally there might have been a small store here is borne out by the reading of an old deed which gives as a boundary, "the old store lot by the school."

The meeting house of the Central Congregational Society stood on the northwest corner of the intersection of Pittsford-West Bloomfield Road and Taylor Road. An old cemetery at the rear of the Chamberlain home was the burial site for residents here.

A singing school was organized on the "street" and a Sunday School located at Mendon Center.

In early times for sociability, women on the street held tea parties with tea and cakes and entire families got together evenings. When Lincoln was assassinated, a resident of the "street" rode up and down to tell his neighbors the news.

An old lady who smoked a corn cob pipe lived east of this intersection in early times. There was a stream-powered woolen mill on a former fork of the trout brook here and there is evidence of a former mill pond. In the yard of Trout Brook Farm opposite is a mill-stone found here, further evidence of an earlier industry on this site.

Dr. John Delemeter, a physician of Mendon in 1814, and later to achieve prominence at Hamilton College, lived on a farm on the southeastern section of the road.

There is a record of a distillery owned by James Parmelee near the head of Taylor Road in 1847. An old slaughter house built near this corner by Fred Bartlett still stands in a field.

Bull Saw Mill Road received its name from John and Rebecca Bull who owned land here. John Bull's saw mill stood by the pleasant mill pond of several years ago. The dammed up outlet, partly spring-fed, made a good-sized pond and swimming hole. Here in the shadow of the old trees was a favorite picnicing spot.

Water trickled over the dam supports in musical fashion. The holding pond of two million gallon capacity is now where the small pond was. The old saw mill, later operated by Willis Miller, is now located on Pittsford-Mendon Road.

Salmon and Samuel Miller were 11 and 13 years of age when their father purchased land in Western New York in 1789. They cleared land upon which the first wheat west of Cayuga Lake was grown. At that time there were two huts in Bloomfield of which Mendon was an early part. The area was known as Twelve-Mile Square.

Salmon Miller purchased a farm in Mendon in 1810 and only an Indian trail led to his small house in the wilderness, now Pittsford-Mendon Center and Bull Saw Mill Roads area. The original log cabin was located on a hill-top in a "maple bush." In 1813 Salmon and his brother, Samuel, purchased further acreage in Mendon. The Millers are one of the few Mendon families still living on land purchased by pioneer ancesters in the early 1800's.

Porters' Corners, intersection of Pittsford-Mendon Center and Rush-Mendon roads, has seen generations of Porters in the century and a half old home at the "Corners." William Porter was a supervisor of Mendon and served as a "Superintendent of the Poor" from January 3, 1916 to April 21, 1929 (date of his death). Near the "corners" lived the Goffs in early times. Comfort Goff was 75 when he settled here in 1804 and his son and grandson were further generations to be located here.

Rochester Junction has fallen into a shabby desuetude since its opening in September 1, 1892. It was a place of former railroad interest when the Lehigh Valley Railroad maintained its passenger schedules through this creek-watered valley. Only an occasional freight passes through here now. Junction Road was the site of a railroad workers camp in the early part of the century and was also the location of a reservoir for water for steam engines.

The ball diamond where the Husky Farmers played every Sunday was a field on the northwest side of the tracks. Quite a large restaurant located here then was run by a man named Durkee. Later a hotel and livery stable were built between the tracks on the north side of the road and operated until about 1919. The hotel is now a residence.

The Plains Road had great historical significance because of the location here of the Seneca village, famed as Totiakton, "in the great bend" of winding Honeoye Creek, on a site just west of the hill top. This was a place of importance in 17th Century secular history. Father Jacques Fremin, the Jesuit, arrived here November 1, 1669, almost three centuries ago, to become first white resident of Monroe County. He lived in a hut opposite the Dean Treat farm. The village was a chief center for mission work among the Senecas. Population was estimated at 1,000.

In August 1669, the Seneca Indians entertained distinguished visitors, La Salle, the French explorer, and Father Rene Gallinee, a Sulpician priest. From an eastern seaport they had pushed through the maze of forest here to seek permission from the chiefs to cross their vast domain for western trade. In the University of Paris and the Vatican Library at Rome are maps and documents that verify our early regional history. The final resting place of the Senecas has yielded rich finds in Indian artifacts.

On July 19, 1687, according to an old account, the French general left Totiakton a mass of smoke and ruins. The French found the town deserted but found food for dinner—bountiful crops and pigs left behind by the Senecas.

Presbyterian Church, Mendon
Built in 1900

St. Catherine's Church, Mendon
Dedicated May 1902

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Mendon
Built in 1901

Old Christian Church, Honeoye Falls
Was located on Monroe Street

Old Quaker Meeting House built in 1832

Mendon Academy, Mendon

District No. 15, Mendon

Mendon Hotel built in 1812

The name of the Plains Road was derived from the flat, level stretch, one mile long, and where horse races were once held, as older residents recall. Early settlers called this area "Abrams Plains" and then later it became "Sheldon's Plains" because of the residence here of the Judson Sheldon family. The Dean Desmann family now reside in the old Sheldon homestead. Early residents were James Russell who resided on the Treat Farm and the Gardiners in the old home with pillared porch.

For many years Hiram Scofield was the only settler of Scofield Road. The original house, built half a mile back from the road, burned about 1900. His grandson founded Crescent Puritan Laundry, starting with a small laundry in his home.

Sheldon Road was named for Isaac Sheldon, an early resident in an old cobblestone house, now a heap of stone rubble on the Carl Treat Farm. Alfred Treat became supervisor. He served as superintendent of Mendon Park 11 years and was superintendent of Monroe County Penitentiary from January 1, 1949 until October 19, 1952 (date of his death).

Joseph B. Townsend lived in the 150-year-old frame farm house, now a part of the Alwama Flower Farm. This road was the site of one of the earliest schools. School meetings at District No. 5 (later No. 10) appeared to be chiefly concerned wtih appropriation of a few dollars for teacher's pay and acquiring wood from the lowest bidders. It was known as the "red school house."

The school year was divided, 4½ months in winter and the same period for summer which opened in April. The winter term started in October or November. "There were no laws." It was, as Miss Anna Graves put it, "Come or remain away."

"Female" teachers were hired for the summer term only and received one-third the salary of men. At one time the sum of $3 was voted to be used for a "gate, plastering the ceiling" and the "remainder" for "other useful purposes." In 1859, the trustee reported a balance of ten cents. In 1861, the trustee reported an even more drastic situation, an indebtedness of fifty-four cents.

In 1826 there were 24 log cabins within the district. A covered wagon drawn by oxen brought an uncle of Miss Graves, a former teacher, here. He had counted the early habitations. The oxen were named Star and Line, both were red, one with a white star on his forehead, the other a white line.

The cobblestone school house at Sibleyville, District No. 12, now a residence, was built in 1840. It was known as "Union Meeting House." Before this, a log school was the educational center for Sibleyville. Here took place a historic meeting on an election day night when 80 employees of the Sibley Mills signed the temperance pledge.

The busy hum of mills once shattered the quiet of venerable Sibleyville, site of a crossroads settlement of the 1830's. Col. Sibley, coming from North Adams, Massachusetts, located here, erecting the first saw mill. His son, Hiram, and D. A. Watson entered into a partnership and in the heyday of this industry, 80 men were employed in the manufacture of carding machines and agricultural equipment. Dwindling waters of Honeoye Creek accounted partly for the gradual decline of this manufacturing center, tucked midway between main traffic arteries.

In later years the mill was a flouring center that attracted a wide patronage among the rural folks. At the crest of its popularity day and night shifts were frequently run. A stream of vehicular traffic and produce laden wagons rumbled over the two red wooden bridges that once spanned the division of creek here. Goods were drawn into Rochester for further export and redistribution.

The saw mill on the opposite side of the road was used in the fall of the year as a cider mill. The mill wheel that turned the saw in early times was fed by a race which carried creek waters under a narrow bridge across the road, from the large mill on the south side. A thin trickle of water now spills over the stone foundations where the busily-turning mill wheel stood.

On a small island, formed by dividing waters of the creek at the base of a hill, was a woolen mill. The old frame structure was removed to the corner of Rush and Sibley Roads and converted into a dwelling. The old swimming hole and a favored fishing ground were located a short distance downstream below the bridges.

The industrialist, Hiram Sibley, and Don Olonso Watson moved their milling business into the city of Rochester.

The old Sibley homestead formerly stood near the road, and remains of old cellar walls still may be seen here. The driveway to the house leads through stone remnants of the old Sibley mill. In 1928 the house was moved back from the road and near a bend in the creek. The beautiful doorway is an important feature of the colonial-styled old home that was built a century earlier in 1828.

Farm lands here are part of the Sibley tract in this locality of 700 acres. Opposite and seen through the trees that rise above the eastern rim of Honeoye Creek, is Harper Sibley's home, a modern-styled house that serves as vacation and weekend place.

In the spring of 1891 a stock company was incorporated, known as the Honeoye Falls Mineral Spring Company, to market the mineral spring water from a source on the former John Fish farm on Sibley Road. The water was believed to possess remarkable curative properties and was advertised as being one of the "best and purest" table waters then in use. It was called Table Rock Mineral Water as the "Elixir of Life." It was highly endorsed by physicians and a University of Rochester professor. The promoters hoped that a large sanitarium would eventually be located here. The company. of which J. A. Fish, the farmer, was president, had its office in Buffalo.

An old farm home of 1825, structurally unchanged, was in early times the Fish Homestead.

The white school house, District No. 6, a landmark on Clover Road, has been a school house site since 1820. The Christian Church that stood just north of here was sold and moved to a farm nearby where it became part of a barn which was destroyed by fire a few years ago.

The house opposite Honeoye Falls Cemetery is on land originally given to Jacob Young, son-in-law of Zebulon Norton, whose wedding present to his daughter and her husband, was this 100-acre farm. A log cabin stood here in the 1790's. The Chase Nursery operated this tract for several years and built the present dwelling on the site of the old farm homestead built by Jacob Young in 1811.

Stever Locke Specialities, Inc. located here, was founded in 1947. It is primarily devoted to the manufacture of special wiring devices for the electronics industry.

Falls Post, American Legion, built a legion house here recently on land donated by Fred Wolfsberger. It was dedicated in May, 1959. The Fred Wolfsberger Park, covering several acres, was formerly part of the nursery farm. Also located on this large tract is the museum collection of Harry Schoff, local archeologist.

The Honeoye Falls Cemetery was opened in 1800 and Julia Norton, three year old granddaughter of Zebulon was the first burial. In earlier times there was a white picket fence with a gate, kept locked. The cemetery was entered by steps, a climb of 10 to 12 each way.

At the rear of the Duban Shade Plant, housed in the former Wolfsberger Building erected in 1912 on North Main Street, was the Woodworking Plant, a large industry at one time. This burned in August, 1923, when furniture was being manufactured here, at a loss of $75,000, the village's largest fire loss. A few crumbling stone ruins on a lot by the creek remain of this manufacturing site of the past century. In early days a woolen mill was located here. The woodworking plant employed a force of 35 men whose wages were $10 a week.

The former Wolfsberger building housed a moving picture theatre on the second level. It was the site of Honeoye Falls' first "gas" station pump.

A loss to the village was an old landmark that had stood on North Main Street for nearly a century and a half. The "old stone house," as town folks knew it, was razed and a gas station built here. It had served as the "Legion House" and was a center for many other community activities.

A century and a half has passed since arrival of the first pioneers and their struggle to clear the land and to build homes and mills.

On July 4, 1891, Mendon combined celebration of the National Anniversary with the Centennial Anniversary. The event was celebrated on July 3rd with a parade starting at noon. "Literary" exercises, as the afternoon's program was noted, were held in the village hall and included papers relating the town's history read by Lucius Allen and C. A. Shuart. "All was life, bustle and commotion on every hand," read an old newspaper account, and trainloads of visitors arrived.

The Village of Honeoye Falls celebrated the anniversary of its centennial as a incorporated village March 13, 1938, with the observance held in a Lake Avenue Museum in Rochester.

This year we celebrate the sesquicentennial of our Town of Mendon, dating from the first meeting of the Town Board. Harland P. Moffitt has served as Supervisor for the past 22 years. The present Town Board includes Earl J. Broomfield and Herbert W. Steffens, councilmen and Dr. Richard A. Smith and Russell C. Matthews, justices of the peace. Other officials are: Mrs. Jeanette B. Kimball, town clerk; Earl L. Ernst, highway superintendent (22 years); Arthur C. Powell, assessor (30 years); Nettie L. Wettling, welfare officer.

Secure in the traditions of its colorful past our town of Mendon looks forward to a continuance of the prosperity that has marked its 150-year old existence as a town of Monroe County.

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SHARON STANLEY	4-H Club
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ROBERTA LORD	Fortnightly Club
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Queen's Committee Chairman: Mrs. Ione Templar

TOWN OF MENDON, NEW YORK

MENDON HONEOYE FALLS

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

PROGRAM OF EVENTS AUG. 11 through 17

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1963 "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS DAY"

CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY: REV. HAROLD BLISH

Morning Regular services in all churches.
4:00 P. M. Vesper Services - Harry Allen Park.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1963 - "CORONATION DAY"

CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY: IONE TEMPLAR

2:00 P. M. Kiddie Rides open.
8:00 P. M. Opening convocation at Harry Allen Park; Crowning of Queen.
Guest Speaker: The Honorable Judge John P. Lomenzo

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1963 - "LADIES DAY" - Sesqui Belles

CHAIRMEN OF THE DAY: MARJORIE HAVENS and HELEN HOPKINS

11:00 P. M. Baking Contest - Auction.
2:00 P. M. Kiddie Rides and Concessions open.
Fashion Show at Honeoye Falls Central School.
8:00 P. M. Judging of Sesquicentennial Gowns - Harry Allen Park.

THURSDAY, AUG. 15, 1963 - "MENDON DAY" - Bearded Brothers

CHAIRMEN OF THE DAY: VINCENT OPPEDISANO, HOWARD HAVENS

2:00 P. M. Kiddie rides and concessions open - Honeoye Falls.
5:45 P. M. Kangaroo Korte.
6:30 P. M. Soft Ball Game - Mendon and Honeoye Falls Charters.
8:00 P. M. Judging of the Beards. On stage - Mendon.
9:00 P. M. Street Dance.

FRIDAY, AUG. 16, 1963 - "YOUTH ACTIVITY DAY" - Sesqui Ball

CHAIRMEN OF THE DAY: WM. RUSS and MR. and MRS. E. PERRY HICKS

12:00 P. M. Noon Kiddie Rides and Concessions open.
2:00 P. M. Contest for Kiddies - Harry Allen Park.
5:45 P. M. "Youth of America Parade."
9:00 P. M. Sesquicentennial Ball - Honeoye Falls Central School.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1963 - "PARADE DAY"

CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY: RICHARD WESTBURG

12:00 Noon Kiddie Rides and Concessions open.
3:00 P. M. Giant Parade moves out promptly at fire signal.
5:30 P. M. Chicken Bar-B-Que; Legion Grounds.
7:00 P. M. Awarding of Parade Prizes. Legion Stage.
Guest Speaker: The Hon. Kenneth B. Keating, U. S. Senator.
8:00 P. M. Variety Time - Barber Shop Quartet, Sweet Adelines, etc.
8:45 P. M. Shave-Off of the Beards. Awards.
10:00 P. M. Spectacular Fire Works. Legion Grounds.

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We, the members of the Times staff, compliment the various committees on their unstinting efforts in successfully promoting the 1963 Sesquicentennial Celebration for the Town of Mendon . . .

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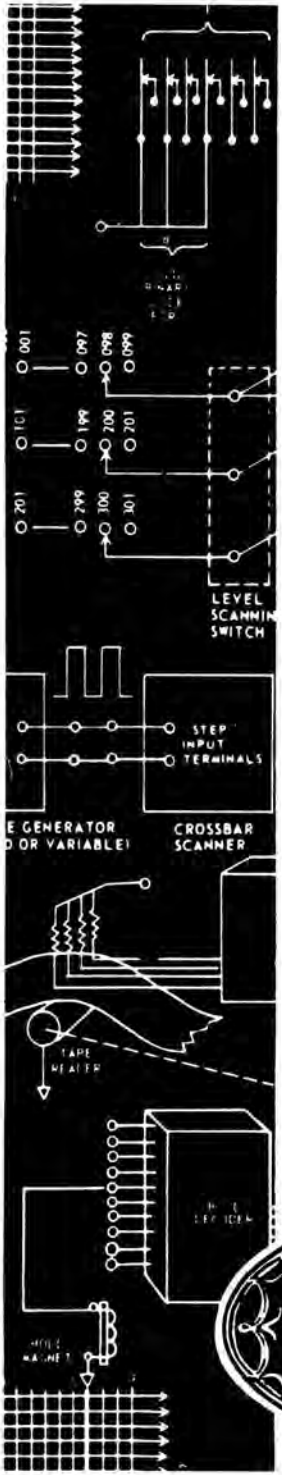

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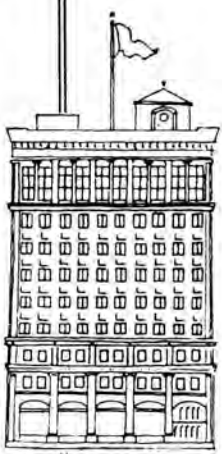
Today with its wooded hills, its ponds and streams and its constantly expanding residential areas, Mendon is a friendly neighbor—a community in which the whole Rochester area can take pride.

We at the Rochester Gas & Electric are particularly happy to have served this community for so many years.



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