

PROGRESS

THROUGH

FRIENDSHIP

SARDINIA

1821-1971

# *FOREWORD*

As Sardinia completes the first 150 years of its life it seems appropriate to publish a brief history of the town.

It is hoped that the material selected will prove to be of interest not only to the townspeople but to other readers as well.

Laurence Remington Rupert  
Town Historian

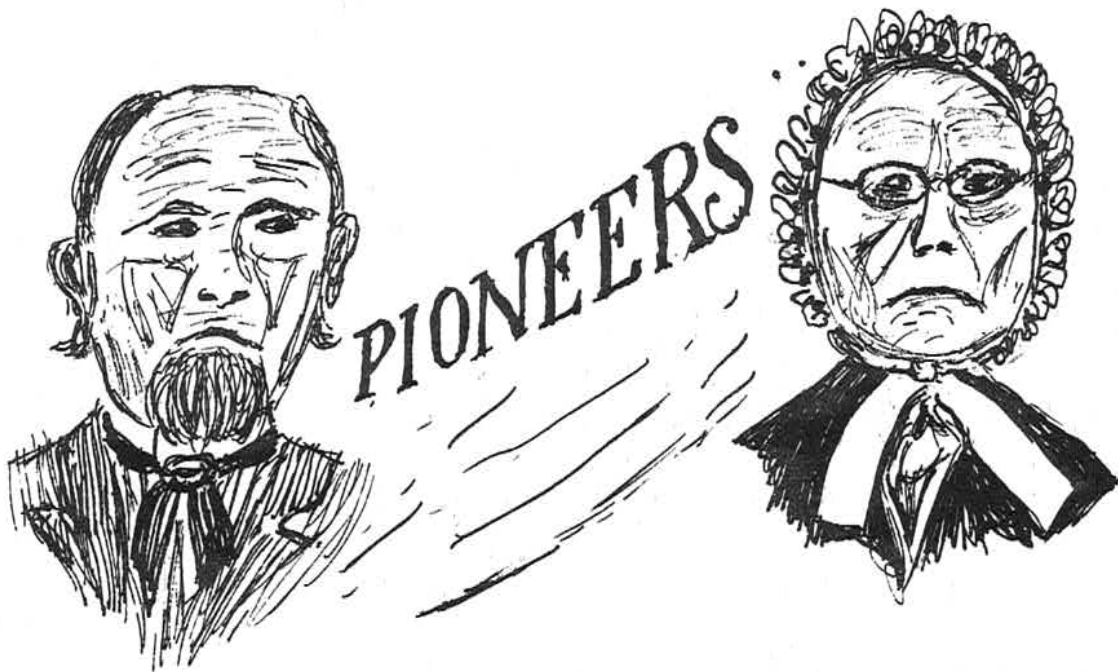


Previous to 1809 there were evidently no white people in the area which now comprises the Town of Sardinia. In that year the George Richmond family located on the Cattaraugus Creek, near the southwestern corner of the town, and Ezra Nott arrived in what is now the eastern part of the town.

At that time there was no Town of Sardinia, nor even an Erie County. Changes in town and county organization were taking place frequently in those days. In 1802 Genesee County was organized, and it comprised, in general, all of New York State west of the Genesee River. Five years later Niagara, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties were separated from Genesee. Niagara County included not only the present Niagara

County, but Erie County as well. At first Niagara County was divided into three towns - Cambria, which included what is now Niagara County; Clarence, which comprised the northern part of the present Erie County; and Willink, covering the southern part of the present Erie County. In 1812, Willink was divided into four towns, the southeastern one of which was Concord. It, in turn, was further divided on March 16, 1821, when Sardinia and Collins were separated from it. That event, 150 years ago, marked the beginning of the official existence of Sardinia.

It may be a matter of interest that for its first seventeen days, Sardinia was in Niagara County. Erie County was separated from Niagara on April 2, 1821.



During the years immediately following the arrival of the first settlers, the population increased rapidly. Most of the newcomers came from the New England States, chiefly from Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. A number of settlers - among them Elihu and Joseph Rice, Giles Briggs, Josiah Andrews, and Dr. Bela Colegrove - all came from Coventry, Rhode Island.

In the following pages are notes concerning some of the people living in town before 1840. Included as far as possible, are not only those who have descendants now living in the town, but also others of special interest.

## MAJOR-GENERAL EZRA NOTT

One of the most enterprising and colorful young men of early Sardinia was Ezra Nott, already mentioned as the first arrival in the eastern part of the town. He was major of militia in the War of 1812, and later rose to the rank of major-general. His home was on the Genesee Road, near the present cemetery. It is reported that immediately after the end of the War of 1812, a religious service was held at the Nott home, and the preacher read from a newspaper the official proclamation of peace with Great Britain. There is a report also that General Nott selected the name Sardinia for the town, in honor of his favorite hymn tune. There appears to be just one descendant living in town, May Stockin (Mrs. Gordon), who is a granddaughter of General Nott's daughter Eliza Nott Drake.

## ELIHU and JOSEPH RICE

Elihu Rice arrived in Sardinia in 1810. He bought land in the southeast corner of the town, east of the present Olean Road, and extending from the Cattaraugus to the Genesee Road. He was the first supervisor of the town. Members of the Elihu Rice family presently living in town include Mrs. Preston Rice Sr., whose husband was a grandson of Elihu Rice, and three of her

children, Alice Andres (Mrs. David), Dale Rice, and Preston Rice Jr., with their respective families.

Joseph Rice came to Sardinia a few years later and bought the southern part of his brother's land. He had no sons, but his daughter Caroline married Edwin Schutt, and they inherited the old Cherry Tavern. It was from that family that Schutt's Corners and the Schutt Road received their name.

### HORACE RIDER

Horace Rider came to this area about 1811, and settled on the Middle Road. His daughter Abigail married James Hopkins, and they have quite a few descendants still living in town, and listed in the Robert Hopkins write-up. Horace Rider's son James, who married Mary Long, was a member of the State Assembly in 1868. Electa, another of Horace Rider's daughters was the wife of George Andrews, one time proprietor of the hotel in Sardinia.

### POLLARD STONE

Pollard Stone purchased land in Sardinia in 1816. We know very little about him, but his son Eli was born in Sardinia in 1828. Eli Stone was the father of seven children, two of whom have descendants living in Sardinia today. Grandchildren of Eli Stone's son

Marvin include Grace Rosier (Mrs. Harold), Miss Ethel Hakes, John Lewis, and Pearl Jewert (Mrs. Leroy). Mrs. Rosier has three sons, Robert, Roland, and Charles, all of whom live in Sardinia with their families. Everett Domes, Mrs. Jewert's son, lives on the Hand Road.

Grandchildren of Eli Stone's son Wilson are Kenneth and Edwin Casey.

### REUBEN LONG

The first Reuben Long in Sardinia brought his family from Connecticut in 1816. He was the grandfather of Reuben E. Long, born in 1840, a prominent citizen of the town, and its first and only veterinarian. Reuben E. Long's daughter Mabel married Fred Hakes, and lived in Chaffee. Her descendants include a daughter, Ruth Palmerton (Mrs. L. E.), and a grandson, Duane Holts, and his four children.

### DAVID BIGELOW

David Bigelow came to Sardinia from Avon, New York, in 1817. He had served in the War of 1812. His son, George Bigelow, was a man of importance in town, being six times elected supervisor. Among his children were Mrs. Ira Cook and Mrs. Julian Simons. Descendants presently living in Sardinia are Charles Bigelow, Geraldine Rhoads (Mrs. Grant), her son Larry and



his family, and her daughter, Janice Nourse (Mrs. Edwin) and her family.

### NATHANIEL SIMONS

Nathaniel Simons was a native of Massachusetts who came to Sardinia in 1820. He was the father of Roderick Simons who was born in Massachusetts in 1810. Roderick Simons was a prominent citizen of Sardinia, a carriage manufacturer and miller. He served as Internal Revenue Assessor for eight years. His son Julian, born in 1847, carried on his father's activities, and added to them the management of a farm and cheese factory.

Two of Julian Simons's children are still living. Bessie Armading (Mrs. Burt) lives in Buffalo, and is 92 years old. Lloyd Simons lives in Ithaca. He was for many years before his retirement, Director of Extension for the state, working from the State College of Agriculture at Cornell University.

### DR. BELA COLEGROVE

Dr. Colegrove is a legend in Sardinia. He came from Rhode Island in 1820, and, except for a brief stay in Buffalo, he practiced medicine here until he died in 1874. He was recognized as one of the foremost physicians and surgeons in western New York. Of course he lived in a day when house calls were in order, and it

is recorded that his practice took him into adjacent counties, and even into Pennsylvania. In addition to his professional duties, Dr. Colegrove found time for a little political activity. He served as town supervisor at intervals from 1825 to 1854. He was twice an unsuccessful candidate for Member of Assembly, but was pleased on one occasion to get every vote from the Town of Sardinia.

Dr. Colegrove's home was the square brick house that still stands, practically in its original form, next to St. Jude's Church. For many years that corner was referred to as Colegrove's Corners.

None of Dr. Colegrove's descendants live in Sardinia at the present time.

#### CHAUNCEY HASTINGS

Chauncey Hastings was born in Vermont in 1792, and arrived in Sardinia in 1822. He was probably the first regular storekeeper in town, and the first tavern proprietor where Sardinia village now stands. He was evidently a very astute business man, but with no desire to hold political office. Although he had several children, it has been many years since any of his descendants have lived in Sardinia. George Williams,

mentioned in the section on schools, was a great-grandson.

### ROBERT HOPKINS

Robert Hopkins, who settled on the Middle Road, near the VanSlyke Road, in 1823, was the father of James Hopkins, who married Abigail Rider, daughter of Horace Rider. They were grandparents of Mrs. Ray Benton, formerly Mazie Hopkins, a prominent resident of the town, who died in 1970. Other Hopkins descendants in town include Hubert Hopkins, Dudley Hopkins, Marjorie DeGolier (Mrs. Leslie), all of whom have children and grandchildren in the town. Another descendant is Lois Kittleson (Mrs. Ronald). Perhaps there are others.

### JOSIAH ANDREWS

Josiah Andrews came to Sardinia in 1824 from Coventry, Rhode Island. Both he and his wife lived to be 90 years old. Of their eleven children, nine were boys, all of whom lived in Sardinia. The best known ones, perhaps, were George, who is remembered as the proprietor of the hotel; and Warren, who operated a store. He was a grandfather of the Rev. Fred Bolender. A grandson of Josiah Andrews, Olney Andrews, who spent most of his life in Sardinia, died in 1957, just

before his 100th birthday. His daughter Grace is Mrs. Foster Paine, and the Paines maintain a home on the Savage Road, where they spend their summers.

#### JOHN GOODEMOTE

John Goodemote as a young unmarried man came with his brother and settled first in the Town of Ashford. By 1825 we find him living on the Creek Road in the extreme southwestern corner of the Town of Sardinia. His son Simeon lived on the same farm. Descendants include Verne Goodemote, Earl Goodemote, Karl and Kenneth Jackson and their families.

#### NATHANIEL BOWEN

Nathaniel Bowen as a ten year old boy came to Col- den when his father, Nathaniel A. Bowen, settled there. Later young Nathaniel went back to Massachusetts, where he attended school, and later married. With his wife and a small daughter he came back to this area, locating on the Creek Road between the Richmond and Goodemote places. Later he moved to Riceville, where his daughter Silphina married Bela Colegrove Remington. The Remingtons had formerly lived in the Town of China (Arcade), and Bela Remington's father was a carpenter who helped to build both the Sardinia Baptist Church, and the old Colegrove home. Descendants of Bela and Silphina Rem-

ington who are now Sardinia residents are Hazel Cole (Mrs. Earl), and Florence and Laurence Rupert.

### JONATHAN COOK

Jonathan Cook was an early settler on the Curriers-Sardinia Road. His son Ira married Maria Bigelow, granddaughter of David Bigelow. Ira Cook, and later his son George Cook, ran the store in Sardinia that was built by Chauncey Hastings. Mrs. George Cook, a daughter of James Rider, died in 1954 at the age of 96. Mr. and Mrs. George Cook had one daughter, Metta, who married, first, Fred Denny, and second, Dr. Frank Evans. Her son, Edward Denny, lives in Snyder, and it is of special interest that he is descended from four of the pioneer families of Sardinia - the Cooks, Bigelows, Riders, and Longs.

### CHARLES SEARS

Charles Sears settled in 1830 on the place where his great-great-grandson, Walter Schiener Jr., the present supervisor of Sardinia, now lives. It appears that this place holds the record for having been continuously in the same family for the longest time of any place in the town. Other descendants include Robert Schiener and his family, and Devere Sears.

### MATTHEW R. OLIN

Matthew Olin bought 100 acres of land near the east end of the Middle Road in 1832, and later increased the size of his farm considerably. He was supervisor of the town in 1836 and 1837. Four generations of Olins operated this farm before it was sold. Two lines of descent are represented in this area. One line includes Grace Olin (Mrs. Roy) and her daughter Betty, and Arleigh Olin (Mrs. Ray). The other includes Harriet Bleyle (Mrs. John), her daughter Alice Whitefield (Mrs. Donald) and her family.

### CALEB CUTLER, JR.

Caleb Cutler Jr. was born in Wardsboro, Vermont, in 1806, came with his people to Holland in 1816, and in 1837 bought a farm on the Warner-Gulf Road in the Town of Sardinia. His daughter Beattie married Edwin Casey, and they were grandparents of the present Edwin Casey, who now lives on the farm, and of Kenneth Casey, who runs a store in Sardinia. This 134 years is, in the Sardinia records, the second longest period of continuous ownership by the same family.



Probably the first public road in Sardinia was the Genesee Road which extends completely across the town from east to west in practically a straight line. In the Briggs History there is a detailed account of the clearing of this road in 1809. The Holland Land Company, an organization that had acquired the title to most of the land in western New York, including the area under present consideration, had engaged Sumner Warren, who was Ezra Nott's uncle, to open a wagon road on a route previously surveyed. Young Ezra was one of the four assistants, and that summer they cut timber and cleared it off so that the road was

passable for wagons.

Most of the other main roads in the town were surveyed and opened within the next few years. At first these were only trails suitable for wagons in summer and sleighs in winter, if weather permitted.

One of the early roads was the Creek Road, which was a stage road as early as 1828. The stage came through Arcade and Yorkshire, continuing west on the south side of the Cattaraugus to The Forks, where the road crossed the creek, continued on the north side to meet the present Creek Road near the foot of the Lord Hill. Although the stage had long since disappeared, the section of the road west from The Forks was still in use within the memory of many of us, but was abandoned when the bridge washed out at The Forks. A little later there was a north and south stage route established, which followed more or less the route of the present Olean Road.

A nearly forgotten, but rather interesting project, that might have had quite an effect on Sardinia if it had materialized, was the construction of a plank road from Buffalo to The Forks. Long before the days of paved roads as we know them, there were a few plank roads.

In 1848 the Erie County Board of Supervisors



authorized the building of a plank road from Elk Street in Buffalo to the Cattaraugus Creek. As the route was surveyed it entered the town of Sardinia in what is now Sprague Brook Park, crossed Pratham Road, then turned southeast across the Allen Road, and along the Domes Road for a short distance. It followed the Mihm Road to the Genesee Road, which it crossed and then bore east-southeast, reaching the Middle Road exactly at the corner of the Warner Gulf Road, which then extended that far south. From there it followed the Middle Road almost to the east end, then turned abruptly southeast across the present Schiener and Dabolt properties to the Cattaraugus. For some reason the project was abandoned before the plank road ever reached Sardinia.

The first automobiles appeared shortly after 1900, and as they increased in numbers there came a demand for paved roads. Previous to 1912 all roads in town were dirt or gravel roads, but in that year a hard surface road was constructed from the B. & S. depot in Sardinia to the main corner in Chaffee, by way of the Savage and Allen Roads. For about five years that was the only paved road in town. Then in 1917 the Savage Road was paved north from the Allen Road. The next year the Allen Road was paved from the Savage Road to East Concord. That made Springville accessible by



From the earliest days the importance of schools was recognized. According to available records, Anna Richmond, daughter of George Richmond, conducted the first school in the town, in her father's house, in 1812. In 1814 Miss Melinda Abbey taught school in a log cabin on the Genesee Road, near the Hosmer residence, beside the stream now known as Hosmer Brook. This was the first school in the eastern part of the town.

In 1818 a more pretentious log schoolhouse was built, just north of Rice's Corners. This building was more than a schoolhouse. Often on Sundays religious services were held there, and it was even used as a temporary shelter for newly arrived families before they found a permanent place to live. Some of the

features reported about this building would seem most remarkable today. The seats were hemlock slabs mounted on legs, and there were shelves at the windows where pupils could stand for writing. There was also reported to have been a hole under the floor, access to which was available by removing a floor board. This hole was a convenient place into which to drop unruly pupils for disciplinary purposes.

As the town became more heavily populated school districts were organized, each district with its own one room schoolhouse. Some districts were wholly within a town, but others cut across town and even county lines. In the early days there were no grades as we now know them, and pupils progressed as ability and interest made it possible.

After the 1890's, when the grade system came into use, a teacher might have pupils in grades one through eight, all in the same room. Class periods had to be very short, and pupils not actually in class sat in the seats farther back, studying, or perhaps listening to the class in progress.

Eventually there were two schools in town that had more than one teacher. As the village developed at Chaffee, a two room school was built on the west side of the Olean Road in the north part of the vil-



SARDINIA UNION SCHOOL - OCTOBER 1915

FRONT ROW - Domineck Mungnello, Vern Stearns, Floyd Brattain, Corydon Brattain, James Mungnello, Hugh Miller, Horace Webster, Edward Denny, Edward Hafner, Oliver Crook, Horton Stockin, Rex Olin, James Brattain, Norman Sixt, John Eckel, Charles Goodemote, DeVere Sears, Wilbur King, Edward Sixt, Clayton Kaser, Donald Pitcher.

SECOND ROW - Helen Carlsen, Robert Whiteside, Isabel Schrader, Esther Stearns, Winona Witheril, Marjorie Pitcher, Muriel Smith, Marion Petri, Evelyn Knight, Gladys Cornwell, Virginia Cossaboon, Lavera Tarbell, Louise Yoviene, Faith Brattain, Lila Cornwell, Winifred Casey, Grace Hakes, Grace Whiteside, Marion Miller, Helen Cossaboon, Norma Smith, Bessie Hakes, Alberta Hafner, Evelyn Sixt, Olive King, Robert Carlsen.

THIRD ROW - Frances Hafner, Theron Quint, Alice Frank, Laurence Rupert, Dee Wood, Chauncey Strong, Irma Smith, Flora Jensen, Harold Hopkins, Alvin Hartel, Verne Goodemote, Ruth Miller, Arleigh Stockin, Harold Rosier, Leroy Casey, Ina Fullington, Pearl Cossaboon, Merriam Stone, Hazel Rogers, Ella Webster, Morris Pitcher.

BACK ROW (Faculty) - Mr. Olin H. Simpson, Miss Elva Town, Mrs. Mabel June, Miss Edna Wurtz.

lage. It replaced a one room school that stood farther north, near the place where the railroad crossing connects the Olean and Curriers Roads.

At one time Sardinia village had two one room schools, one on the road to Springville, and one on the Savage Road farther north. These districts were combined in 1882, and a new building was built. It was known as the Sardinia Union School, and stood where the town highway buildings now stand. It was at first a two teacher school, and involved only grades one through eight. In 1906, after a heated contest, the residents voted to make it into a high school.

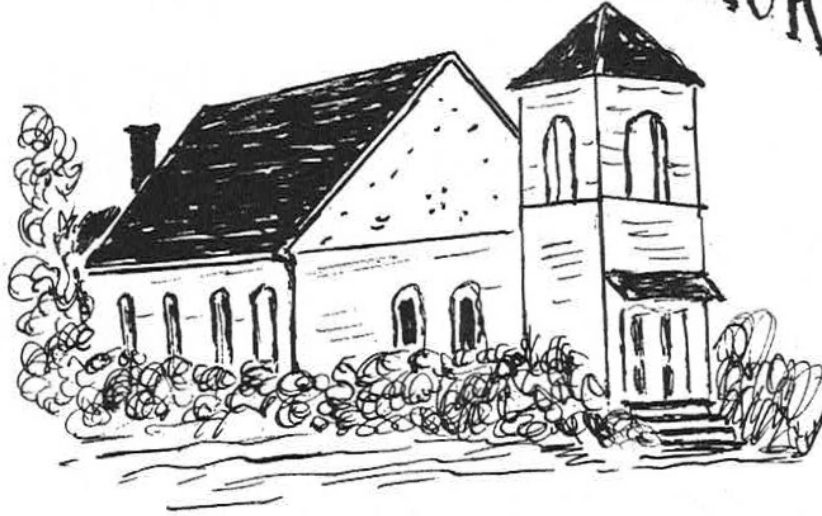
The building was remodeled so that there were four rooms, one for the first four grades, one for the next four, and two for the high school. Two high school teachers taught subjects that enabled a student to earn a High School Regents' diploma. The first high school class was graduated in 1908, and consisted of three members. One was Fred W. Bolender, who later became a Methodist minister, and who served the Sardinia church a total of twenty-five years. Another member of the class of 1908 was George Williams, and the third was Nora Johnson, who later became Mrs. Charles Gliss, and still later Mrs. George Williams.

In 1921 the State Education Department removed four year high school privileges, permitting only two years of high school courses to be taught, and requiring pupils to go elsewhere to finish. However, later in the 1920's a new building was built, our present building, and four year high school privileges were restored. The first class in the new building was graduated in 1929.

The Sardinia High School continued until World War II, when a teacher shortage problem developed. It was then voted to join the Arcade Central School system. More recently, of course, it has become part of the Pioneer Central School system. The building in Sardinia is still being used, but for no grades above third.

Gradually through the years, the various other districts in the town discontinued classes in their buildings, as they contracted with, or became parts of, one of the central school districts in the area. Many of the old schoolhouses have been converted into dwellings.

# CHURCHES



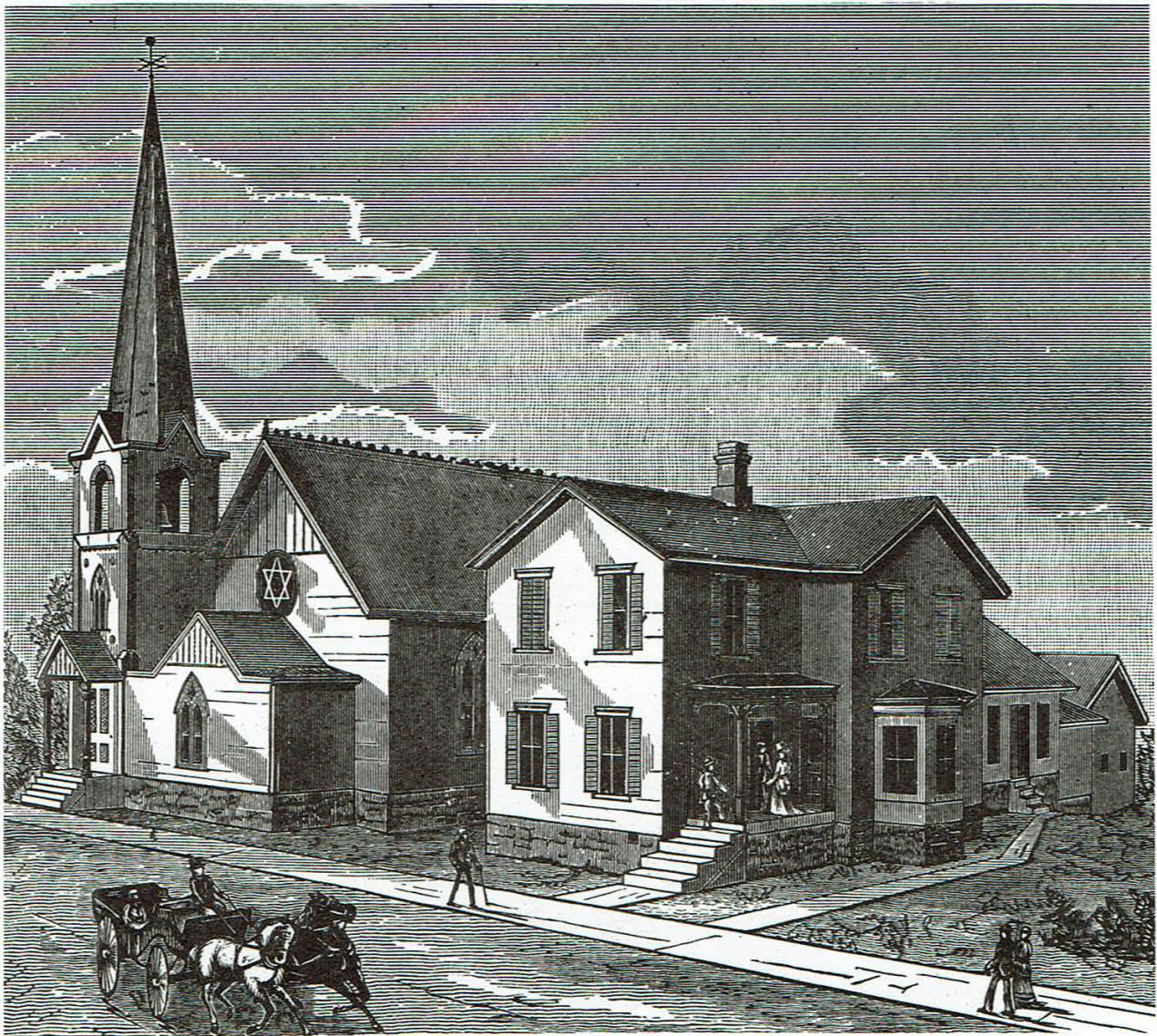
The first church to be organized in Sardinia was the Baptist Church. The society was organized March 1, 1820 with twenty members. The building was built in 1829, and dedicated in January 1830. The pastor at the time was the Reverend Whitman Metcalf. For many years the church was a very flourishing one, and it is reported that at one time there were 270 members. The church served the community until about 1915, when dwindling membership forced it to close. The building, with bell tower removed, and with the interior extensively remodeled, is the present town hall. Further information about it is in the section on organizations. The very fine bell that hung in this church now hangs in the

Amherst Community Church in Snyder. Arrangements for the transfer were made by Mr. Edward Denny, a member of the Amherst Church, and a former Sardinia resident, some of whose ancestors were active in the Sardinia Baptist Church.

The Methodists formed their first class in 1821, only a year after the Baptists. For over twenty years meetings were held in shops, schoolhouses, and private homes, but in 1841 a legal organization was effected, followed by the construction of a building in 1842. This building served the church for forty years. In 1882 the present building was built on land furnished by Mrs. Julian Simons. The old church then became a store (location of the present Sardinia Supply, Inc.).

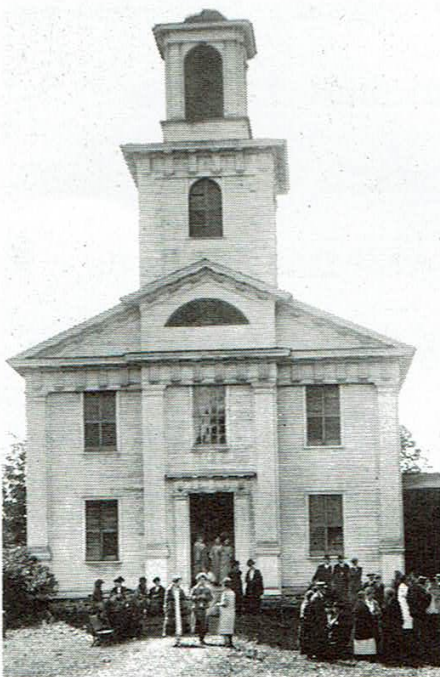
Through the years the Sardinia Methodist Church has usually been on a charge with some other church. In the earliest days it was on a Boston circuit. Later associations have been with Arcade, Yorkshire Center, and Sandusky in the 1860's and 1870's, with Protection in the 1880's, with Chaffee during the entire existence of the Methodist Church there, and later variously with Sandusky, Machias, Eagle, and Farmersville Center. Some of the old records have interesting entries. For example, we find that in 1872 the Rev. John Irons was appointed to the Arcade, Yorkshire Center, and Sar-





SARDINIA METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE,  
AS THEY LOOKED WHEN BUILT IN 1882.

LEFT - SARDINIA BAPTIST CHURCH.  
BELOW - PROTECTION METHODIST  
CHURCH. *Courtesy Gordon Jackson*



dinia churches at an annual salary of \$600. The conference year began in October, and on February 1, 1873 it was reported that he had been paid \$140. By May this had been increased to \$172. There seems to be no record whether or not he was ever paid in full. This church is the oldest of the four now serving the town.

The third church to be built in the town we know relatively little about. It was a Roman Catholic church that stood on the corner of the Pratham and Foote (Cottrell) Roads. It was built in 1869, and was first served by Father Ulrich from St. Aloysius Church in Springville, later by Father Thies from Boston. It was discontinued some time in the middle 1880's.

The Protection United Methodist Church is located in the Town of Sardinia, just south of the Holland line. It was built in 1881, and the first pastor was the Rev. J. J. Dayton, who was also pastor of the Holland Methodist Church. Within a year or two it was put on the same charge as Sardinia and remained there for several years. For many years it has been connected with the Holland Church. The present pastor is Dr. William Bailey.

In the year 1896 both Baptist and Methodist churches were being constructed in Chaffee. The Baptist Church was dedicated June 18, 1896, and was known at the time as

the Memorial Baptist Church. It was organized as a branch of the Sardinia Baptist Church, with the Rev. Byron Jacobus as pastor. His salary was \$400 a year. Now the Chaffee Community Baptist Church, it has been a thriving church throughout its 75 years of existence.

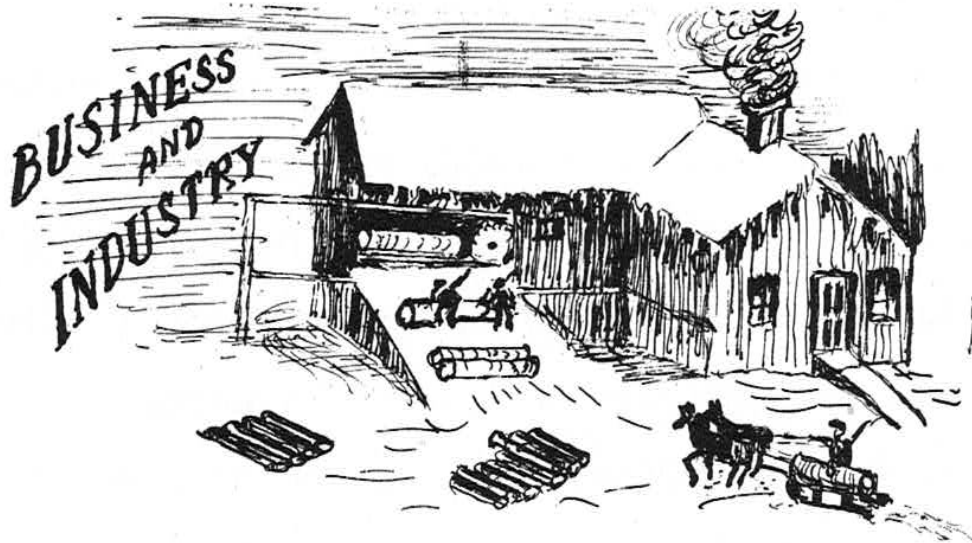
The Rev. T. E. Thuresson of the Sardinia Methodist Church had held services in Chaffee in 1895, but the society was not organized until April 1896. No record seems available of the date of dedication of the building, but it was probably in the late summer or fall of 1896. At that time the pastor was the Rev. T. W. Chandler, who was also pastor at Sardinia. The church was closed in 1925, and the building sold. It was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Preston Rice Sr. in 1933, and they remodeled it into a beautiful home, where Mrs. Rice still resides.

It may be of interest that before these churches were built in Chaffee, Alfred Rice, father of Preston Rice Sr., had owned a cheese factory just north of the village, but which had been moved to the Genesee Road, just east of the Olean Road. This factory was being demolished when the churches were built and Mr. Rice donated lumber which was used in the construction of the churches.

The newest church in town is St. Jude's Roman

Catholic Church. In June 1953 a census was taken that showed the area to have a large enough Catholic population so that a church was needed here. The matter came to the attention of Mr. Fred Forness of Olean - a long time resident there and one time mayor of the city. Mr. Forness offered to finance the building of the church. Construction was started in August 1953, on land donated by Sam LaScala, and the building was completed in December of the same year. The first mass was celebrated by Msgr. Neylon on December 6, 1953. The building was dedicated by Bishop Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo, on October 17, 1954.

From that time until 1970 the church was administered by priests from the Missionary Apostolate. These were all newly ordained priests, and each spent just one year here. In June 1970, the first resident pastor, the Rev. Clarence Ott, was assigned to the church.



Any attempt to describe or even enumerate all the stores, hotels, mills, factories, and other business places that have existed in Sardinia would be impossible. Even to consider those for which records are available would take many pages. So it seems best to limit this section to a consideration of those places that seem to be of special historical interest.

#### HOTELS and TAVERNS

The very first public place in town was the tavern of George Richmond, opened in 1809, and in operation until about 1855. Giles Briggs opened a tavern at Rice's Corners in 1810. More pretentious taverns appeared in the 1820's. At what is now Schutt's Corners the Cherry Tavern was opened by Joseph Rice in 1825, and it continued in business until the railroad was built. It is now the Mordan residence.

In 1824 a hotel in Sardinia village was built by Chauncey Hastings, who operated it for some years. It continued under various managements, and with little change in appearance until 1881, when George Andrews was proprietor. He remodeled and enlarged it, making it into a three story building with a cupola. The third story was a dance hall. It stood where the American Legion Hall now stands. It burned in 1936.

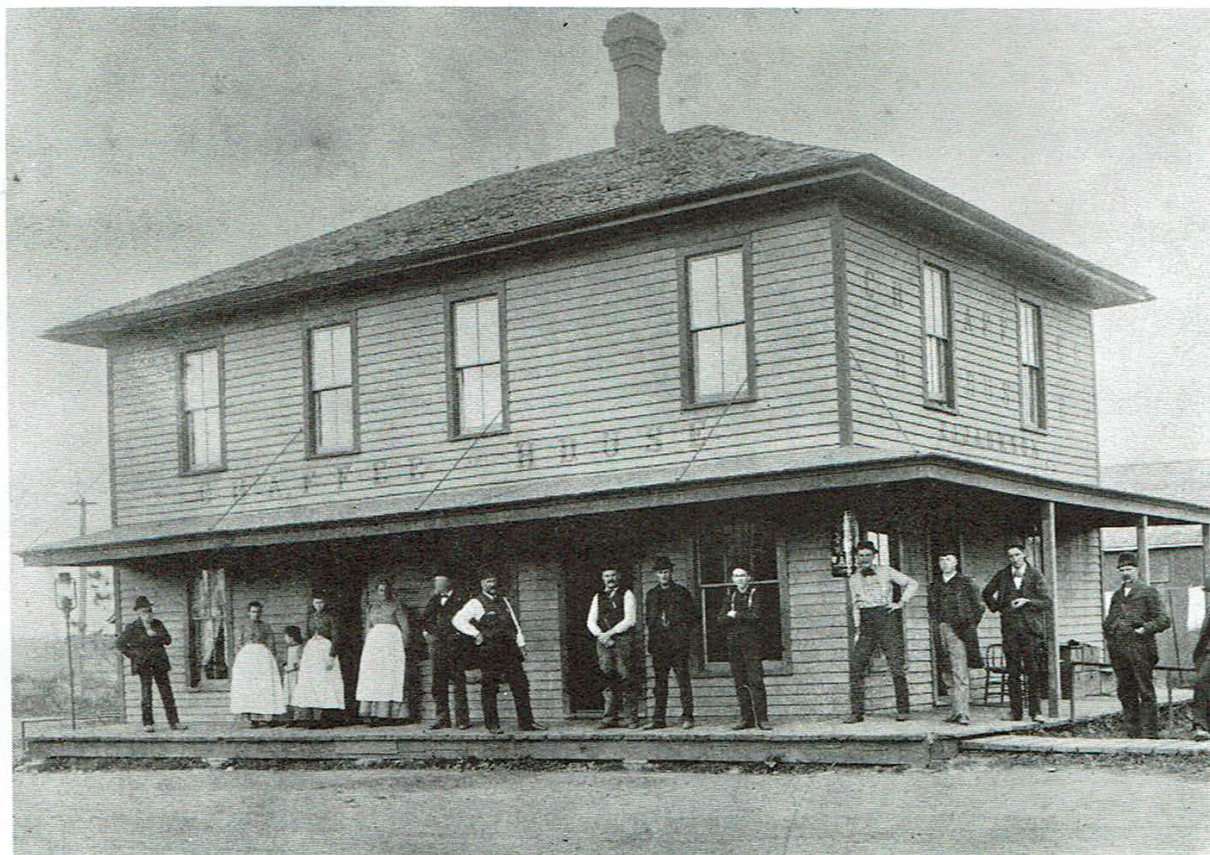
For many years there was a large hotel in Chaffee. From about 1890 until 1906 it was operated by Delmer Shaw, who sold it in 1907. Later Frank Button ran it for a few years. It stood on the north side of the street leading to the depot.

### STORES

The first store of importance in town was opened by Chauncey Hastings about 1823, although Horace Clark is reported to have had a store in 1816, and there had been others who sold certain goods brought from the New England States. For many years Mr. Hastings operated his store along with the hotel. In 1847 he built a new store which is still standing. It is on the north side of Schutt Road, near Savage. After some years of operation by members of the Hastings family, George Bigelow ran the store for a time, followed by his son-in-law, Ira Cook, then by George Cook, son of Ira Cook. For



HOTEL IN SARDINIA VILLAGE - BURNED IN 1936



OLD SHAW HOTEL IN CHAFFEE

*Photo Courtesy James Shaw.*



LOOKING SOUTH FROM MAIN CORNER IN CHAFFEE. STORE AT RIGHT WAS RUN BY BERT ALLEN AT TIME OF THIS PICTURE. BUILDING STILL STANDS BUT IS MUCH CHANGED. NEXT STORE WAS THE WILLIS AND TEMPLETON HARDWARE.

*Photo Courtesy Harold Thomas.*



LOOKING NORTH TOWARD MAIN CORNER IN CHAFFEE. BUILDING IN FOREGROUND WAS HOWARD POMEROY'S STORE AND POST OFFICE.

*Photo Courtesy Harold Thomas.*



CREAMERY THAT ONCE STOOD IN CHAFFEE JUST SOUTH OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING.

*Photo Courtesy Harold Thomas.*



SCHUTT ROAD IN SARDINIA LOOKING WEST, ABOUT 1920. HOUSE AT RIGHT IS THE JULIAN SIMONS HOUSE. MRS. SIMONS WAS STILL LIVING THERE THEN. BEYOND, AND PARTLY HIDDEN BY TREES, IS THE HOTEL.



many years, beginning in the early 1900's, the proprietors were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Miller. In recent years it has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bigelow.

The store in which the Sardinia Supply Inc. is located was once the Methodist Church, and it faced east. Through the years this store has had many occupants. Among the best known were Howard Freeman and Grove Miller, who ran general stores, and Rex Rosier, who had a hardware store there. The Schieners have been in business there since 1946.

E. M. Sherman ran a general store in Chaffee when the village was new. Another early storekeeper in Chaffee was Warren Clark, whose first store was in the Butler Building. The Butler Building, built by David Butler, stood where the Odd Fellows Hall now stands. It was a large building that accommodated, among other things, a store, a tavern, and a skating rink. On July 4, 1895 a disastrous fire occurred in Chaffee, and the Butler Building was destroyed, along with some stores south of the Allen Road. The store directly across the Allen Road from the Butler Building was run by Emery Smith, and south of that was the Willis and Templeton hardware store.

After the fire Mr. Clark built a new store, which

is now the post office building. Stores were also rebuilt south of the Allen Road. The one on the corner was operated by Bert Allen at about the turn of the century and for many years afterward. Since Mr. Allen's day the longest proprietorship in that store was that of S. Dean Smith. A few years ago the store was converted into living quarters.

### SAWMILLS

All the early mills had to be run by water power, and the small streams of Sardinia were well adapted to furnish this, both for sawmills and grist mills.

Sumner Warren built a sawmill in 1812 on Hosmer Brook near the present Route 39 bridge. Several other sawmills were built along the same stream, including one near the foot of the Hopkins Hill. This was run by Horace Rider, who lived in the brick house at the top of the hill. There were sawmills also on several other small streams in town. By 1870 there was a more pretentious mill, perhaps on the site of the old Warren mill, almost directly back of the building now occupied by P. C. Rice and Sons. This was owned at the time by Roderick Simons and his son Julian. Later it was run by George Strong and Gideon Williams, who at one time made round cheese boxes. Albert Jenkins became the owner

before the mill burned in 1920.

About 1905 Frank E. Eddy and Addison J. O'Dell installed a Rough Turning Shoe Last Block lathe in the mill owned by Frank Eddy, Ernest Alsworth, and Mr. Freeman, beside the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks in Chaffee. A small office was built west of the street, and an air-drying and storage building was built south of the railroad station. Both buildings are still here. They incorporated in 1906 as the O'Dell & Eddy Company, and started building a factory in Arcade, a mill east of Protection and several mills on farms. In 1907 Clarence W. Hillman came with the company, followed by Roy B. Charles and Hugh F. Peirce, and all became stockholders.

In 1916 the United Block Company Inc. was formed by the union of the O'Dell & Eddy Co. with two other concerns. By that time the corporation had ten factories in three states.

Besides shoe last blocks, the company made veneer wire-bound boxes for meat packers, apple and lettuce boxes, celery crates, bushel baskets, hampers, wood heel squares, and bowling pin blocks.

The United Block Co., Inc. had large interests in Shoe Last finishing plants. The company furnished most of the Rough Turned Shoe Last Blocks used by the Last

Factories of England, Ireland, Cuba, Mexico, and Australia  
It was credited with being the world's largest manufacturer of Rough Turned Shoe Last Blocks.

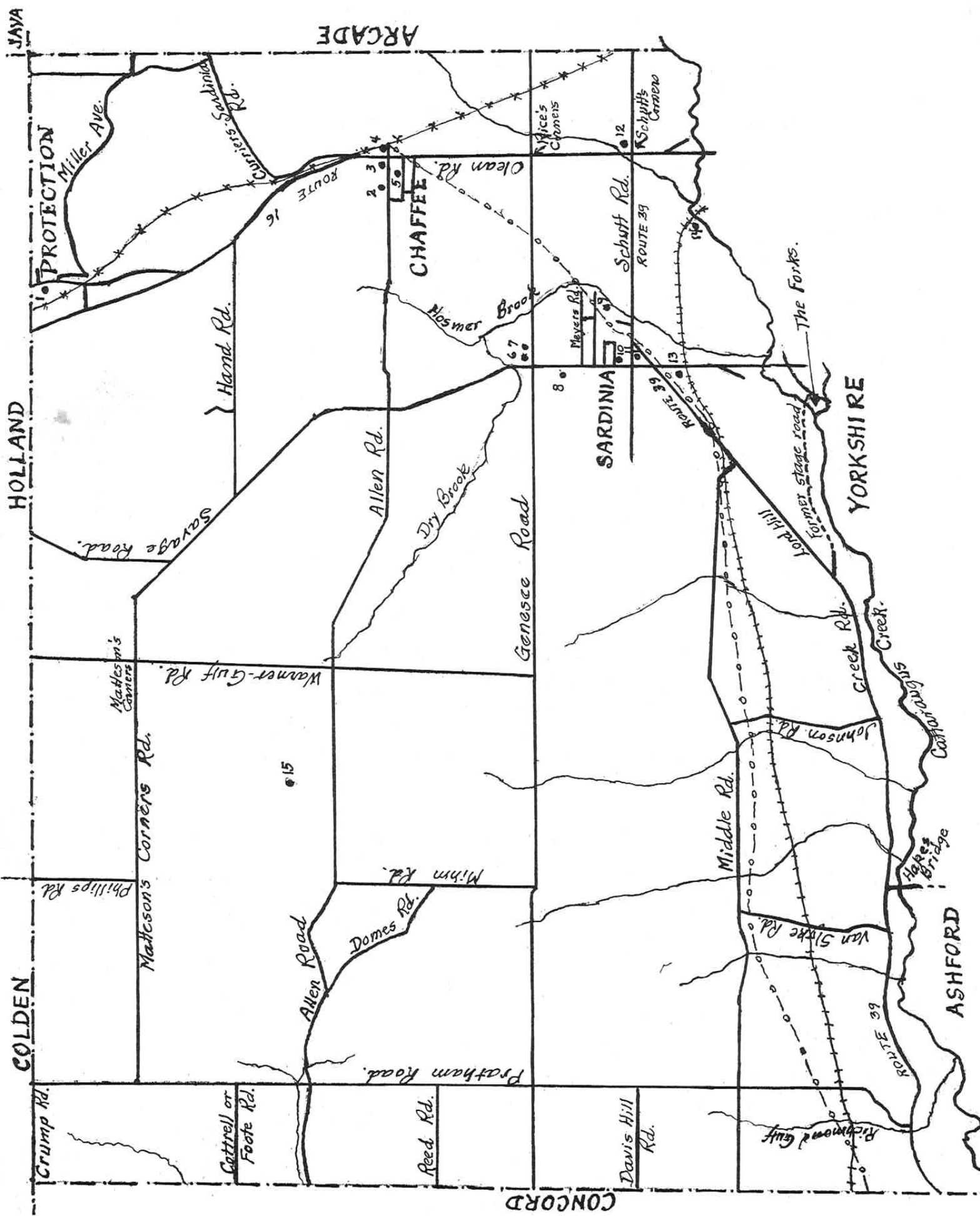
In 1956 the American Machine and Foundry Co. purchased the entire United Block Co., Inc.

(The preceding record of the O'Dell & Eddy Co. was condensed from a more complete account very kindly furnished by Mr. Clarence W. Hillman.)

### GRIST MILLS

A grist mill was built about 1835 by the Cornwell Brothers who sold out in 1858 to Charles Long, who, in turn, sold it to Nicholas Bolender. He and his sons ran it for many years. It stood on Hosmer Brook, and was reached by a road leading east from Savage Road just north of the present Sardinia Hotel. There is also a record of a grist mill on the stream that runs through Richmond Gulf.

At one time Roderick and Julian Simons had a grist mill adjacent to their sawmill. However they discontinued it and moved to the large building that had formerly been a woolen mill. This building stood close to the creek at the end of what was then an east fork of Mill Street. The mill could also be reached by a driveway on the east side of Hosmer Brook, and over a bridge



CONCORD

JAYA

HOLLAND

GOLDEN

ASHFORD

CHAFFEE

SARDINIA

YORKSHIRE

PROTECTION

Grump Rd.

Cattrell or Foote Rd.

Reed Rd.

Davis Hill Rd.

Richmond Gulf

Pratham Road.

Allen Road

Domes Rd.

Milm Rd.

Matteson's Corners Rd.

Matteson's Corners

Warner-Gulf Rd.

Savage Road.

Hand Rd.

Allen Rd.

Dry Brook

Genesee Road

Clean Rd.

Meyers Rd.

Schutt Rd.

Middle Rd.

Van Slyke Rd.

Johnson Rd.

Creek Rd.

Former stage road

The Forks.

Castoragus Creek.

Horseshoe Bridge

Nosmer Brook

Wices's Corners

Schutt's Corners

ROUTE 16

ROUTE 39

ROUTE 39

ROUTE 39

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

15

KEY TO NUMBERS ON MAP

- 1 Protection United Methodist Church.
- 2 Former Chaffee Methodist Church.
- 3 I.O.O.F. Hall.
- 4 Former Pennsylvania Railroad station.
- 5 Community Baptist Church of Chaffee.
- 6 St. Jude's Roman Catholic Church.
- 7 Old Colegrove home.
- 8 Former Sardinia Baptist Church, now the Town Hall.
- 9 Site of old grist mill (Simons and Sixt).
- 10 Sardinia United Methodist Church.
- 11 Former Methodist Church, now a store. In the small triangle just east of it stood the Springville and Sardinia Railroad station.
- 12 Former Cherry Tavern.
- 13 Former Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad station.
- 14 Alum Rock bridge.
- 15 Highest point in Sardinia, about 1940 feet above sea level.



SIXT MILL, FRONT  
VIEW. TAKEN FROM  
MILL STREET IN  
FEBRUARY 1922.

SIXT MILL,  
REAR VIEW.  
CASEY BARN  
AT RIGHT  
LOOKS MUCH  
THE SAME  
TODAY.



Sardinia Flour Mills, Sardinia N. Y.



CHEESE FAC-  
TORY, NOW  
THE P. C.  
RICE & SONS  
BUILDING.  
(PICTURE  
TAKEN BY  
MOONLIGHT).

where the Sixts' covered footbridge now is. This mill was the largest building in town, and was four stories high at the back. In 1912 it was sold to Sixt & Boltz and was operated by John Sixt and his son Edward until the mill burned in 1928. Then the business was moved to Yorkshire and was located there for some years. It is now back in this town on East Schutt Road. It would be hard to recognize the present establishment with its complex of large buildings, and its emphasis on lumber and building supplies of all sorts, as having developed in the course of a century from the grist mill that specialized in the custom grinding of grain.

#### CHEESE FACTORIES

It is hard to discover how many cheese factories have existed in the town, nor when they were built, except in a few cases. By the late 1800's there were at least eight in town, possibly more. One, in Sardinia village, built by Roderick Simons in 1882 in front of his sawmill, is now, after two fires and many alterations, occupied by P. C. Rice & Sons.

There were cheese factories at the Hakes Bridge; on the Middle Road, east of VanSlyke Road; on the Pratham Road, just south of the cemeteries; and at Matteson's



Corners. There were three on the Genesee Road, although probably not all at the same time. There was one between the Warner - Gulf and Mihm Roads, another on a lot that is now part of the Chaffee - Sardinia Community Park. A third is mentioned in the section on churches.

#### OTHER BUSINESS PLACES OF THE PAST

There is a record of a tannery in connection with the Cornwell grist mill. Whether this is the same tannery that was later operated by George Martin is not clear. The Martin tannery stood on the east side of Hosmer Brook, just west of the present location of the Edward Sixt swimming pool. The remains of the building were still there after the Sixts took over the property. The soil all around was very springy, because of the depth of the chips of hemlock bark.

The woolen factory mentioned previously was built about 1840, and operated in that capacity for over 40 years, before becoming a grist mill.

A Mr. Kingsley established a wool carding works, in more recent times taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cornwell, on the place now occupied by the Claude Fetzer family.

There were also at least two carriage factories in

town, and a number of blacksmith shops.

### PRESENT INDUSTRY

The only industrial concern of importance now located in the Town of Sardinia is the Diamond Saw Works, Inc. It is located on the Olean Road (Route 16), just north of Schutt Road. Founded in 1890, and formerly located in Buffalo, it moved to the present location in December 1956. The president is L. F. Ronan.

Diamond Saw manufactures various kinds of metal cutting saw blades, including hacksaws, band saws, and saber saws. Sales are both domestic and international. The number of employees is about 100.

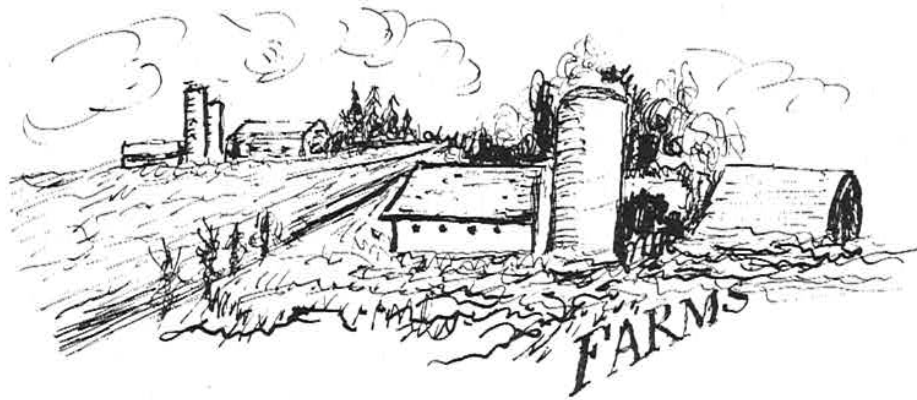
### LONGEST ESTABLISHED BUSINESS CONCERNS

Of the business places listed on the following page, the one that has been operating for the longest time continuously in the Town of Sardinia, is the James R. Shaw Co., organized in 1926.

John Sixt and Son began business here in 1912, and remained here until 1928, when they moved to Yorkshire. They returned to this town in 1961.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN TOWN OF SARDINIA - 1971

Alister's TV.....TV and repairs.  
Loretta Andera.....Beauty shop.  
Armstrong's Garage.....Auto service.  
Kenneth Armstrong.....Ski-Doo sales and service.  
Bigelow Antiques  
Bockhahn Bros.....Cattle breeders.  
James Bockhahn.....Masonry, fireplaces.  
BP Gasoline Station.....Gasoline, oil, repairs.  
Carlsen's.....Septic tanks, vaults.  
Casey's General Store.....Groceries, etc.  
Chaffee Collision Shop.....Auto repairs.  
Chaffee General Store.....Records, tape players, etc.  
Chaffee Glass Company.....Auto glass.  
Chaffee Hotel.....Restaurant, beverages.  
Chaffee Farmers' Market.....Vegetables, fruit, plants.  
Donald Coe.....Bestline Products.  
Community Disposal.....Garbage, trash pick-up.  
Diamond Saw Works, Inc.....Saw blades.  
G & B Car Wash  
Highlander Forest.....Camping facilities.  
Frank Hoch TV.....TV and repairs.  
Francis Holland.....Well drilling.  
Arlene Holts.....Beauty shop.  
J & L Builders (Petri Bros.)..Building contractors.  
Ken's Atlantic Service.....Gas station - mini-bikes.  
Sam A. LaScala.....Real estate agent.  
Lynch Packing House.....Meats.  
Mama's Restaurant.....Specializing in pizza.  
Richard Morris.....Trucking.  
Edward Mould.....Sign painting.  
Nichols Brook Hotel.....Hotel, restaurant, beverages  
Nichols Brook Motel  
Ranch House.....Restaurant, beverages.  
Red Stag Restaurant.....Fast food service.  
P. C. Rice & Sons.....Building contractors.  
Laurence R. Rupert.....Gladiolus.  
Sardinia Hotel.....Hotel, restaurant, liquor.  
Sardinia Supply, Inc.....Plumbing, heating, hardware.  
Shamrock Inn.....Restaurant, beverages.  
James R. Shaw Co.....Automobile sales and service.  
John Sixt and Son.....Lumber, building supplies.  
Texaco Service (Sam Feraldi)..Gas, oil, repairs.  
Three Acres Diner  
John Thomas & Sons.....Bean growers.  
Tri-County Supply.....Machinery dealer.



Few of us today can imagine what farming was like in the days of the earliest settlers. In those days and for many years afterward, the greater part of the population of Sardinia lived on farms. Those farms had to be operated under conditions that would seem to us so primitive that any kind of success would be impossible. However they actually succeeded in producing the major part of the needs of the people.

The farmer in the early days raised most of the food used by the family, as well as food for his animals. He raised corn, wheat, and buckwheat, which he took to the grist mill for grinding into meal or flour. He raised potatoes, turnips, and other vegetables, and he usually had an apple orchard, perhaps composed of trees raised from seed. For meat he regularly raised cattle, hogs, and chickens, often sheep, even ducks, geese, and guinea hens. Every farm had at least a

small dairy, providing milk for the housewife to make her own butter, and sometimes cheese. However, in the course of time there was a cheese factory within reasonable driving distance of every farm. The farmer hauled milk to the factory, and returned with a load of whey for his hogs. Cheese for household use was usually available at the factory also.

The forest provided some food, particularly maple sugar - usually the only kind of sugar available in the very early days. The forest also furnished butternuts and beechnuts, with blackberries and strawberries in the clearings, and wild game everywhere, and fish in the streams.

A considerable amount of clothing was produced on the farm. Many enterprising farm women carded, spun, and dyed wool from locally raised sheep, and wove it into cloth. Some wool was spun into yarn suitable for knitting mittens and socks. It is reported that some flax for linen was once raised here. Calf and cow hides were taken to the tannery and made into leather which the shoemaker used to make boots and shoes to order.

The farm machinery used by the pioneers was very crude. Plows were made of wood, but with the plowshare fashioned by a blacksmith, and tipped with steel. Drags

were made of wood, fitted with iron teeth. These primitive plows and drags were most often pulled by oxen, with better equipment usually available by the time horses came into general use.

Occasional farms had natural springs that supplied water, but usually there had to be a well. Pumps were unknown at first, and there were various types of hand operated apparatus for lowering buckets into the well, filling them, and then raising them. Later hand pumps came into use, and still later many farms had pumps operated by windmills. These were common until well after 1900, when they were supplanted by pumps run by gasoline engines, and later by electricity.

A sickle was used for cutting the first wheat, oats, rye, etc., raised in Sardinia, and the grain was threshed with a flail. Threshing was done either on the barn floor, or on a specially prepared floor outdoors. The scythe was a glorified sickle, which came into use for cutting grain and hay before the days of horse drawn reapers and mowing machines.

When threshing machines came into use they were too expensive for every farmer to own one. So the man who did own a machine used to go from farm to farm, and with a local crew would do the threshing on a number of farms each fall. When threshers came it was quite a day

for the farm housewife, for it was up to her to provide meals for the entire crew. A similar custom prevailed in connection with silo filling.

Within the last fifty years farm activities have undergone great changes. As recently as 1920, most farms maintained quite diversified activities, including a number that are rare or non-existent today. For example work horses were numerous, there were hogs in the pens, and almost invariably a flock of chickens. A major crop on nearly every farm was potatoes. For many years it was customary to close certain rural schools for a day or two in October, so that pupils could help pick up potatoes.

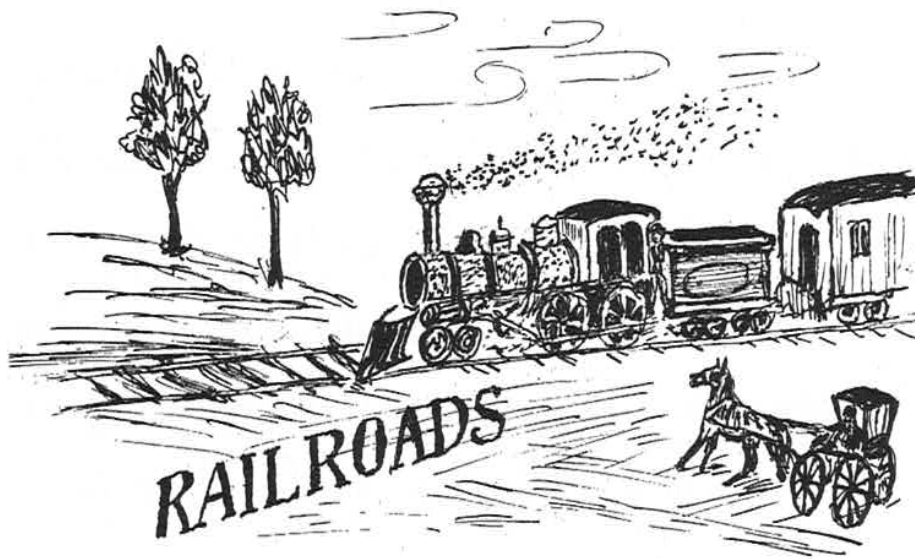
The number of farms in operation in the Town of Sardinia is constantly decreasing, and those that remain have become quite specialized. Many acres of former farm land are now included in Erie County reforestation plantings. Much of the reforested land is along the Middle and Genesee Roads, but there are plantings in other parts of the town. Other former farm areas are sites of summer homes, or year around homes of people not engaged in farming.

PRESENT DAIRY FARMS IN TOWN OF SARDINIA

A hundred years ago a list of dairy farms in town would have included the names of nearly every family outside the villages. Today the number is quite limited, but a dairy farm is a major enterprise, far different from the small time business of some of our great-grandparents. Important dairy farmers in the year 1971 include the following:

Lawrence Baker.....	Genesee Road
Harold Biehl.....	Middle Road
Bockhahn Bros.....	Genesee Road
Nicholas Bremiller.....	Pratham Road
Dabolt Bros.....	Route 39
Donald Heineman.....	Savage Road
Jewert Farms.....	Olean and Genesee Roads
Robert Meyer.....	Middle Road
Ed Mitrowski.....	Curriers Road
Robert Moltrup.....	Curriers Road
Douglas Morrell.....	Savage Road
Bennett Palmer.....	Warner-Gulf Road
Jack Rung.....	Middle Road
Otto Sasse.....	Genesee Road
Leon Smith.....	Pratham Road
Roy Smith.....	Pratham Road
Vacinek Farms.....	Route 39
Robert Webster.....	Middle Road
Vernon Webster.....	Allen Road
Alan Wiedemann.....	Curriers Road
Theodore Winkey.....	Route 39
Donald Witter.....	Savage Road
Harold Wittmeyer Jr.....	Allen Road





The year 1871 marks one hundred years of railroads in the Town of Sardinia. The first train to pass through the town was on the Buffalo, New York, and Philadelphia Railroad in 1871. That railroad became part of the Pennsylvania system about the turn of the century, and is now part of the Penn Central system.

For many years the Pennsylvania Railroad provided excellent passenger service to Buffalo. There were three passenger trains going into Buffalo each morning, and returning later in the day. One train came south in the morning and came back in the afternoon. Besides these there were through trains that did not stop at the smaller stations like Chaffee.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has been of major importance in transporting goods. The freight trains are well known, but many people today do not remember when milk from this area went to Buffalo on the train. Farmers

hauled their milk to the Chaffee depot, where the cans were loaded on the passenger train that left Chaffee just after 7 AM. This was a slow train, for it stopped to load milk at every station along the way.

In those days Chaffee was one of the important stations along the line, and the depot was open 24 hours a day.

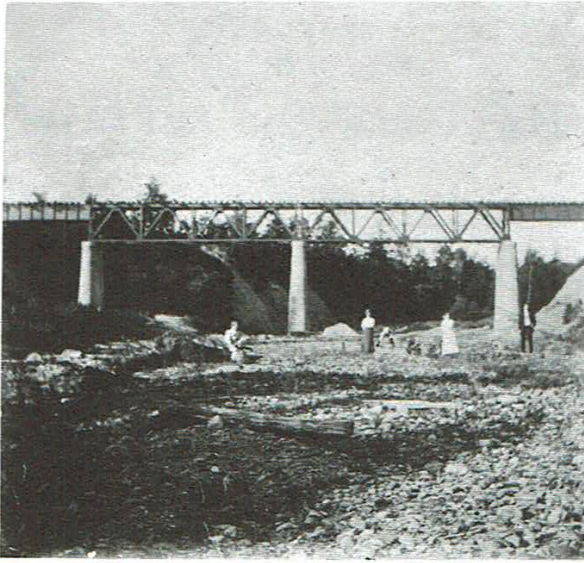
Even though it was in operation for only a few years and was less than twelve miles long, the Springville and Sardinia Railroad had great and lasting effects upon the Town of Sardinia.

It was built in 1878, and its primary purpose was to bring railroad service to Springville. Probably, however, the builders did not realize that its greatest importance would be that it brought Chaffee into existence. It was a narrow gauge railroad, with its western terminus in Springville, and its eastern terminus at the Pennsylvania tracks, at a point first called Sardinia Junction. Very soon a thriving community developed there and was named Chaffee, in honor of Bertrand Chaffee, a resident of Springville, and the president of the railroad. By error, when the post office was established the name was spelled with only one f, but that error has now been officially corrected.

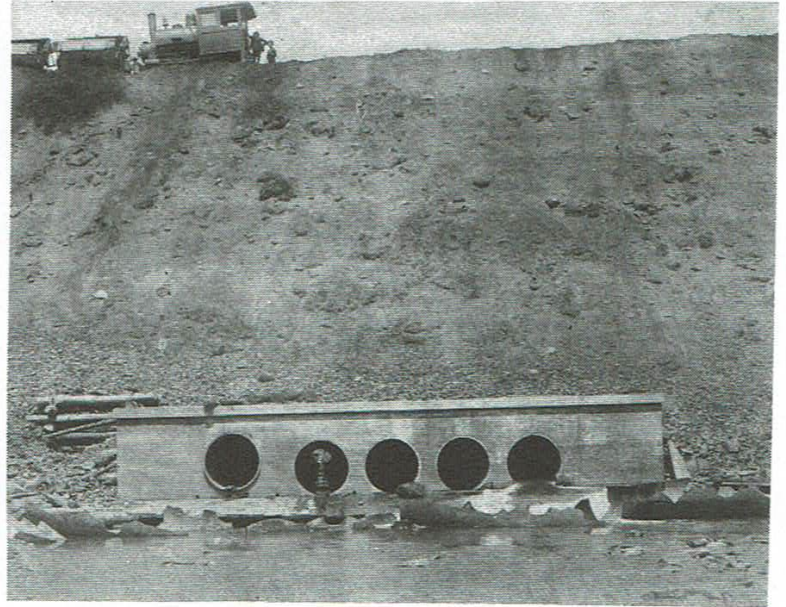
The Springville and Sardinia Railroad was built with great speed in the summer and fall of 1878. The company was organized in May, the first rails laid in July, and the job completed in  $80\frac{1}{2}$  working days. The total cost was \$61,813.95.

For several miles in the western part of town the route lay between the Middle Road and the Creek Road. In this area it is still possible to find traces here and there of the route. At Richmond Gulf there was a trestle about a quarter of a mile long, and if one cares to hike back into the woods he can still find the location of the trestle and also of a cut just east of it. The railroad reached what is now Route 39 just toward town from where the power line crosses it, and from there it followed along the southeast side of the road. The depot stood in the triangle now occupied by the BP service station. The railroad crossed Schutt Road between the present Schaper and Mersmann residences, and continued northeast, crossing the Genesee Road at the foot of the grade west of the cemetery, and from there continuing directly to Chaffee.

With the construction of the branch of the Buffalo, Rochester, and Pittsburgh Railroad through Springville in the early 1880's, the usefulness of the Springville



**ALUM ROCK BRIDGE**



**B. & S. FILL ACROSS HOSMER BROOK, AT THE TIME WHEN THE RAILROAD WAS BUILT.**



The B. & S. R. R. Station, Sardinia N. Y.

**B. & S. RAILROAD STATION AT SARDINIA.**



R.R. STATION PROTECTION N.Y. 58

**PENNSYLVANIA R. R. STATION AT PROTECTION.**

*Photo courtesy Harold Thomas.*

and Sardinia Railroad greatly decreased, and it was discontinued soon afterward.

The third railroad through Sardinia was the Buffalo and Susquehanna. This branch of the railroad connected Buffalo and Wellsville. Trains on it began running in Sardinia in 1906, but continued only a little more than ten years. The railroad did not prove as profitable as was expected, and was discontinued because of financial difficulties.

The route that it followed is easily traced nearly across the town by following the power line which occupies the old right of way except for a short distance at the east end. In the west part of town there was a fill where the railroad crossed Richmond Gulf. The U.S. Geological Survey topographical map indicates that the tracks crossed the gorge about 100 feet above the level of the stream. A fill perhaps only half as high crossed Hosmer Brook just east of the Savage Road. A bridge about 80 feet high took the railroad across the Cattaraugus in the southeast corner of the town. This was called Alum Rock Bridge, because of the presence of alum in the rocks along the creek bank.



Evidently in the very early days there were few societies, lodges, or other organizations of special importance. The first noteworthy one seems to have been the Grange that flourished in Chaffee until the early 1920's, apparently. The Grange Hall still stands, but is now privately owned.

The Chaffee Lodge No. 256, I.O.O.F. was instituted March 29, 1905. Officers were A. D. Moore, N. G.; Jesse Ward, V. G.; H. E. Pomeroy, Sec., and Edgar Blood, Treas. The Odd Fellows Hall was built in 1909-10. Amaryllis Rebekah Lodge No. 503, I.O.O.F. was instituted May 6, 1913.

At various times there have been Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations in town. Surprisingly the first Boy Scout troop in town dates back to 1913, when

the Boy Scouts of America was a very young organization. The troop was sponsored by the Sardinia Baptist Church, and the scoutmaster was Hayden Orr. He was a brother of Mrs. Rex Rosier, now of the Rosier Hardware in Arcade. Scout meetings were held in the upstairs room across the front of the church, a room that has remained practically unchanged in the remodeling from church to community hall to town hall.

The Sardinia Home Bureau Club was organized in 1915. As the years passed the club flourished, with its headquarters in a building on West Schutt Road. From the very first it was customary in early August to hold a picnic for members and their families. This grew, first into a community picnic, then into a more elaborate field day. In the meantime the idea of a community hall was growing, and so were the funds of the Home Bureau. The old Baptist Church had long been vacant, and arrangements were made for the ladies to purchase it. To handle the enlarged activities that were being considered, the Sardinia Community Inc. was formed, to which the Home Bureau turned over the building. The first officers of the Sardinia Community Inc. were Seymour E. Rosier, President; Mrs. Ida Goldberg, Vice-President; Mrs. Anna Miller, Secretary; and Mrs.



ABOVE - BALLOON ASCENSION; BELOW - PRIZE WINNING CATTLE, AT SARDINIA COMMUNITY FAIR.  
*Courtesy Mr. and Mrs. DeVere Sears.*

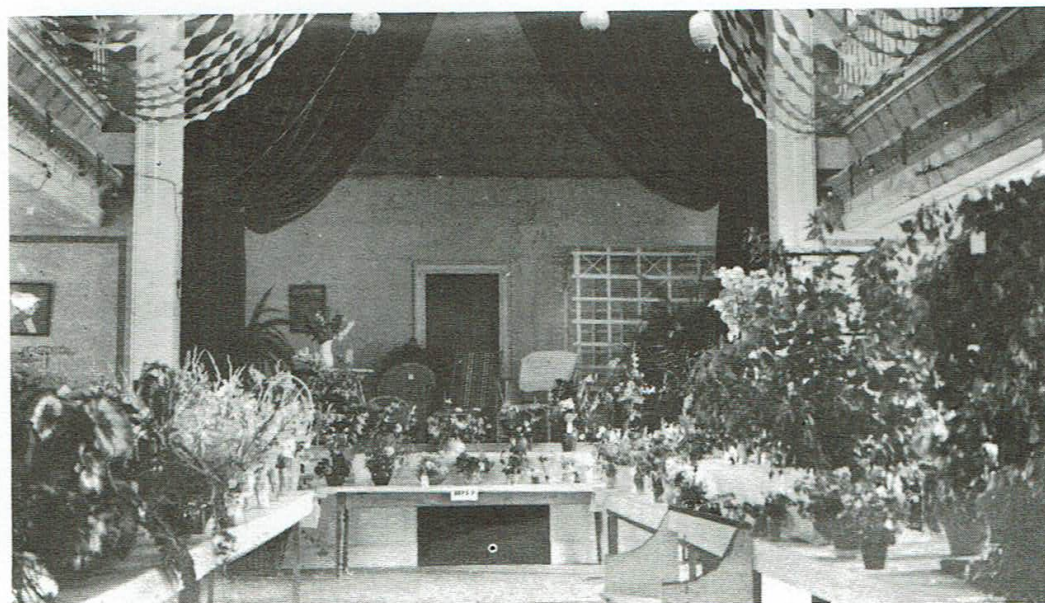
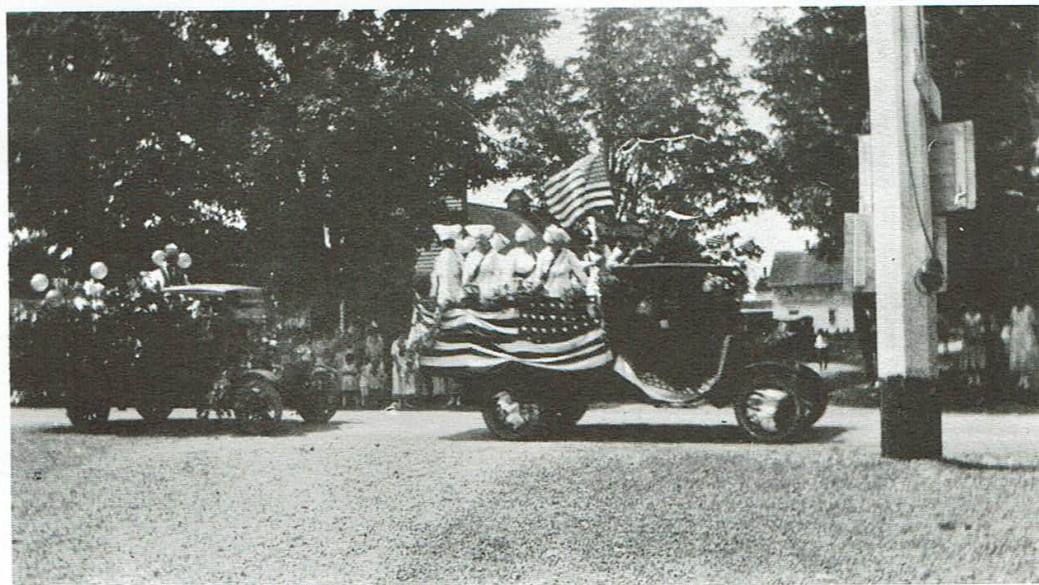






SARDINIA FAIR -  
VIEW IN FRONT  
OF HALL - 1927.

FLOATS IN  
PARADE.  
SHOWS BASE  
OF OLD  
LIBERTY  
POLE.



PART OF  
FLORAL  
EXHIBIT.

Clara Rupert, Treasurer. So in 1927, on August 9 and 10, the first Sardinia Community Fair was held. It was a full-fledged agricultural fair, with exhibits involving many classes of poultry, turkeys, geese, ducks, cattle (there were 52 different classes in which cattle could be entered), swine, sheep, vegetables, potatoes (13 classes), grains, apples, pears, and other fruits, fancy work, food preservation, dairy products (including home made butter and cheese), school exhibits, flowers, plants, and baked goods. There were various features of entertainment, with athletic events, old fiddlers' contest, ball games, dancing, and, of course, a midway.

The fair was increased to three days in 1928, and was held annually for fifteen years. It was discontinued at the time of World War II and was never resumed. The Sardinia Community Inc. was dissolved, and the hall became the property of the town, and has been the town hall ever since.

Another Home Bureau Club was organized along in the 1920's, and was known as the Benton Club, in honor of Mrs. Mazie Benton, who was instrumental in organizing it. The original membership included mainly women from the Middle and Creek Roads, but later it

came to include members from other parts of town. The present president is Donna Hopkins, whose husband is a grandnephew of Mrs. Benton.

Sardinia Post #1131, The American Legion was chartered November 2, 1934 with the following members: Preston Rice Sr., Elmer DeGolier, Emery Howell, Cliff Londo, Ray Olin, Dennis Driscoll, Sherman Meyers, Clarence Goodemote, Henry Sporman, Newman Stone, Walter Sears, Herman Wolf, Charles Graves, Charles Munsell, George June, Rex Rosier, William Wiedemann, Charles Weaver, Arthur Schuster, and Ted Westman.

The membership was drawn originally from the ranks of World War I veterans, but now includes veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam.

For sixteen years the post met at the Sardinia School and in 1950 purchased the old Sardinia Hotel lot. In May of that year the members landscaped the lot and placed a monument which was dedicated "In Honor and Memory of Our Comrades of All Wars." In 1951 a clubhouse was built, and monthly meetings of the post have been held there ever since its dedication in 1952.

Activities of the post through the years include Memorial Day services, Boy Scouts, Boys' State program, Americanism programs, flagpoles and American flags pre-

sented to organizations in town, community service awards, shelter and playground equipment for the Town Park.

The Sardinia Rod and Gun Club was founded in 1936. Original members included Edward T. Miller, Clarence Goodemote, Edward Petri, Dudley Hopkins, and Harry Woodward. The present building on the Middle Road was built in 1963. Club members shoot in the Western New York Trap League in winter, and in the Southeastern League in summer. The club also sponsors horse pulls in summer, and variety shoots.

The Chaffee-Sardinia Kiwanis Club was organized in 1948, with Walter Schiener Sr. as its first president. Their first important activity was the presentation of the engine which enabled the newly organized Fire Company to function. Another major project was the development of the park on the Genesee Road, with an especially fine swimming pool, and facilities for activities ranging from small private picnics to the annual Firemen's Carnival. The park is now owned by the town.

The Memorial Volunteer Fire Company of Chaffee-Sardinia was also organized in 1948, with Walter Schiener Sr. as the first president, and Charles Manion the

first chief. At the time there was just one truck, the Dodge pumper given by the Kiwanis Club. The second piece was a tank truck, largely a gift from Parke Davis, and stored at Sardinia. The First Aid Emergency Service became available about 1955. Now there are three fire halls in the town, one at Sardinia, one at Chaffee, and one on the Genesee Road in the west part of town. Every year the Firemen's Carnival held at the Community Park the first week in July, is one of the main events of the year.

A year or so after the Fire Company was organized the Firemen's Auxiliary was formed. Annette Haner was the first president. The purpose of the organization is to help the firemen. The ladies undertake projects to raise money to supply certain needs of the Fire Company.

Twig is a group of women organized to help the Chaffee Hospital in Springville. They raise money for the general fund of the hospital, as well as for specific projects. Currently the president is Mrs. Donald Vacinek.

The newest club in town was organized about the first of the year by snowmobile enthusiasts. Walter

Dabolt is one of the people most involved in organizing the club, which now has about 62 paid members. Plans are being made for incorporation of the club. One of the purposes of the organization is to establish and maintain co-operative relationship with other property owners in town. The president is Kenneth Armstrong.

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This section is devoted to a series of more or less unrelated matters, that seem to be worth mentioning, but do not seem to fit well into other sections.

There are two post offices in the Town of Sardinia. The Sardinia post office was established in 1821, immediately after the organization of the town. At one time there were two rural routes from the Sardinia post office. The Chaffee post office came into existence in 1881. It now has the only rural route in town. First postmaster at Sardinia was Horace Clark, and the first one at Chaffee was E. M. Sherman. Present acting post-

masters are Mrs. Marie Kittleson at Sardinia, and Mrs. Alice Knight at Chaffee.

The Chaffee Water Works Company was incorporated in 1895, with twenty stockholders. For 75 years the Erie County Board of Health, with monthly testing, has never requested that the water be treated.

The Erie-Wyoming Telephone Company was incorporated in 1905. In 1920 it had 448 miles of wire, and 81 miles of poles. There were 500 telephones, and it reached eleven hamlets and villages. It purchased and operated the Java Telephone Co. The exchange was located in Chaffee. It was later sold to the New York Telephone Company.

About 1913 there was an athletic club that met in the Grange Hall. There was equipment for basketball, boxing, wrestling, and other sports. It was sponsored by a group in Chaffee.

A few reminiscences follow, of things as they were in Sardinia before World War I.

A liberty pole stood at the intersection of Schutt and Savage Roads. At one time it was about 100 feet high, and a large flag was raised there on all patriotic holidays. In the course of time the top became unsound, and the pole was cut down to about 60 feet, but



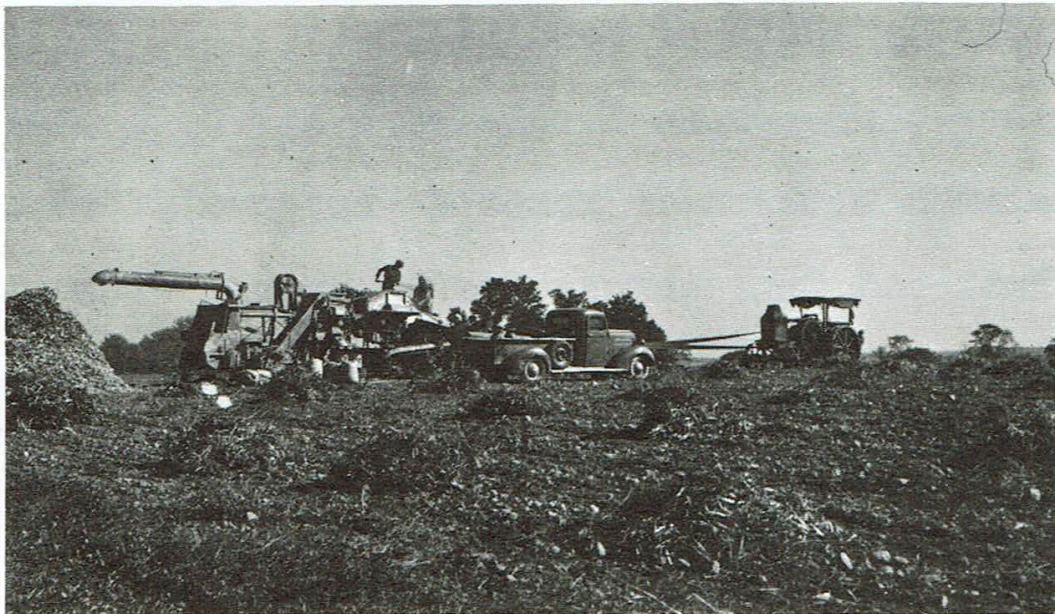
was still used as a flagpole. Later it was cut down still more, and electric lights were placed on it, which illuminated the corner very well. It has been completely gone for some years.

A familiar figure in those days was Dr. Morris O. Pitcher, with his little black bag. He had come to Sardinia in 1874, the year of Dr. Colegrove's death, and established a practice that lasted until shortly before his death in 1917. To show the esteem in which he was held, the Sardinia School was closed on the afternoon of his funeral. His son Milton Pitcher operated a hardware store and was postmaster for some years. and was later supervisor for several terms. Milton Pitcher's son Morris was a resident of Sardinia most of his life, and died in 1970.

A beauty spot in Sardinia was the old mill race. The dam was in Hosmer Brook near the farmhouse that stood at the end of Meyers Road. The mill race was a stream flowing in a man made channel from the pond above the dam, and was considerably more than a quarter of a mile long. The incline was gentle, and by the time it got to the grist mill it was high enough above the creek level so that the fall of the water to the creek bed turned the water wheel that ran the mill.



SUMMER AND WINTER VIEWS ALONG THE OLD MILL RACE  
IN THE 1920's.



THRESHING BEANS, ABOUT 1940.

The area along the race was much like a park, with a footpath beside the race, many trees, flowers and grassy banks. It was a favorite picnic place, and a place for Sunday afternoon strolls.

One summer, a few years before World War I, there was a merry-go-round in Sardinia all summer. It was run by John Beischer and stood in the area east of the present post office, and well back from the street. It was great excitement for the youngsters.

In those days the water in the Cattaraugus was clean enough for swimming. Each spring we had to locate the swimming holes for the season, for there was usually enough erosion at high water time in the spring to fill former swimming holes and wash out new ones. However there was almost always good swimming at the bridge directly south of Sardinia.

Another place where little boys liked to play, but not always with their mothers' approval, was at the B. & S. Railroad fill across Hosmer Brook. The stream ran through five cylinders, each with a diameter large enough so that a half grown boy could walk through. Often the two outside ones were dry, but the trick was to walk through one of the others without a mishap. They were a bit slippery in the bottom.

## CEMETERIES

On January 10, 1824 Jacob Wilson deeded to the Town of Sardinia, for the sum of \$10.00, about two acres of land on the north side of the Genesee Road, to be used as a burying-ground. In those days it was the business of the town to take care of cemeteries. However, in 1887, as the result of a new state law, the town deeded the cemetery on the Genesee Road, and also the one on the road to Springville, to the newly formed Sardinia Rural Cemetery Association. By the early 1900's more land was needed on the Genesee Road, and two more acres were purchased. This was farm land on the south side of the road, and the association paid \$700.00 for the plot! In 1940 two more acres were bought.

In addition to the two cemeteries just mentioned, there are two on the Pratham Road - a Catholic cemetery on the east side of the road, and a Protestant cemetery directly across from it. There have been few recent burials in the Catholic cemetery, and none in the Protestant cemetery.

## SPRAGUE BROOK PARK

With the opening of Sprague Brook Park in 1970, Sardinia now has land in the Erie County Park system. The park is partly in Concord, partly in Sardinia.

It lies on the north side of the Foote (Cottrell) Road in the northwest corner of the town.

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE OLD TOWN RECORDS

Voted to refund John McCoy fifty-three cents overpaid his Tax. (1844)

Voted that the adjournment of town Meetings be voted for by Ballots Hereafter. (1846)

Voted that cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and Geese shall not be free commoners in this town. (1851)

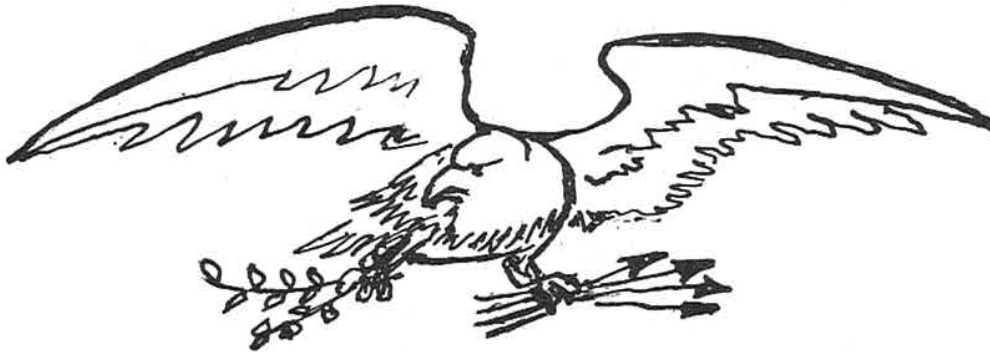
Voted that we pay one shilling per head for all heads of crows killed in the town, except on Sunday, between this and the next town meeting. (1851)

Voted to raise fifty dollars to fence the burying ground. Voted that Ezra Nott and Thomas Holmes and Thomas Hopkins be authorized to oversee the building of the fence and expend the money. (1851)

Voted that Prince Goodspeed be paid the Sum of \$2.50 for diggin graves for poor people. (1853)

It was voted that the sexton of the burying ground be authorized to cut all the noxious weeds growing on said lot twice during the present year, once before the 10 day of June and again during the month of September and if necessary remove them out of the way at an expense not exceeding \$5.00 and charge same to the town.

# Proclamation



This year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-One is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our town, the Town of Sardinia, Erie County, New York. I hereby proclaim that the days from June 27 through July 5 be devoted to commemorate this.

## SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

This year will be celebrated by a great people, with every form of ostentatious joy, and with every demonstration of respect and gratitude for the deeds of our ancestors whose sagacity, bravery, fortitude, and perseverance secured the prosperity and permanence of our town. I commend you.

*Walter F. Schiener Jr.*  
Supervisor, Town of Sardinia

COMMITTEES FOR THE TOWN OF SARDINIA SESQUICENTENNIAL  
1821-1971

CHAIRMAN ---DONALD COE

ORGANIZATION

MEMBERS

Sardinia United Methodist Church.....	Annette Haner, Margaret Kaiser
Protection United Methodist Church.....	Grace Jackson, Elsie Limburg
Chaffee Community Baptist Church.....	Beulah Gasper, Diane Long
I.O.O.F.....	Donald Witter, Frank Wiedemann
Rebekahs.....	Connie Coe, Connie Rice
Sardinia Home Bureau.....	Ruth Vacinek
Benton Home Bureau.....	Joyce Mitchell, Marjorie DeGolier
Farm Bureau.....	Nicholas Bremiller, Vernon Webster
Rod and Gun Club.....	Dennis Carlsen, William Mersmann
American Legion.....	Robert Schiener, Claude Fetzer, LaVern VanSlyke
Kiwanis.....	Emery Howell, Robert Vossler
Fire Company.....	Kenneth Kittleson, Morton Benstead, Edwin Merriman
Firemen's Auxiliary.....	Marie Kittleson, Ruth Kenyon
St. Jude's Church.....	Sam Feraldi, Delbert Wolcott
Cub Scouts.....	David Lewis
Twig - Hospital Group.....	Edith Vacinek, Arlene Holts
Sardinia Snowmobilers.....	Irene Krolick Frank Potter

TOWN OFFICIALS - 1921

Supervisor.....Elihu Rice  
Town Clerk..... Daniel Needham  
Assessors.Daniel Hall, John M. Adams, Morton Crosby  
Highway Commissioners....Giles Briggs, Horace Rider,  
Benjamin Sanders  
Collector.....Oliver Wilcox

TOWN OFFICIALS - 1971

Elected Officials

The first five constitute the town board.

Supervisor.....Walter F. Schiener Jr.  
Justice.....Edward Wood  
Justice.....Lloyd Luther  
Councilman.....Donald Lynch  
Councilman.....Jerry Bockhahn  
Town Clerk.....Patricia M. Gill  
Collector.....Dorothy Wittmeyer  
Chief Assessor.....Henry Mueller  
Assessor.....Harold Wittmeyer Sr.  
Assessor.....Donald Witter  
Highway Superintendent.....Dudley Hopkins

Appointed Officials

Chairman of Planning Board.....H. L. Wheeler  
Chairman of Board of Appeals.....Albert Ludwig  
Building Inspector.....Verne Goodemote  
Secretary to Supervisor.....Ann Feraldi  
Dog Warden.....Carl Franz  
Historian.....Laurence R. Rupert