

**ARTICLE XIV
HISTORY OF ORANGEVILLE**

The Town of Orangeville, located in central Wyoming County, was created February 14, 1816 from the Town of Attica. On April 12, 1823, the Town of Wethersfield was taken from the Town of Orangeville. The Town comprises a total of 35.57 square miles. In its composition, Orangeville was and still is a rural township. For a day, at least, it was the County seat for the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors that was convened in Booth's Tavern at Halls Corners. The first surrogate judge in the new county, Paul Richards, was one of the pioneer settlers of the township.

The first individual titles to lands laying in the present Town of Orangeville were granted by the Holland Land Company in 1803. The hamlet areas are: Dutch Flats on Buffalo Road near the northern town line; Halls Corners located on Route 20A near the eastern town line; Johnsonburg, located on the border shared with the Town of Sheldon; Orangeville Center situated in the middle of the Town; and Quaker Town, located along Quaker Town Road between Hermitage and Orangeville Center Road.

The hamlet of Johnsonburg is the largest community in Orangeville. In the early days, the Tonawanda Creek, running along the western border of the Town, provided water for saw mills, grist mills, etc. in Johnsonburg. It also contained two stores, a hotel, a cheese factory, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop, two harness shops and had 250 inhabitants. Dairying came to be the prominent industry in 1825 and cheese was the principal export. The Town also contains part of the Oatka Creek watershed.

The Town did not lack for religious influence in early times. By 1812, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches had been organized. Today, there is only one active church in Orangeville, the Immanuel United Church of Christ in Dutch Flats. The Society of Friends, the Quakers, organized a religious society in 1816. It is believed they may have settled in this sparsely populated area on the eastern side of the town where they would be free to carry out their religious beliefs, including persecution. They were against wars and strife, both political and religious. This community became known as Quakertown. In 1819 they built a meeting house and established a cemetery.

There is no known written history as to why Orangeville was named so, but it could be because many of its early settlers came from Orange County in the eastern part of New York State. The first settlers of Dutch Flats, in the northwestern part of the Town, were German from Alsace-Lorraine, France. More than likely it was called Dutch Flats because Dutch is an acronym for German.