

GERRY

By Hon. Obed Edson

Gerry was formed from Pomfret June 1, 1812. Ellington, including Cherry Creek, was taken off in 1824, and Charlotte in 1829. It was named from Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a vice-president. It lies southeast of the center of the county, is bounded north by Charlotte, east by Ellington, south by Ellicott, west by Ellery and Stockton, and comprises township 3, range 11, and contains 36 square miles. The highest hills are in the northeastern and southwestern sections, their summits being 400 feet above the Cassadaga valley extends from the northwest part southeasterly to its southern boundry, and averages two miles wide. Through it runs the Dunkirk, Allegany Valley & Pittsburgh railroad, built in 1871. Gerry station is 722 feet and Sinclairville station 757 feet above Lake Erie. Cassadaga creek, a large, slow, crooked stream, flowing south-easterly through the valley is the principal water course. The other streams are Mill Creek which empties into the Cassadaga in the north-western part of the town. E. A. Ross says: "Mill Creek takes its source by two branches, one from Arkwright and one from Cherry Creek, and flows southwesterly through Charlotte and part of Gerry. The lower mill on this stream was located half way between the Cassadaga and Sinclairville, and was built by John McAllister on land later owned by his son, James." Hatch Creek rises in the northeastern part, flows southwesterly through the village of Gerry and empties into the Cassadaga. Folsom Creek rises in the northeastern part, flows nearly south into Ellicott and into the Cassadaga. The town is well adapted to grazing and dairying, and the valley is adapted to the raising of corn and other grains. The soil of the uplands is clay loam, that of the valleys sandy loam.

Long before any white men visited Gerry it was inhabited by another race. Abundant evidence exists that the Eries, and perhaps their predecessors, inhabited the hillsides and borders of the Cassadaga valley and other parts of the town. The Eries were exterminated by the Iroquois in 1655. For nearly a century and a half Gerry remained a wilderness, undisturbed by human beings, except when wandering Senecas passed through the territory or temporarily camped thereon. There is some reason, however, to believe that the French made some use of Cassadaga Creek before the French and Indian war. The first white men whom we know to have visited the town were the surveyors who run the township lines for the Holland Land Company. John Elliott, of Delaware county, Pa., surveyor, with Azariah Winshall, Thomas Kennedy, Griffith Jones, flagmen, William Harlan and Thomas Wright, pack-horse-men, ran the town's west boundary in July 1798, finishing on the 11th, The north line was surveyed July 20, 21, and 22, 1798, by a party under Aaron Oakford, surveyor, and the eastern boundary was also surveyed in July 1798, by a party under Wareham Shepard. The land was not surveyed into lots and offered for sale, until in 1808, the surveyors again entered the dense forest of the town and resumed their labors. They penetrated every part, measured and marked the section lines, and ascertained the amount of land in each, and by fall the land was ready for market.

The pioneers of Gerry came principally from the Green Mountain state. Of the present citizens, a much greater portion are Vermonters or descendants of Vermonters, than in any other town in the county. The first settlement was made in 1810. Amos Atkins, from Vermont, came to Chautauqua Lake in 1808. While connected with a surveying party he selected two lots in Gerry, one for himself and the other for his brother-in-law, Stephen Jones. Jones journeyed from Vermont and brought his household goods upon an ox cart. He was furnished with eggs by his hen, which had a nest in the cart. He first came to Chautauqua Lake, thence, probably, to William Barrows, who had settled on Cassadaga creek in the northeast corner of Gerry in the previous October, at the Red Bird. After some difficulty in crossing Cassadaga creek he arrived at lot 47, the land selected for him by Atkins. It was about a mile south of Sinclairville. There he built a log house, the first habitation erected in the town. The nearest dwellings were the log house built by Sinclair at Sinclairville and that of Barrows at the Red Bird. Jones's farm included the Indian village and burial place. The first birth of a white person occurred in the Jones family. Atkins, in the same year, built a log house on the northeast part of lot 55, a few rods from Jones's log dwelling, upon the farm now owned by B.F. Dennison. In 1815 his wife, Clarinda, died, the first death in the town. Atkins was supervisor of Gerry. The same year William and James Gilmour, from Madison county, built a log house and settled upon the farm of Fordyce Sylvester near Sinclairville station. James Gilmour soon moved west. Melzer Sylvester, brother-in-law of the Gilmours, came from near Sinclairville, and took up his residence upon Railroad Avenue, not far from the station. Hugh B. Patterson, brother in-law of the Gilmours, came from Canadaway in the spring of 1811, took up 62 acres near the station, and built a house on Railroad Ave., which in October was burned with his household goods. The next day his neighbors erected another house. Mr. Patterson was born in Washington county in 1787, and was for many years supervisor of Gerry. During the early settlement he was a leading and influential citizen. He afterwards moved to Wisconsin.

During 1811 the "Old Chautauqua Road," from Mayville to Ellicottville, was cut through the northern part of the town. John West, Peter Barnhart and Dexter Barnes cut this part of the road one rod wide, and cleared it of small trees and fallen ones for \$10 per mile. They began July 4, 1811, at the 14th mile stake east of the courthouse. This stood near the house of Amos Atkins (the Love Stand) in Gerry. They were about three months in cutting the road 21 miles to the Cattaraugus line. The party took with them a yoke of oxen, and, to provide fresh milk, a cow and a young calf. The calf was taken along to keep the cow from wandering away. September 1, 1814, the same party and others began work upon this road and continued until cold weather. They resumed work September 1, 1815. Bridges were built and the road otherwise improved. It was regarded as an improvement of great importance. It became the route by which, to some extent, the settlers came in from the east, and communication was had with the Genesee country. The present road from Sinclairville by the station across Cassadaga Creek, was laid out about 1811 by Major Sinclair and Hugh B. Patterson. It was continued along the line between Gerry and Ellery to Jamestown, and was the first means of direct highway communication that Jamestown had with Sinclairville and the northern towns. Elijah

Haswell, a son-in-law of Major Sinclair, settled on this road, and a little later, Cornelius DeLong, who built a house where James McAllister afterward resided. DeLong was wounded December 1813, at the battle of Buffalo and was taken in charge by his comrade, Elisha Tower of Ellery, and well cared for by him at the cabin of a settler. De Long unexpectedly recovered, returned to Gerry, later moved west, received a captain's commission and participated in the Black Hawk war in 1832. Jesse Dexter early settled on the farm of John Almy, on this road at the town line. Zaccheus Norton in 1813, and David Cobb and Abel White also settled early on this road. Abel was father of Orsamus A. White, later supervisor of Charlotte, and school commissioner. John Love, who had been living in Ellery, purchased about 1812 the land owned by Amos Atkins on the Old Chautauqua Road, and kept an inn there for many years. He was well-known and died on his farm. Ichabod Russell, Abner Comstock and Seth Grover were also early settlers on this road. Capt. Abner Dingley in May or June 1816, settled on lot 48 in the southern limits of Sinclairville.

Prior to 1815 no person had entered the unbroken wilderness that covered all of the southern, central and eastern portions, and comprising almost the entire town, to make a settlement. Here a deep forest of deciduous trees covered the hills and dark evergreens grew densely in the valleys and high lands. William Alverson, a native of Vermont, was the first to penetrate its shades to make a home. In the spring of 1812 he journeyed on horseback from Columbus, Chenango county, to the residence of Major Sinclair. He selected land on lot 44, (the farm owned by Marvin Wilson at his decease), about one mile north of Gerry village, and in 1815 purchased and settled upon it. He died June 11, 1828, aged 48. Hezekiah Myers and Hezekiah Catlin came with him to Gerry, and Porter Phelps in the spring of 1815. These were all original Vermonters. Myers settled upon the Aaron Van Vleck farm on lot 44: Phelps upon the farm formerly owned by Henry Gates on lot 43. Dexter and Nathan Hatch, who came soon after, settled near the sawmill east of Gerry village.

Solomon Fessenden, a brother of Reuben, born in Vermont in 1788, in 1815 settled on lot 35, east of Gerry village. He married Clarissa Shepardson in 1811. In 1852 he moved to Wisconsin. These were the first settlers in this part, so long known as "Vermont Settlement." A road was soon laid out from Sinclairville to that section. In the spring of 1816 Calvin Cutting, from Windham county, Vt., came, built a log house, and settled on lot 45. In 1832 he opened an inn at this place, long known as the Cutting Stand. John Matthews also came from Vermont in 1816, and settled about one mile southeast from Gerry village. The eastern, southern and central portions of the town were now rapidly settled, and almost all of the settlers were from Vermont. Brattleboro, Gilford, Halifax and other town of Windham county contributing the largest number. The present citizens have good reason to be proud of such a hardy and worthy ancestry.

In 1816 Wm. Olney built a log house upon the little hill southeast of the store of J.K. Wilson in Gerry village. This commenced a settlement. In 1817 James Bucklin, whose wife was Martha Aldrich, came from Windham county, Vt., and bought 240 acres at Gerry, including the house and claim of Olney. In 1820 he kept the first inn. The

settlement for many years bore the name of Bucklin's Corners, then Vermont and finally Gerry. The sons of James Bucklin who came with him were: Willard, James, and Lovel. Willard passed most of his life in Gerry. For 30 years he held almost uninterruptedlly the office of justice of the peace, and he was supervisor eight years. He died January 1, 1869. James Bucklin, also, was a supervisor and a justice. He now resides in the west. Betsey, daughter of James Bucklin, married Paul Starr, born April 1, 1797, in Guilford and dies in Gerry, December 24, 1873. He came to Gerry in May 1817. He chopped and cleared over 100 acres. In 1817 Sylvanus Eaton, father of Walter, Lyman, Pearl and Harry, settled north of Gerry village, John McCullough near Sinclairville, and Robert Lenox in the southwestern part. Lenox was born in the north of Ireland, came to Gerry from Yates county and died in 1839. He was the father of Robert, John and William Lenox. Henry Shaw also settled in this part about the same time.

About 1818 John Hines and Wm. Newton settled in the southwestern part, and in 1819 erected there the first sawmill, and in 1822 a gristmill on the Cassadaga. Garner Salisbury came in 1818 or 1819 and was the first miller. Elder Jonathan Wilson, born in Coleraine, Mass. settled in Gerry village in 1816. Wm. R. Wilson, his son, came with him to Gerry; he passed his life on the farm where he first settled. He has been a justice of the peace and supervisor. Gilbert Strong from Chenango county in 1818 brought the land where Hezekiah Myers had settled, and lived there until his decease at the age of 91. He has many descendants. His sons Horace, Gilbert, David, Jason and Onan were well known citizens. During the spring of 1818 Alva Eaton was killed by a falling tree. Wm. M. Waggoner, from Saratoga county, in the spring of 1819 settled on the town line between Charlotte and Gerry where he resided many years. He has been supervisor in both towns. John McAllister from Amsterdam, N.Y., in 1819 settled upon the farm later owned by his son James on the street leading southwesterly from Sinclairville past the railroad station, and lived there until his death at 90. He owned a large estate, and was founder of the Baptist Church at Sinclairville. His grandson, Gen. John M. Schofield was once secretary of war, and was born in Gerry near Sinclairville station.

Isaac Cobb, from Franklin county, Vt., settled early upon lot 26. His sons Freeman, Isaac, John and Roland also became residents of the town. Roland was for many years largely engaged in lumbering; built the store and house now owned by S.E. Palmer in 1837 and was in trade there two years. Howard B. Blodgett, in 1826, opened the first store at Gerry. Norman Guernsey succeeded Blodgett in 1832. Roland Cobb bought out Guernsey, and in 1838 Sidney E. Palmer bought out Cobb and has since continued in trade at his corner store. About the time Mr. Palmer went into business, Nathan Cheney and William Story were in trade upon the opposite corner. Levi Cowden, Henry Warner, Elisha Baker, Stoddard Cannon, James Alverson, Benj. and Jeremiah Matthews, Stephen Pratt, Skelton Palmeter, Nehemiah Horton, Garner Salisbury, Jesse Walker, Henry Kirk, Wm. Mellen, Joel Ward, Jeptha L. Heminger, David Ostrander, Benjamin and Joseph Wheat, Mr. Rugg, Dr. Fargo, Ammi and James Chipman, Abiel Robbins, Benj. Wait, Paul Starr, Wm. Shepardson, Capt. Dingley, Mr. Stearns, Pliny Shepardson, were all early settlers. Some of them have many descendants.

The first town meeting in Gerry, as at present constituted, was held at the house of Calvin Cutting, May 2, 1830. The officers chosen were: Supervisor, Hugh B. Patterson; town clerk, Howard B. Blodgett; assessors, Wm. Mellen, Mr. M. Wagoner, Clivin Smith; com'rs. of highways, Wm. Mellen, Jr., Willard Bucklin, Horace Strong; com'rs. of schools, Benj. Tuttle, Jr., James Schofield, Nathan Hatch; inspectors of schools, Wm. Mellen Jr., James Bucklin, Jr., Samuel J. Goodrich; overseers of poor, Wm. Gilmour, Gilbert Strong; collector, Wm. Gilmour; justices, Leander Mellen, Hugh B. Patterson; sealer, Nehemiah Horton; poundmaster, David Cobb.

Stages were first run through the town in 1827 by Obed Edson and Reuben Scott. In 1852 the Fredonia and Sinclairville plank road was built through the village of Gerry.

Sidney E. Palmer, son of Elijah Palmer, was born in Columbus, Chenango County, September 29, 1811. He married Hannah Pamelia, daughter of Nathaniel Spurr of Columbus, in April 1837. She was born in 1817. Mr. Palmer and his wife came to Gerry in the fall of 1838, and he established himself in trade as a merchant by buying the store of Roland Cobb at Gerry village. He has lived in the same house and continued in trade at Gerry since. He was appointed postmaster at Gerry to succeed Charles Ward in 1839, and has held the position 55 years. He has been five years supervisor of Gerry, and in 1859 was elected member of assembly. The children of Sidney E. and H. Pamelia Palmer are: 1, Hoyt G., who married Sarah, daughter of Walter Smith, and died in Dunkirk; 2, Arthur L. of Kansas; 3, Cecelia E., died aged 10; 4, Herbert S., lives in Gerry; 5, Lucius C., died aged 37; 6, Julia E., died aged 3; 7, Sidney Frank of Kansas; 8, Everett L. of Illinois.

Porter Phelps was born at Brattleboro, Vt. in 1790. He married Jerusha Hatch in 1813, came to Gerry in the spring of 1815, built a house, returned to Vermont, and in December brought his wife and child to Gerry with an ox team. His possessions then consisted of an ox team, a cow and \$2.50. In 1826 he moved to Arkwright and lived there until his death in March 1855. Mrs. Phelps died March 1844, aged 46 years. Their children were Caroline (Phelps) Eaton, Mila (Phelps) Turner, Lawson, Barna W., Leander S., Orlando S., Horatio J. and Helen J. (Phelps) Loper. In 1845 Porter Phelps married, second, Hannah J. Simons, widow of Dolph Simons. Leander Phelps married Elizabeth Wilcox. She died in 1854 leaving two children, Emma J. and Ella E. Leander, in 1855 married Sarah M. Smith. Their children are Harry L., Danville T. and May L. Leander has been supervisor of Arkwright two years and four years loan commissioner. He has been sheriff, and ten years keeper and general manager of the county alms house.

Reuben Fessenden was born at Halifax, Vt., Dec. 12, 1786, and married Lucretia Fisher in 1810. His father, Solomon Fessenden, was born January 15, 1762, married Elizabeth Tucker Jan. 17, 1786, and died in 1811. Reuben was in the battle of Plattsburgh in the last war with England, came to Gerry in 1815, built a house on lot 46, upon the highway between Gerry and Sinclairville, and returned to Vermont. He journeyed both ways on foot. In 1816 he came to Gerry with his family and two yokes of oxen, arriving October 9. Reuben died Sept. 13, 1866.

Mrs. Fessenden died July 2, 1865. Their children were Norman B., Albro H., James, Emeline L., Elinor, who married Edward Partridge, and Betsey Ann, who married Truman B. Cook. Albro H., married Emeline Atkins. She was born Dec. 9, 1817, at Jericho, Vt. Ralph C. Fessenden of Gerry is their only son.

Calvin Cutting, son of Jonah and Sarah Cutting, was born in Guilford, Vt., June 6, 1796. He married in 1815 Polly Walworth. She was born May 13, 1797 in Franklin county, Mass. Mr. Cutting came to Gerry in the spring of 1816. He bought land, built a small log house on lot 45, on what is now the main highway between Gerry village and Sinclairville. In 1832 he completed a large addition to his frame building and opened an inn which was known as the Cutting stand, and the opening ball held on the 4th of July, 1832, was attended from far and wide. Mr. Cutting died Nov. 16, 1832, and his wife died September 26, 1853. Their children were: 1, Lewis, who married Susan B. Richmond March 7, 1847. Children: Mary L., Charles R., Henry B., Clara A., William G., Benjamin W., Harriett A., Fred L.; 2, Lucius C., married Eunice Salisbury. He died in 1891; 3, Jonah E., married Mila Wilson. Children: Calvin, Rebecca, Ceylon and Lucien. 4, Sarah, married Chester Wilson, died in May 1855; 5, Lurissa G., married William Wilson; 6, Laura, who died in 1861.

Freeman Cobb, son of Isaac, was born in Bakersfield, Vt., in 1796, in 1818 settled on lot 18, east of Gerry village, where he resided until his death, May 17, 1877. He married Rebecca Bucklin in 1821. Isaac, the father, and Isaac, John and Roland, brothers of Freeman, were all early settlers. Isaac Cobb, son of Freeman, born in Gerry, April 29, 1826, was married April 11, 1847, to Nancy A., daughter of David Tucker. She was born in Poland, Dec. 9, 1826. Isaac Cobb settled upon lot 19. His children are Eugene M., who in 1871 married Lottie, daughter of Arkinzo Norton, and Viola E., who in 1873 married J. Dell Woods.

George W. Sinclair, son of Samuel and Fanny Sinclair, was born in Sinclairville, July 4, 1811, and was the first child born in that village. In his early years he was an owner and operator of the grist-mill in Sinclairville. March 1, 1849, he purchased the farm of Mark Crawford in Gerry about 3/4 of a mile southeast of Sinclairville upon which he resided many years. He married Charlotte Sylvester. They have had two children, 1., George, who married Roxy Wright, and resides at Luddington, Mich. 2., Mary (dec.), who married George S. Wheeler. Her children were Harry and Mary.

Zaccheus H. Norton, born in Rhode Island, married Sylvia Thompson of Vermont, at Geneseo, and came to Gerry in 1813, and first settled near Sinclairville station. During the season of scarcity he walked to Hamburg, 40 miles, for a peck of corn carrying his rifle. He was a skilled hunter and a successful trapper. His sons were Alonzo, Alphonzo, Lorenzo, Arkinzo, Almonzo, Horatio, Ozro and Pizarro. His daughters were Julenia, Cyrena, Birthena.

Alexis Wright was born in Chester, Vt., in 1802. His father, Phineas Wright, was born at Hinsdale, N.H., January 1, 1779, and died aged over 91 years. He was twice married and was the father of 26

children, 23 of whom were living at his decease and all married. He had 90 grandchildren, 74 of whom were living when he died. None of his descendants were in any way deformed and all were active and intelligent. Alexis, in early life, removed with his parents to Sand Lake, N.Y., and married Martha Dingman in 1832. She was born in Greenbush, N.Y., in 1814. He came to Westfield in 1837, and to Gerry in 1847. Of his nine children, seven are living: Jacob, Joseph, Hattie (Mrs. David Horton), Sophia (Mrs. David Rider), Hiram, Roxanna (Mrs. George Sinclair), and Lewis.

William H. Scott was born July 23, 1833. His father, Rev. John Scott, was born in County Armagh, Ireland, January 11, 1793, of Scotch Presbyterian parentage and was driven from Scotland in the Catholic persecution. In 1819 he emigrated to New Brunswick and afterwards to the United States, where he was a Methodist preacher. He married August 31, 1828, Elzaide, daughter of William Hunt who first settled on the Chautauqua Assembly grounds. She was born in Washington county, November 6, 1802. William H. Scott married Sarah, daughter of John Beck. She was born in Birmingham, Pa., August 16, 1836. Their children are J. Frank, a merchant of Portland; Martha J., who married Harlow Terry of Gerry, and William C., professor of music in Sharon, Pa. For three years William H. Scott has been supervisor of Gerry. Principally through his efforts a board of trade was established in Sinclairville in 1881 and he has ever been its president.

Jarvis K. Wilson was born in Gerry. His grandfather, Rev. Jonathan Wilson, was born in Coleraine, Mass., April 12, 1777, and came to this county August, 1818, as a missionary of the Shaftsbury, Vt., Baptist Board of Missions. He organized a number of churches in the county, and, during his ministry of 58 years, baptized by immersion 1,392 persons and preached about 9,000 sermons. He died May 3, 1868. His father, William R. Wilson, born February 23, 1801, came to Gerry in 1818, married Rebecca Fisher, born June 7, 1799, and served his town as supervisor and in other offices for many years. Jarvis K. was born in Gerry, married Cordelia M., daughter of Edward Partridge, has long been engaged in merchandising in Gerry, has served three terms as supervisor and many years as a justice of the peace.

Caleb Matthews, born in Windham county, Vt., married Margaret Van Salisbury in 1808, and in 1821 settled on lot 28, about two miles northeast of Gerry village. His father, Benjamin, served on a privateer during the Revolution, assisted in the capture of several vessels, and received a pension. Caleb had lived in Albany, and was fireman on the Robert Fulton, the first steamboat. He was the early potter of the county. In 1822 he commenced the manufacture of stone ware, obtaining the clay from lot 20. He burned the first kiln in 1822. In 1823 he built a frame factory 26x32 feet for that purpose, and pursued the business for several years. He has ten children. His oldest child, Betsey, born in 1811, married Joel Robbins and lives in Gerry. Her son, Martin Robbins, married Lana Wait, was a member of the 49th N.Y. regiment during the Civil War, and resides in Gerry. Joseph Matthews, son of Caleb, lives in Minnesota; Hudson in Sinclairville; Benjamin and Andrew J. were soldiers in the Civil War. Andrew J. was a member of the 49th N.Y. regiment, participated in all the battles of the army of the Potomac, and was severely wounded at Spottsylvania. He married Belinda Day, and has been for many years a justice of the peace of Gerry.

Levi Terry, son of Levi Terry, was born in Connecticut, August 21, 1809. When young he became a resident of Lewis county, where he married Eliza Wright. In 1842 they moved to Gerry. They had previously learned the art of making cheese, then little understood in this county. In 1845 he placed upon his farm 25 or 30 cows, and commenced the manufacture of cheese. He manufactured 7,000 or 8,000 pounds, which he sold to Timothy D. Copp of Sinclairville for 5 or $5\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a pound, delivered at Dunkirk. It was transported to New York by the canal, and was the first shipment of a dairy cheese from the county. Mr. Terry resides upon the farm he first purchased. Mrs. Terry is dead. Their children are Robert, Levi, Jay, Franklin H., Louisa, Emily, Flora, Alice, George, Duane, who lives upon the old homestead, William and Eva V. Robert married Mattie, daughter of Allen Bagg, and resides in Ellington. They have one son, Allen Bagg.

David Ostrander and sons Harry and Orry, in 1828, came from Tompkins county to Gerry on a prospecting tour. His sons remained. In the fall of 1830 David came with his family and settled about 1 $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles east of Gerry village, and resided there until his death, February 24, 1860, aged 79. He had nine children and has many descendants in Gerry. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Cooper, died Oct. 8, 1849, aged 63. Harry, his son, married Melinda Button, and died Sept. 12, 1867, aged 60. They had five children. Jerome, another son, married Clarissa Wait. He died in Tioga county. William, born Oct. 4, 1818, married Sabina Matthews. They had six children. Alanson was born in 1825 and married Abigail Lasure. David, the youngest son of David Ostrander Sr., was born Feb. 20, 1829. He married Antoinette, daughter of Dr. Samuel Fargo, one of the first physicians of the town. He has three children: Egbert, married Celestia Johnson and resides in Ellery, Obed E., married Edith Brown, is a farmer and resides in Gerry. Charles, the youngest son of David also resides here.

Gilbert Strong, Sr., was born about 1769. He came here from Chenango county, and settled upon the Sinclairville and Gerry highway in 1818. He died June 12, 1861, aged 91. His wife, Rachel, died Oct. 2, 1849, aged 79. Horace Strong, his son, born Dec. 6, 1791 in Connecticut, married Polly Carter Dec. 24, 1817, at Columbus, N.Y., came to Gerry with an ox team in 1820 and was three weeks on the way. He died in Gerry Feb. 3, 1872. Mrs. Strong died in November 1875. Their children were Eliza, William, Miranda, John, Electa, Abigail, William, Lavina, Horace Jr. and Henry. John Strong was born March 1, 1825, married Emily Wilson. Their children are Burdette, who married Mary Gardner, and Nellie A., who married George E. Griffith. David Strong, son of Gilbert, born in April 1801, came here about 1818. He married Miss Clark. Their only living child is Caroline who married Charles Walkup. His second wife was Sophis McCullough. Their children are: 1, Walter E., who married a Wicks. He was a soldier in the Civil War and was wounded; 2, Mahala, married Wallace Olmstead; 3, Pamelia, married Joel G. Damon; 4, Amanda, married Martin Heath; 5, Ann Eliza, married Percy Ely; 6, Warren E., married Mary Hunt and resides in Gerry. David Strong, died Oct. 22, 1874.

Walter Cummings was born in Hancock, N.H., Sept. 4, 1836. He is a descendant of Lieut. John Cummings of Dunstable, Mass., a soldier

of the Revolution. David Cummings, father of Walter and son of Asahel, was born in Hancock, N.H., Feb. 7, 1804, married first Eunice Priest, and second, Hannah Dodge. Their children are Eunice Malvina, who married Charles Phillips; David Hamilton, who, while acting as engineer, was lost off Long Point on the propeller Jersey City, Nov. 24, 1860; Frances M., who married B.M. Schofield; Jane W. (dec.); Mary H., who married Charles A. Arnold, and Walter, who married Delia M. (dec.) daughter of John M. Brunson, March 22, 1863. Walter many years ago became a resident of Gerry. His son, John H., is a merchant of Sinclairville.

James Bates, son of James, was born in Chesterfield, Mass., Apr. 9, 1801. In 1815 he came with his father's family to Ellington. They were among the first settlers. About 1825 he married Sally Grover. In 1840 he moved to Gerry and became a well known citizen. He died Dec. 12, 1891. Mrs. Bates died March 4, 1870. Their children were Rensselaer, (dec.) and James M., who for many years was a farmer in Gerry, and is now a merchant of Sinclairville. James M. was born in Ellington, Sept. 24, 1831, married Melissa Andrus.

Samuel Sinclear, son of Major Sinclear, born Aug. 14, 1801, in Eaton, settled in Gerry in 1819, married Martha, daughter of James and Martha Bucklin. Their children were: 1, Sophia, married Charles P. Ward; 2, Samuel, once partner with Horace Greeley in the NEW YORK TRIBUNE, married Charlotte A. Perry, (dec.) 3, Sally, died young; 4, Nancy, married Isaiah Cobb, died May 14, 1887; 5, Major, married Amanda G. Moore; 6, Elisha W., married, first, Anna Pattee, second, Martha Geary; he died in 1890; 7, Martha M., married Theodore B. Cobb.

B. Franklin Dennison was born in Berlin, Rensselaer county, Nov. 13, 1825. His father, Charles G. Dennison, born in Berlin in 1799, settled in Ellery in 1836. B. Franklin is an extensive farmer and cattle dealer. He resides in Sinclairville but owns large tracts of land and farms in Gerry. In 1874 he purchased the Love Stand. He married E. Minerva, daughter of Elisha Tower. Their children are: 1, Charles E., born July 9, 1863, married Esther, daughter of Hiram E. and Wealthy Ann Lazell, born Feb. 30, 1866, and resides in Sinclairville; 2, Frank T., born Aug. 29, 1866, married Kate E., daughter of Kirk Hopkins. She died March 27, 1893.

Garner Salisbury, born in Guilford, Vt., June 27, 1776, married Huldah Newton of Brattleboro, Vt., came to Gerry in 1819, settled in the southwestern part near Miller's Corners, and was the first miller of Gerry. His children were: 1, Clark; 2, Bernice, married Walter Eaton; 3, Sophia; 4, Newton, born in Brattleboro, Vt., Apr. 30, 1808, married Julia A. Wheat, April 12, 1856. Their children are Orson N., born in Gerry, Nov. 22, 1857, married Lucy Smith, Aug. 31, 1881, and Julia Bernice, born in Gerry June 2, 1862; 5, Anner, married Henry Shaw; 6, Garner; 7, Victor P., married Almira Wolcott of Otsego county, and died at the age of 77; his son, W.L. Salisbury, married Kate Hollenbeck; 8, Huldah, married Lorenzo Eldridge.

John Love was born Jan. 29, 1789. He married Mary S. Ward. In 1812 he purchased the farm in Gerry settled by Amos Atkins, and erected an inn there which he kept for 30 years and for four years the

hotel in Sinclairville. He died March 18, 1857. His father, John Love Sr., was born in Connecticut in 1769, came to Ellery to reside in Feb. 1811, and died in Illinois. Joy Love is the only living child of John Love, Jr. John A., son of Joy and Rosina Love, married Fanny A., daughter of Hon. Obed Edson.

John McCullough was born in Bennington, Vt., June 8, 1788, and died in Gerry, June 17, 1874. He came to Otsego when young and was married to Cynthia St. John. In 1812 he moved to Ontario county, and in 1817 to Arkwright and to Gerry. Later he purchased a farm two miles south of Sinclairville, which he owned many years. For 16 years he was a justice of the peace in Gerry. His children were Martin, Lucy (Mrs. Samuel Mount), Sophia (Mrs. David Strong), and Thomas, the father of Cynthia J., who married Emery Bargar, and the grandfather of J.M.C. Bargar, druggist of Sinclairville.

John M. Anderson and his family were the first Swedes to settle in Sinclairville. Mr. Anderson and his family which included his step-children, John H., Augustus, and Ida Swanson, came to Jamestown in May 1871, to Sinclairville in 1872. John H. Swanson for 17 years was in the employment of E.F. Patterson, station agent at Sinclairville, as an express agent. He is now engaged in merchandising in Sinclairville. Many Swedes have bought farms and have become permanent residents of Gerry and are among the most industrious and respectable of its citizens. August Hanson came from Sweden about 1871 and several years after settled about a mile east of Gerry. A.M. Anderson bought a farm near Towerville and now resides there. Carlson became a resident north of Gerry village, and John Carlson, in the employ of the D.A.V&P.R.R., was a resident of Sinclairville in Gerry.

Sinclairville station is in the village of Sinclairville. A little more than one-third of the corporate limits of the village and much the smaller proportion of its population lies in Gerry.

Gerry village is not incorporated, but is a prosperous little village containing about 250 inhabitants. Its principal manufacturing establishment is the prominent one owned by the Strong veneering company. Large amounts of timber adapted to the manufacture of veneers once grew in localities in this county near Charlotte and Gerry, and at an early period many engaged in this manufacture. Philip Edgerton of Sinclairville, Greenlief & Cole, Leffingwell, Colton, Lewis and Jonah Cutting, and John Strong at Gerry. T. D. Copp made voyages to London, as also did Wm. S. Fish later, to sell veneers. John Strong and his son Burdette commenced business January 1, 1893, in a new mill at Gerry, which had two cutting veneer mills with a capacity of 20,000 feet per day. August 28, 1893, this mill was destroyed by fire. The value of the property was \$25,000, insured for \$5,000. They immediately erected a new iron-clad mill at Gerry, 40 by 80 feet, three stories high, with a cutting machine that weighs 18 tons and will cut an eight-foot log. 20 men are employed, and over \$25,000 worth of veneers manufactured annually. The timber comes from New York, Mich., Tennessee and Pennsylvania. Curly walnut, birch, maple, ash, sycamore and mahogany are used. A. J. Peterson's steam sawmill at Gerry village has all modern improvements, employs 15 men, and manufactures 25,000 feet of lumber per day. William and Addison Murch own the sawmill at

the east side of the village. The basket factory of E. P., Stearns is also an important industry. It was formerly owned by George Noble, who for several years extensively manufactured grape baskets. One season, besides his factory at Gerry, he had others at Brocton, Portland and Ashville, at which he manufactured 1,000,000 grape baskets. The Gerry creamery, owned by E.P. Stearns, and the Starr factory, owned by Marcus Pelton, are butter and cheese factories of Gerry village. Jarvis K. Wilson, R.D. Mehan and S.E. Palmer are merchants, and M.W. Cowden the physician of the village. The town in 1890 had a population of 1,088, a decrease of 87 in ten years.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Gerry was the first religious association, and was formed in or about 1819 by Elder Jonathan Wilson. The society was subsequently legally organized, and Dec. 12, 1828, a deed was executed by the Holland Land Company of 100 acres on lot 53 of land appropriated to religious purposes, to James Schofield, William Alverson and Stoddard Cannon, Methodist members, as trustees. In or soon after 1829, with the proceeds of the sale of a portion of it, a meetinghouse was built. It stood upon the west side of the highway, about two miles south of Sinclairville. It was the first church built in Gerry and in the Cassadaga valley, and was one of the first Methodist meetinghouses in the county. For years it was the only church in Gerry. It was a center of Methodism and was fondly regarded by the early Methodists. Often was it a scene of religious revivals and its vicinity the place of holding many a camp meeting. Adjacent to it a public burying place was set apart from this tract of land. The old church has long since passed away, as have the earnest and faithful fathers of the little society that built it. They sleep in the burial place near the spot where the church so dear to them was reared. Of the builders of this church and early members of this society, whose influence was long felt in Gerry, are buried James R. Alverson, his wife, Damaris, his brother, William, James Heath and Gilbert Strong, aged 92. Here are buried other pioneers of Gerry: John McCullough, James Langworthy, Robert Lenox, David Strong, David Cowden and Susanah Woods, died June 15, 1873, aged 100 years, 8 months and 22 days. The church was merged in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Sinclairville. The meetinghouse went into disuse and was accidentally destroyed by fire.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GERRY was formed by Rev. Jonathan Wilson about 1820. It was composed chiefly of members from the Stockton church. They held meetings in Jerry Abbey's log house at "The Huddle," a small cluster of log houses near the old Cutting Stand. This church organization has ceased to exist.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.--The first society of this church was organized at the schoolhouse in district No. 4 in Poland in May 1839, by Rev. James Covell. The second one was organized in district No. 11, (Millers settlement), in Poland in 1840 by Rev. O.C. Payne. The third society was organized by Rev. James Covell at Bucklin's Corners April 15, 1840. The fourth society was organized by Rev. Joseph Parkyn in district No. 2 in Gerry, December 28, 1840, and included the country around the early Methodist Episcopal meetinghouse. The first regularly appointed preachers to the Chautauqua circuit sent by the Genesee conference, held at Elba, October 7, 1840, was Rev.

Joseph Parkyn, superintendent, and Rev. E. A. Wheat, assistant. Their successors have been William Emmons, Elisha Brownson, Alanson Kingsley, Randolph Pennell, Lewis Sweetland, O.C. Payne, John W. Davis, Wm. H. Farnham, Isaac Fister, S.M. Short, A.O. Hutchinson, C.K. Akley, H.L. Bowen, Charles Hundson, in 1882 when the Free Methodist class had been organized at Gerry by withdrawing members. The Kennedy class of Methodist Protestants was about this time separated from Gerry, making Gerry a station to which Rev. F.N. Foster was appointed and served six years, supplying Kennedy also for three years. He was succeeded by Rev. C.C. Reynolds, A.L. Stinard, S.E. Matthews. In September, 1862 Rev. D.S. Skillman was appointed and continues pastor.

THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF GERRY was organized in 1880. In 1883 an excellent church building was erected on a lot donated by N.J. Wilson at Gerry village. Among those who contributed largely were N.J. Wilson, John Strong, L.R. Barnore, Walter A. Sellew, Jarvis K. Wilson, Joseph Trusler, H.N. Sealy and others. Of the ministers who have served this church are those who stand high in the councils of the church at large, among whom are: J.H. Harmon, Walter A. Sellew, B.R. Jones, editor of the denominational paper, Prof. D.S. Warner, principal of Spring Arbor Seminary, Mich., J.S. McGahey, a prominent member of the Genesee conference, and others. An excellent parsonage is connected with the church. A fine toned bell from the McShane bell foundry of Baltimore, a gift from N.J. Wilson, hangs in the belfry. To the Free Methodist church and the public spirit of the citizens of Gerry the county is indebted for a valuable benevolent institution. GERRY SEMINARY was founded by Walter A. Sellew. The grounds were donated and purchased by the citizens and others in 1884. The buildings were put up and owned by Rev. W.A. Sellew. For four years it was used as a school under the control of the owner. 80 pupils were in attendance in one year and five teachers employed. It was maintained by the income and subscription of friends. The seminary property in 1888 consisted of about eight acres of land, a frame two-story building with stone basement 40x50 feet, and out-buildings, the cost of which was \$7,200. This property was purchased that year for the "orphanage and home for the maintenance of indigent persons and orphan children," without distinction as to religion or nationality, to be under the control of the Free Methodists. Walter A. Sellew made a generous donation of \$5,700 in the purchase. The institution was placed under the charge of Rev. and Mrs. O.O. Bacon. The first member was received June 3, 1889. September 1, 1893, there were 33 members supported by the institution, of whom 17 were children, nine aged persons, five workers and two boarders. In 1890, at a cost of \$1,500 ten acres of land was added to the property.

SUPERVISORS - Samuel Sinclair, 6 years; Amos Atkins, 1814; Selah Pickett, 1817; Joel Burnell, 2 years; Hugh B. Patterson, 11 years, Nathan Lake, 1829; James Scofield, 1831; Samuel Fargo, 1836; Willard Bucklin, 8 years; Wm. M. Waggoner, 2 years; William Bliss, 2 years; Wm. R. Wilson, 2 years; Sidney E. Palmer, 5 years; Wm. Mellen, 1856; James Bucklin, 6 years; Lyman Eaton, 1853; Samuel Griffith, 2 years; Robert Lenox, 1860; Galusha Beardsly, 6 years; George A. Aldrich, 2 years; B.F. Dennison, 2 years; William H. Scott, 3 years; Jarvis K. Wilson, 3 years; John F. Phelps, 1879; Charles A. Tracy, 9 years; Henry Starr, 5 years.