

FROM HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DAYTON.

WESLEY.

*They were a genial, social people;
They entertained, they made one feel at home.*



IN THE southeastern part of the town, about 1830, a hamlet began to form at the junction of the Jamestown Road with several cross roads. This hamlet was called Socialty, probably on account of the social character of its people. That name was also applied to the postoffice, which was established before 1833 with Ephraim Dutton, as postmaster. This was the first office in the town and was continued until the completion of the Erie Railroad and the establishment of other offices in 1852 when the business became so meager that it was discontinued. Nelson Hillebert was the last postmaster. The Wesley post-office was established, March 6, 1884, with Charles W. Hall as postmaster. The present postmaster is E. K. Parke. At this place in 1833, William H. Leland opened the first store in town. He also conducted a public house and continued both for about ten years. Later Franklin Philbrick kept a store, and Harry Howard the tavern, and as Howard's Corners the place was called until 1884, when in honor of Charles Wesley Hall the name was changed to Wesley. Just why the change was not made back to the original name is not known. It would have been very appropriate for a more social class of people is not to be found. After Harry Howard's retirement from the hotel Leander Bacon became the proprietor and others followed for short periods. E. K. Parke & Son are the only merchants there now. There is a cheese factory, a blacksmith shop, a school, a very neat Methodist church, and among the dwellings that of A. G. Parke, one of the finest in the whole town.

ANDREW G. PARKE.

Among the best of the descendants coming from English settlers who made America their home more than two centuries ago, the Parke family of Dayton contains several representatives and stands prominently to view, is recognized as containing the leading citizens, business men, and farmers of their locality. Andrew G. Parke is a son of Sidney and Cornelia Elizabeth (Kibbe) Parke and was born August, 6, 1839 on the Gile Johnson farm, located between Wesley and Markham, now owned by William Geiner. His father was born

to keep peace
eyond most men



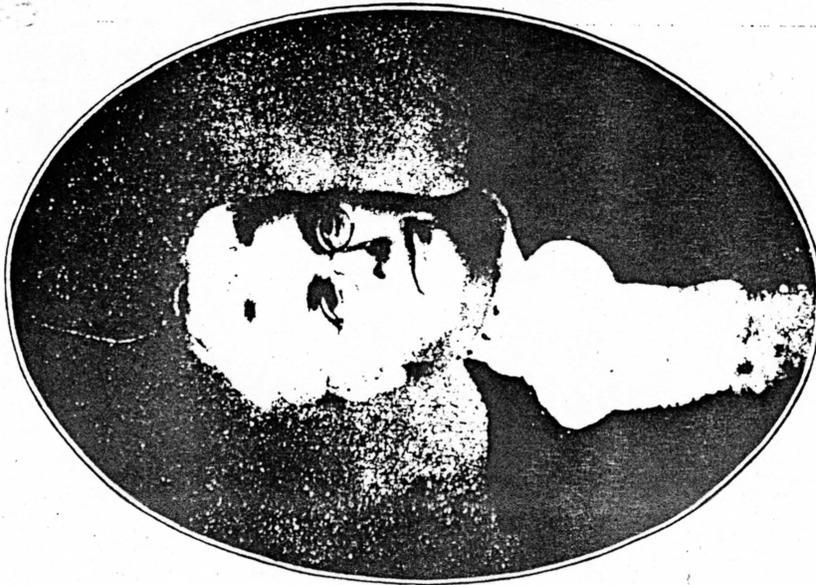
LETT.

January 30, 1779,
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Betsey (Moses)
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ANDREW G. PARKE.



MRS. ANDREW G. PARKE.

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He was a son of E
Hezekiah Parke, b
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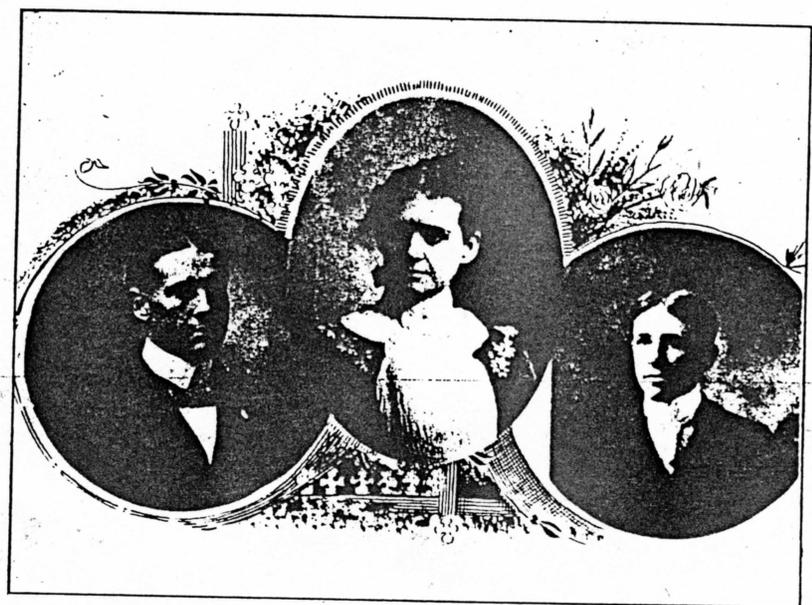


LESTER A. PARKE

His mother was
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"Marching through
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return, his parents l

in 1805, in Sherburne, Chenango County, N. Y., and came to Dayton about 1826. He was a brother to Avery Parke (see following pages) and was well known in Dayton. Sidney was a son of Ephriam Parke, born at Preston, Conn., in 1770. He was a son of Elisha Parke, born at Preston in 1746. He was a son of Rev. Paul Parke, born at Preston in 1720. He was a son of Hezekiah Parke, born at Preston, in 1680. He was son of Robert Parke, born at Preston, in 1650. He was a son of Thomas Parke, born at Preston, in England, in about 1620, and came to America with his father, Robert Parke, who was born at Preston, Lancashire, England, in 1580, and who came to America on the *Arabella*, as secretary to Governor Winthrop and landed at Boston, June 17, 1630.

ANDREW G. PARKE.

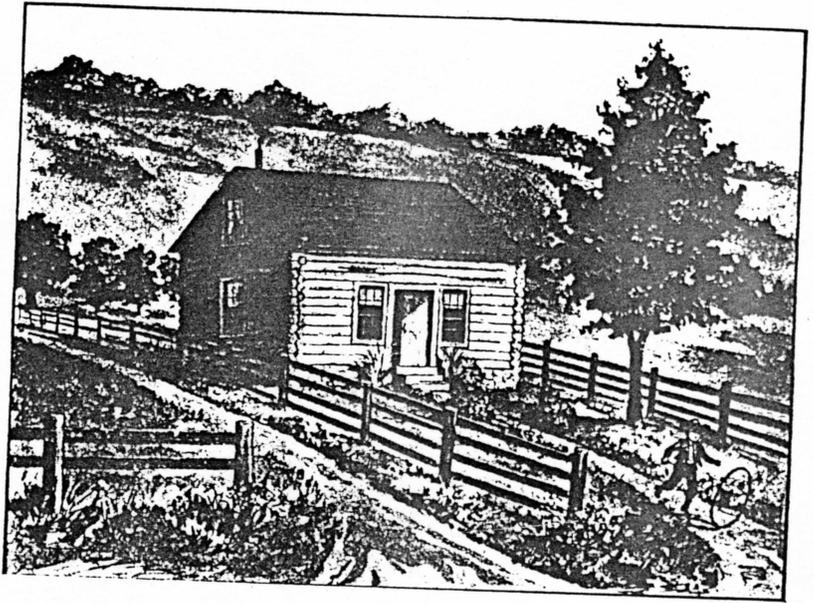


LESTER A. PARKE. ALZINA C. (PARKE) JONES. EARLE S. PARKE.

MRS. ANDREW G. PARKE.

His mother was the daughter of Joseph Stanton Kibbe, who was descended from Israel Kibbe, who came from Sommersetshire, England, and settled at Sommers, Conn., (named after their old home) in 1731.

Andrew G. Parke and his sister, Betsey Elizabeth, now Mrs. Milo D. Cole, were the only ones of five who survived childhood. Early opportunities were poor, owing to inadequate facilities in those days and the poor health of his parents made it necessary for him as a boy to assume the duty of running the farm in the town of Leon, to which they had removed in the year 1854. He early showed signs of wonderful ability and endurance. When 23 years of age he enlisted in Co. B. 154th N. Y. Vols. and served three years. During that time he was engaged in many of the fiercest battles of the war. He went "Marching through Georgia," with Sherman to the sea. He was captured and entertained in Salisbury prison and suffered many hardships. On his return, his parents having passed away, he took up the farm where he had



LOG HOUSE OF SIDNEY PARKE.

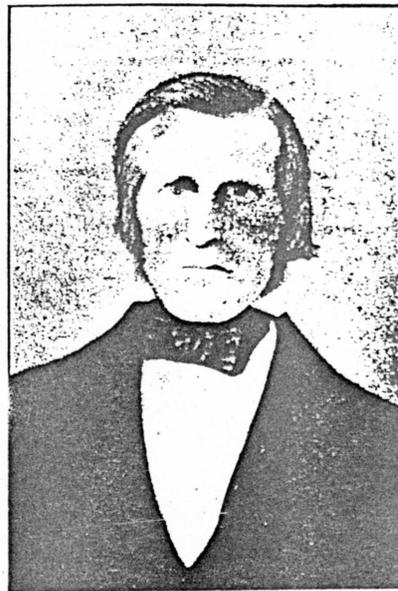
*"Give me the old time cabin home
Where first I saw the light o' day."*

left it. January 1, 1866, he married Mary D. Hall, daughter of William G. Hall (see pioneers). She was born in the town of New Albion, September 15, 1845, and received her education in the district schools and the Cattaraugus High School. From marriage her history has been contemporaneous with

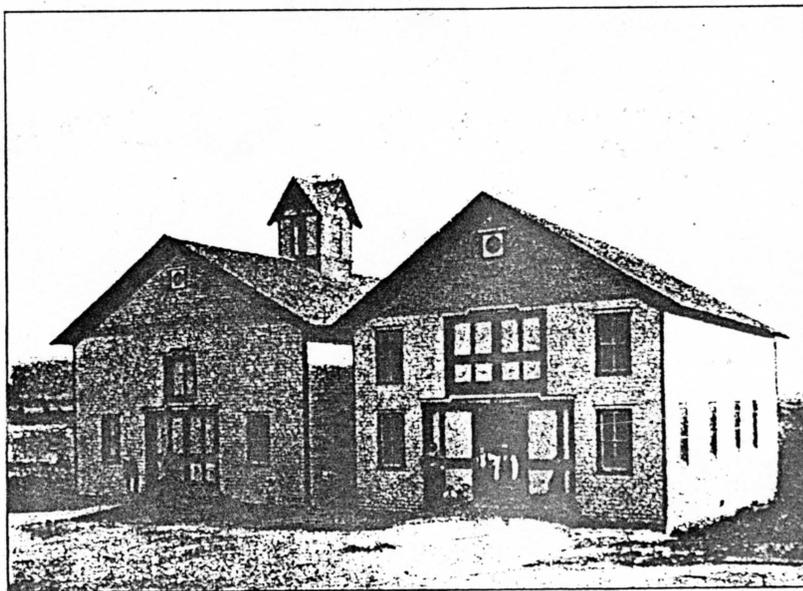


RESIDENCE OF ANDREW G. PARKE.

that of her husband, having at all times acted well her part, being a loyal wife and a noble Christian mother. They began life together in the log house, a picture of which is here shown, but the Leon hills were too steep for them and they removed to Wesley. He bought from William G. Hall, the Leander Bacon farm, upon which stood the old tavern; a familiar land mark to the old settlers, which, like the Irishman's jackknife, has been several times made over but is still the same old house. Here they lived most of the time until 1894, since which time they have occupied their new home. He has cleared, underdrained and improved the 300 acres of his farm until it is now one of the finest in Western New York. He has also a 250 acre farm on Nash hill under good cultivation and with good buildings. He has long attended to doing things on a large scale and a scientific basis. Practically all the farm work is done by machinery and he is very successful in scientific fertilizing. All his stock drink warmed water in the winter. Last fall he added a silo to his accumulations and is continually adding all modern improvements. His methods of



SIDNEY PARKE.



BARNS OF ANDREW G. PARKE.



ter of William G.
Albion, September
nd the Cattaraugus
emporaneous with



farming have proven very profitable and pleasant. His tendency to manage well, showed even as a boy and later in camp; his "bump" for making a good "deal" was well developed. For twenty years he has been engaged in the wholesale hay and grain trade, shipping to all large eastern cities, thus making a market for his own and for much of the surplus produce in his vicinity of Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. His home is a model one. The home farm lies all level or rolling, is well drained and under good cultivation and produces a handsome income. His buildings are up-to-date all on stone walls and are kept well painted. The house is finished in natural wood, sets on little hill at Wesley, is sewerred, has running water—hot and cold, furnace, bath, and all the conveniences of a modern city home but is still a convenient farm house in all respects. He has a family of four children, one having passed away; Fenton Marion, residing in Buffalo; Alzina Cornelia, wife of Earl D. Jones of Wellsville; Lester Anson, now in Cornell University; and Earle Sidney in the Cattaraugus High School.

We love to see a farmer toil,
No coat, no vest, nor e'en a hat;
We love to see him buy and sell,
"A man's a man for a' of that."

AVERY PARKE.

Avery Parke, son of Ephriam (see A. G. Parke) was born in Sherburne, Chenango County, N. Y., in 1800, and came to Dayton in 1826, cleared a farm in the eastern part of the town, now owned by E. K. Parke. He was the first Justice of the Peace in the town of Dayton, which office he held for many years. He was a very public spirited citizen and was well and favorably known. He died at Dayton, November 8, 1876. He married Lodema Ann, daughter of Alexander Nash of Dayton, December 31, 1828; she died June 30, 1844. Their children were Esek Kimball, born September 6, 1830; Elisha F., born July 22,—died July 14, 1834; Electa Ann, born August 15, 1834, married Dr. M. P. Roberts, who for many years practiced his profession in the town of Dayton; Achsah M., born August 1, 1836, married P. S. Allen, and resides at Wesley; Porter A., born June 27, 1839, married Amelia English and resides at Wesley; Anson N., born June 24, 1844, was a member of Co. B., 154th N. Y. S. V., and died at Lookout Valley, Tenn., March 24, 1864; Hudson H., born June 3, 1849, died January 20, 1894; Hudson H. was a lawyer by profession and dealt in Buffalo real estate extensively. Avery Parke was an old time Methodist and his barn was used as a place of worship in the early days.

ESEK K. PARKE.

Esek K. Parke, a gentleman largely identified with the agricultural and business interests of the town of Dayton, is a son of Avery and Lodema (Nash) Parke and was born in the town of Dayton, September 6, 1830. The Parke family are descended from a long line of noble English ancestry who came to America as early as 1630. Mr. Parke secured the usual education acquired by boys of his time at the district school, and he was reared as a

farmer and always followed farming besides buying and selling live-stock and kindred work. He owns a fertile farm of nearly 400 acres which is thoroughly tilled. He farms it to make money, which he does, and is thoroughly up to date in all his methods. His buildings are good and are kept in excellent condition. His barn a picture of which is here shown is one of the best in Cattaraugus County. It is well built.

He has a round silo made of Red Gulph Cypress matched and lined with porcelain cement a capacity of 160 tons and he will erect another of the same capacity this year. This is some evidence of the utility of the silo. Besides his landed interests in company with his son, L. A. Parke, he owns and conducts a general store. Politically, Mr. Parke is a Republican and was Justice of the Peace for several terms. He is held in respect by his neighbors and those with whom he comes in contact, not only for his sterling qualities but by reason of his honesty and integrity as well. He married December 25, 1852, Emeline O. Wade, daughter of William D. and Eugenia Wade, who was born in Wayne County, December 8, 1832. Their children are Roselia A., born October 6, 1852, she married July 3, 1871, Rowland Hall, and they have one son, Olin, born April 14, 1885, they reside at Wesley; Lincoln A. E. K. Parke was appointed Postmaster April 10, 1900, and the office is conducted by his son, L. A., as Assistant Postmaster. Mr. Parke has at present the finest herd of Holstein cattle in Cattaraugus County. They number about 100 head.

Thy friend has a friend, and thy friend's friend has a friend, be discreet.



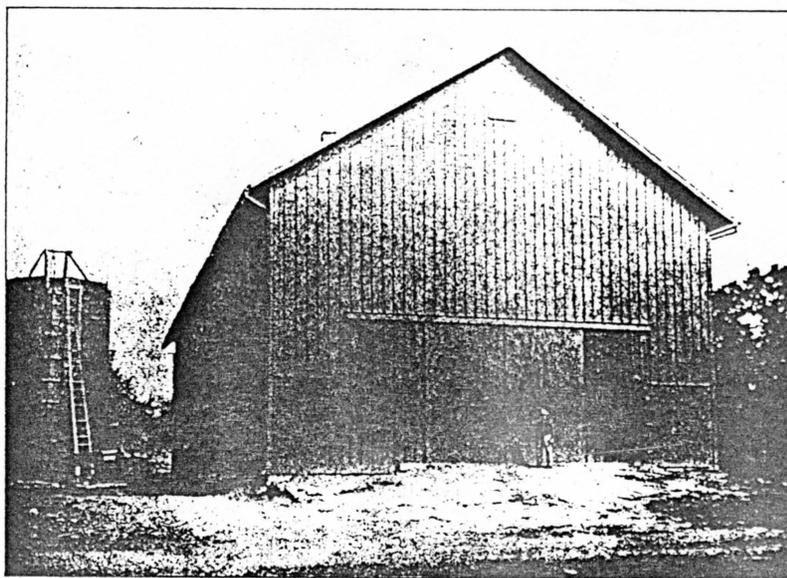
STORE OF E. K. PARKE & SON.

LINCOLN A. PARKE.

One remarkable fact in the mercantile life of the town is the number of young men at the head of leading business houses and the success with which they are conducting them. One such is Lincoln A. Parke, whose general store at Wesley has become popular under his efficient management, and is one of the most prosperous and enterprising in the town, building up and expanding in a very gratifying manner. He carries in stock everything usually found in an up-to-date country store. He is a son of Esek K. and Emeline (Wade) Parke and was born in the town of Dayton, September 11, 1867, and comes from two old American families. He was educated in the public schools and at Chamberlain Institute, graduating in the commercial course Class of '86. In February, 1894, he was elected Justice of the Peace and still holds that position being the third generation of the family to hold it. He is a young man of excellent business tact and ability, always enterprising, active and leading in anything that is for the welfare of the community, and he is a representative citizen of the town of Dayton.

THERE is no character however great and good but may be spoiled by ridicule, however poor and useless.—*Mark Twain.*

It is idleness that creates impossibilities; and where men cannot do a thing, they shelter themselves under the persuasion that it cannot be done. The shortest and surest way to prove a work possible, is to strenuously set about it; and no wonder if that proves it possible that for the most part makes it so.



BARN OF ESEK K. PARKE.

Said to be the best in Cattaraugus County.

daughter of John Dye, in 1865. She was the mother of two children, Helen and Horace Greeley. His third wife was Mrs. Annie Dye, daughter of Jonathan C. and Margaret (Stivers) Wade. Mr. Hulett enlisted in July, 1863, in Co. C., 112th Inf., and served to the close of the war. His brother, Marcus, was a soldier in Co. A, 154th Inf.; and another brother, Asahel, was a member of Co. B., 112th Inf., and served to the close of the war. Mr. Hulett is a blacksmith at the village of South Dayton.

William G. Hall, son of Justice, was born at Portage, N. Y., came to New Albion, and finally settled near the Wesley Post-office, where he died. He was a farmer and married Almeda Rich of Barre, N. Y. His children were: Charles W., Leonard O., Alzina A., Mary D., Delbert, Rowland, Arad, Sarah, Denton and Marion. Charles W. Hall was born in New Albion, November 3, 1837, and on March 11, 1861, married Betsey, daughter of Norman L. and Lucy A. (Parke) Bacon by whom he had one son, Burt H. The post-office at Wesley was named after Mr. Hall, his middle name being Wesley, and was postmaster of that place for many years. He served as corporal in Co. B., 154th N. Y. Vols., and was at the battles of Chancellorsville and Rocky Face Ridge, being severely wounded at each engagement. Delbert, another son, was born in New Albion, May 12, 1848, and married, March 27, 1865, to Mary J., Wood, a native of Niagara County, who bore him three children, Glenn W., Wm. J., and Jennie M. Mr. Hall served in the Civil War in Co. D. 179th Vols. Glen W. Hall, born August 5, 1868, married Anna, daughter of Obediah and Mary A. Luce of New Albion.

Thomas Wellington Johnson, an early innkeeper of the town of Dayton, was born December 29, 1826, in Dayton, and died March 28, 1861, at Markham. He was a son of Col. Ralph Johnson. He married, October 12, 1848, Emily Prosser and their children were Richard P., born March 18, 1850, he married in September, 1882, Mary A. Chadwick and they reside at Gowanda; Celia M., born February 19, 1852, she married October 31, 1872, DeHart Spencer and they reside at Cherry Creek; Katie A. and Cora M. (twins) born September 4, 1854, Katie A., married, November, 1878, L. D. Inman and died in 1882; Cora M., died at Markham, in 1857; Ellen B., born July 20, 1856, she married, in March, 1880, F. G. Mitchell, and they reside in Buffalo. Mr. Johnson was a very popular and influential man. He once owned a good farm of 140 acres, a large saw mill and the hotel at Markham.

Carrier Jolls was a early settler in Perrysburg, where he died. Among his large family of children was John, who was the first to settle on the present Foster farm, where he died, aged seventy-nine. He likewise had a large family from his two wives.

Col. Ralph Johnson became a settler in what is now the town of Dayton in 1815. He located on lot 30 and continued to reside there until he died. One of the foremost citizens, he was the first postmaster in the town, which position he held for many years and until the opening of the Erie Railroad in 1851, when the post-office was removed to what is now Dayton Village. Soon after he established himself at Dayton, he engaged in the tanning business and the manufacture of boots and shoes. He continued in that business until