

WESLEY.

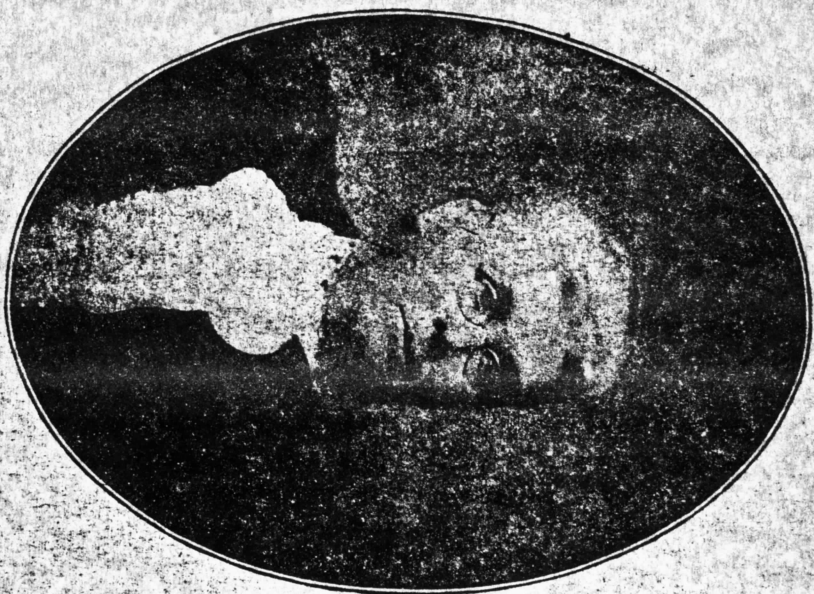
*They were a genial, social people;
They entertained, they made one feel at home.*



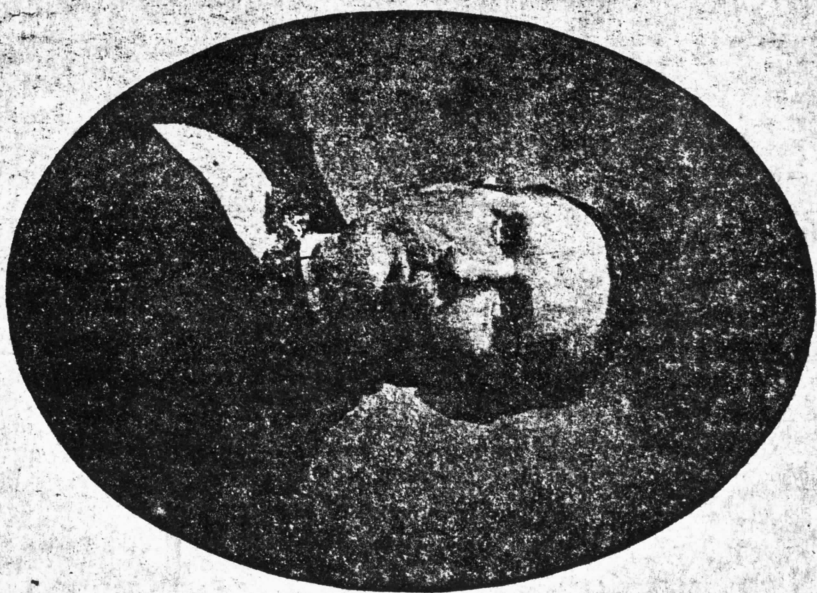
IN THE southeastern part of the town, about 1830, a hamlet began to form at the junction of the Jamestown Road with several cross roads. This hamlet was called Socialty, probably on account of the social character of its people. That name was also applied to the postoffice, which was established before 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 Greiner. His father was born

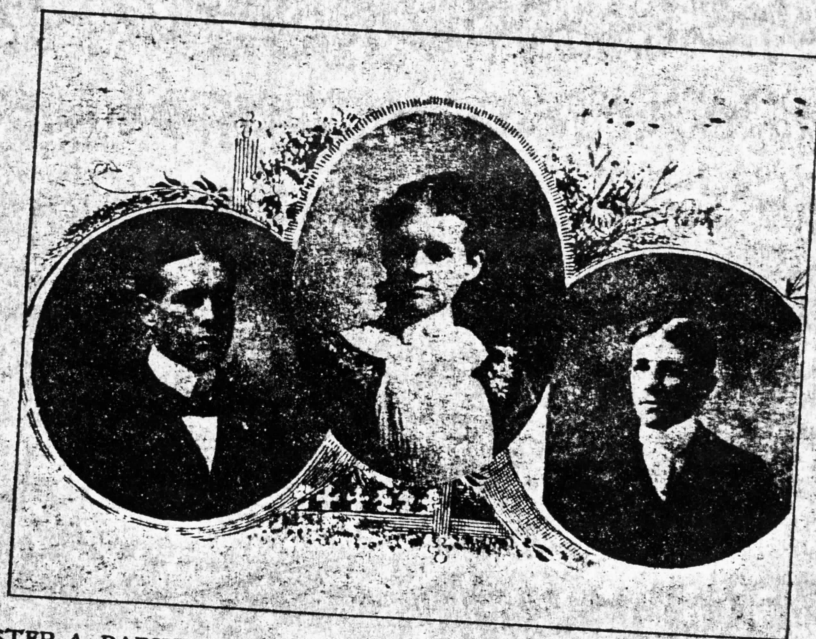


MRS. ANDREW G. PARKE.



ANDREW G. PARKE.

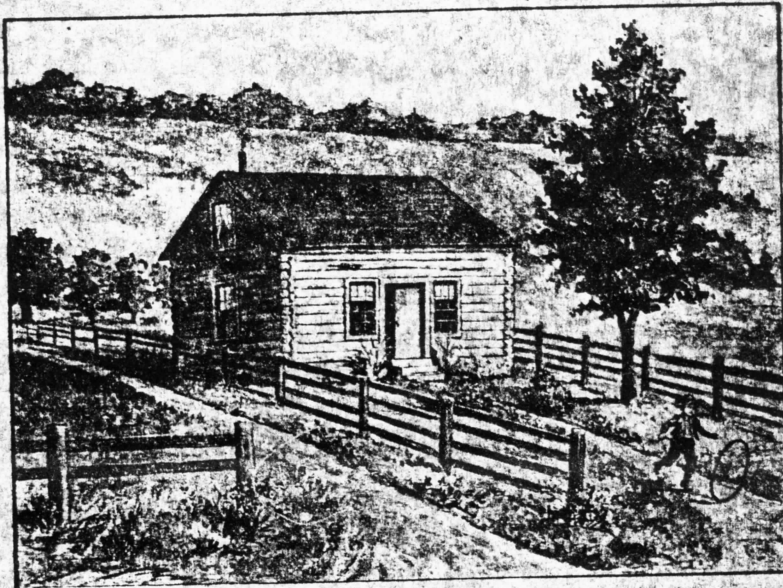
in 1805, in Sherburne, Chenango County, N. Y., and came to Dayton about 1826. He was a brother to Avery Parke (see following pages) and was well known in Dayton. Sidney was a son of Ephriam Parke, born at Preston, Conn., in 1770. He was a son of Elisha Parke, born at Preston in 1746. He was a son of 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.



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

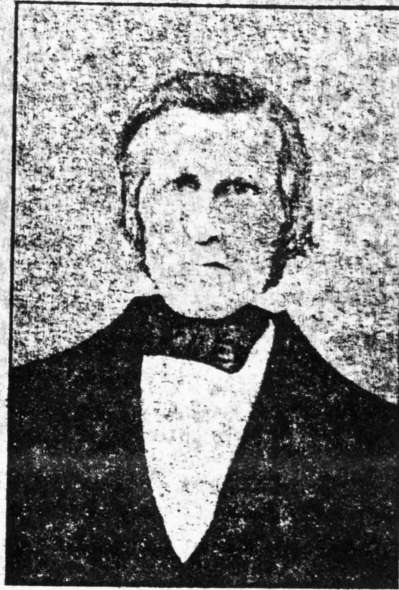
*"Give me the old time cabin home
Where first I saw the light o' day."*

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



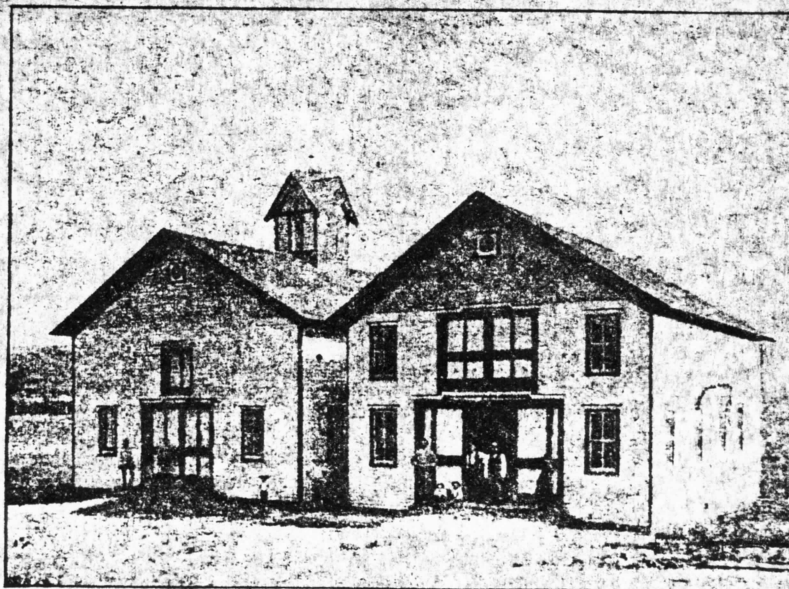
RESIDENCE OF ANDREW G. PARKE

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



SIDNEY PARKE.

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



BARN OF ANDREW G. PARKE.