

“‘Ugh! Just so white man. Want Indian move along—move along. Can’t go no farther, but he say—move along!’”

The sachem had become extremely dissipated, and his Washington medal was frequently pawned in Buffalo for whisky. He always managed to recover it, however, for, though he opposed all white teachings, his vanity led him to cherish this memento of the great white chieftain’s favor.

He was disposed to stand much on his dignity, and sometimes to be very captious. He once went, attended by his interpreter, Major Jack Berry, and requested David Reese, the blacksmith for the Indians, to make him a tomahawk, at the same time giving directions as to the kind of weapon he wanted. Reese made it, as near as he could, according to order, but when Red Jacket returned he was much dissatisfied.

Again he gave his orders, and again Reese strove to fulfill them, but the sachem was more dissatisfied than before. So he went to work and with much labor whittled out a wooden pattern of a tomahawk, declaring that if the blacksmith would make one exactly like that he would be satisfied.

“All right,” said Reese, who had by this time got out of patience with what he considered the chieftain’s whims.

In due time Red Jacket came to get his tomahawk. It was ready, and was precisely like the model. But, after looking at it and then at the model for a moment, he flung it down with an angry “Ugh,” and left the shop. It was exactly like the model, but the model had no hole in it for a handle.

CHAPTER XV.

FROM 1808 TO THE WAR.

Organization of Clarence — Settlement of Cheektowaga — Settlement on Cayuga Creek — Progress in the Towns — A Pioneer Funeral — Glezen Fillmore — Porter, Barton & Co. — “The Horn Breeze” — Census of 1810 — Town of “Buffaloe” — New Militia Regiments — Peter B. Porter — The Ogden Company — Settlement of Alden — The “Beaver’s” Cannon — Settlement of Colden — First Settler of Gowanda — The Buffalo Gazette — Feminine Names — Old-time Books — An Erudite Captain — Advertisements for Workmen — “A Delinquent and a Villain” — Morals and Lotteries — The Medical Societies — A Federal Committee — Division of Willink — Hamburg, Eden and Concord — Approach of War — Militia Officers — An Indian Council — A Vessel Captured — The War Begun.

WE now return to our record of current events, beginning immediately after the organization of Niagara county, in the spring of 1808. The selection of Buffalo as the county seat of Niagara county, of course increased the immigration to that village and the immediate vicinity, and there were more lots bought there in 1808 than in any previous year. In the same year, Henry Anguish made the first settlement in the beginning of Tonawanda village.

The first town meeting in Clarence, which it will be remembered included the whole north part of the present county of Erie, was held in the spring of 1808, at Elias Ransom's tavern, two miles west of Williams-ville, in the present town of Amherst. The town book has been preserved from that time to this, and is now in the town clerk's office at Clarence Center, being the oldest record in the county pertaining to any town now in existence. The officers then elected (aside from postmasters) were the following:—

Jonas Williams, Supervisor; Samuel Hill, Jr., Town Clerk; Timothy S. Hopkins, Aaron Beard and Levi Felton, Assessors; Otis R. Hopkins, Collector; Otis R. Hopkins, Francis B. Drake and Henry B. Annabill, Constables; Samuel Hill, Jr., Asa Harris and Asa Chapman, Commissioners of Highways; and James Cronk, Poormaster.

There must have been a combination against the Buffalonians, for not one of those above named resided in the new county seat, except, possibly, Constable Annabill. One of the town ordinances of that year offered a bounty of five dollars for wolves, and another declared that fences should be five feet high, and not more than two inches between the rails. They must have made very small rails in Clarence.

Licenses to sell liquor were granted to Joseph Landon, Zenas Barker, Frederick Miller, Elias Ransom, Samuel McConnell, Asa Harris, Levi Felton, Peter Vandeventer and Asa Chapman. According to General Warren's recollection, Joseph Yaw was elected Supervisor of Willink in both 1808 and 1809. The Willink records were burned with those of Aurora in 1831, so it is not certain.

In this year, (1808) the first permanent settlement was made in what is now Cheektowaga (except possibly on the northern edge) by Apollos Hitchcock, on the land still or lately occupied by his descendants. The first grain they raised was carried on horseback across the reservation to Stephens' mill. Ransom's was a little nearer, but was sometimes scant of water.

Settlements were also made in the eastern part of the present town of Lancaster, that year, and we have been informed by an old resident that there were then just twelve houses between Buffalo and the east line of the county, on the road which ran through the center of Lancaster.

The pioneers of Lancaster found on the north side of Little Buffalo creek, in that township, an ancient fortification enclosing an acre of ground, and said by Turner, in his history of the Holland Purchase, to have been, when first discovered, as high as a man's breast. There were five gateways, in one of which grew a pine tree, believed by lumbermen to be five hundred years old. There is ample evidence that a long time ago, men who built breast-works dwelt in Erie county, but very little evidence that they were radically different from the American Indians.

The Quakers had increased so that, in 1808, they held "monthly meetings" at their meeting-house at East Hamburg.

New comers located themselves that year in all the townships in the county which were already settled, but there were still two or three townships in which the woodman's axe had not been heard.

When the wife of Mr. Albro, one of the only two residents in the present town of Concord, died, during the summer of 1808, word was sent to "neighbors" twelve miles distant, in the present town of Boston, to come and attend the funeral. The only route to Springville from the East, then, was first to Buffalo, then up the beach to the "Titus stand," then up the Eighteen-Mile to the farthest settlements in its valley, and then across the ridge. Two or three new families settled in Concord the latter part of that year.

Jacob Taylor, as chief of the Quaker mission, built a saw-mill at Taylor's Hollow, in Collins, and also a grist-mill about 1809. Perhaps it was this that induced Abraham Tucker and others, with their families, to settle near there in that year. Tucker located in the edge of North Collins, where he built him a cabin, covered it with bark and remained with his family.

In that year, too, George Richmond, with his sons, George and Frederick, located himself three miles east of Springville, near the southeast corner of the present town of Sardinia, where he soon opened a tavern. The same summer, Ezra Nott, afterwards well-known as General Nott, settled between what is now called Rice's Corners and Colegrove's Corners. Richmond and Nott were the pioneers of Sardinia.

The first settlement in the present town of Eden was also made this year. Elisha Welch and Deacon Samuel Tubbs located at what is now known as Eden Valley, but which for a long time bore the less romantic appellation of Tubbs' Hollow.

In this year, too, Aaron Salisbury and William Cash made the first permanent settlement in the present town of Evans, west of Harvey's tavern at the mouth of the Eighteen-Mile. Several others came not long after, and all settled near the lake shore, where the only road ran.

One of the new comers into Clarence was destined to wield a strong influence throughout not only Erie county but Western New York. We refer to the Rev. Glezen Fillmore, a cousin of the Hon. Millard Fillmore. He was then a bright, pleasant, yet earnest youth of nineteen, with the well-known, strong Fillmore features, and stalwart Fillmore frame.

Having been licensed in March, 1809, as a Methodist exhorter, the youthful champion of the cross immediately set forth from his home in Oneida county, on foot, with knapsack on his back, traveling two hundred miles through the snow and mud of early spring, to begin his labors in the wilderness of the Holland Purchase.

Arriving in the neighborhood where his uncle Calvin resided, he at once went to work. His first preaching was at the house of David Hamlin. A man named Maltby and his wife were the only listeners except Hamlin's family, but the young exhorter bravely went through with the entire services, including class-meeting. It is to be presumed that he felt rewarded when, in after years, he learned that four of Maltby's sons had become Methodist ministers.

Young Fillmore procured land, and throughout his life made his home at Clarence Hollow, though spending many years at a distance, on whatever service might be allotted to him.

Shortly before this period Augustus Porter, the new First Judge of Niagara county, his brother, Peter B. Porter, then of Canandaigua, and recently elected to Congress from the vast district of Western New York, and Mr. Benjamin Barton, Jr., had formed a partnership under the name of Porter, Barton & Co., and were the principal forwarders of Eastern goods to the West. Their route was by way of Oneida lake, Oswego and Ontario, to Lewiston; thence by land-carriage around the Falls and by vessel up Lake Erie. Of the few sail-vessels then running on Lake Erie, owned on the American side, probably more than half were owned by Porter, Barton & Co.

Their ships had the same difficulty in ascending the rapids that had beset the *Griffin* a hundred and thirty years before. To overcome it they provided a number of yoke of oxen to drag vessels up the rapids. The sailors dubbed these auxiliaries the "Horn Breeze."

As to Buffalo creek, all agreed that it was worthless for a harbor, on account of the bar at the mouth. All sail vessels stopped at Black Rock, and only a few open boats came into the creek.

In the year 1810 a United States census was taken, and the population of Niagara county was found to be 6,132. Of these just two-thirds were in the present county of Erie.

In that year, too, the name of "Buffalo," or "Buffaloe," was first legally applied to a definite tract of territory. On the 10th day of February, a law was passed erecting the town of "Buffaloe," comprising all that part of Clarence west of the West Transit. In other words, it comprised the present city of Buffalo, the towns of Grand Island, Tonawanda, Amherst and Cheektowaga, and the north part of West Seneca; being about eighteen miles long north and south, and from eight to sixteen miles wide east and west.

Another event considered of much importance in those days was the formation of new militia regiments.

The appointment of Asa Ransom as sheriff in 1808 had compelled him to resign his lieutenant-colonelcy, and Timothy S. Hopkins was appointed in his place. This, with the cashiering of Maybee previously mentioned, left both majors' positions vacant. Captain William Warren,

not then twenty-four, was made First Major, and Asa Chapman Second Major. The men subject to military duty in Buffalo and Clarence were constituted a regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Asa Chapman, then living near Buffalo. Samuel Hill, Jr., of Newstead, was one of his majors. The men of Willink formed another regiment, and young Major Warren was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding. His majors were William C. Dudley, of Evans, and Benjamin Whaley, who was or had been a resident of Boston. There was also a regiment in Cambria, and one in Chautauqua county, and the whole was under the command of Brigadier-General Timothy S. Hopkins.

The most influential new-comer in the county during the period under consideration in this chapter was Peter B. Porter, who, after being re-elected to Congress in the spring of 1810, removed from Canandaigua to Black Rock. He was then thirty-seven years old, unmarried, a handsome, portly gentleman of the old school, of smooth address, fluent speech, and dignified demeanor. At Canandaigua he had practiced at the Bar, but after his removal he devoted himself to his commercial fortunes as a member of the firm of Porter, Barton & Co., save when attending to his political duties. Mr. Porter was the first citizen of Erie county who exercised a wide political influence.

The same year the Holland Company (that is, the group of Hollanders commonly so-called) sold their pre-emption right in all the Indian reservations on the Holland Purchase to David A. Ogden. He was acting in behalf of other parties, joined with himself, in the speculation, and the owners were generally called the Ogden Company. The whole amount of territory was about 196,000 acres, and the purchase price \$98,000. That is to say, Ogden and his friends gave fifty cents an acre for the sole right of buying out the Indians whenever they should wish to sell.

Moses Fenno, who moved into the present town of Alden in the spring of 1810, is usually considered there as the first settler of that town, though Zophar Beach, Samuel Huntington and James C. Rowan had previously purchased land on its western edge, and it is quite likely some of them had settled there.

It is certain, however, that Fenno was the beginner of improvement in the vicinity of Alden village, and raised the first crops there, in the year mentioned. The same year came Joseph Freeman, afterwards known as Judge Freeman, William Snow and Arunah Hibbard.

About this time, perhaps earlier, the Messrs. Ingersoll located on the lake shore, in Hamburg, just below the mouth of Eighteen-Mile creek. Shortly after their arrival they discovered on the summit of the high bank seven or eight hundred pounds of wrought iron, apparently taken off from a vessel. It was much eaten with rust, and there were trees growing from it ten to twelve inches in diameter.

A few years before, as related by David Eddy, of East Hamburg, a fine anchor had been found imbedded in sand on the Hamburg-lake shore. Ten or twelve years later two cannon were discovered on the beach near where the iron was found. The late James W. Peters, of East Evans, in a communication to the *Buffalo Commercial Advertiser* reproduced in Turner's "Holland Purchase," stated that he saw them immediately after their discovery, and cleaned away enough of the rust to lay bare a number of words on the breech of one of them, which were found to be French; he did not say by whom or what they were.

From these data, Turner and others have inferred that the *Griffin* was wrecked at the mouth of Eighteen-Mile creek; that such of the crew as escaped intrenched themselves there to resist the Indians, but were finally overpowered and slain. Mr. O. H. Marshall has, however, very clearly shown in a paper read before the Buffalo Historical Society, that the evidences of shipwreck found on the lake shore were due to the loss of the *Beaver*, (a British vessel loaded with supplies for the upper lake garrisons,) which occurred near that locality about 1765.

The French words on the cannon (if they were French) are of little consequence, since many English mottoes (such as "*Dieu et mon droit*," "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*,") are of French origin.*

Down to this time no settlement had been made in the present town of Colden, but in 1810 Richard Buffum became its pioneer. He was a Rhode Islander of some property, and being desirous of emigrating westward he was requested by a number of his neighbors to go into an entirely new district and purchase a place where he could build mills, when they would settle around him.

Accordingly he came to the Holland Purchase, and located on the site of Colden village. His son, Thomas Buffum, then seven years old, informed the writer that his father cut his own road six or eight miles, and then built him a log house forty feet long. This is the largest log dwelling of which we have heard in all our researches, and is entitled to special mention. The same fall he put up a saw-mill. Various causes prevented the coming of the neighbors he had calculated on, and for a good while Mr. Buffum was very much isolated. The first year no one came except men whom he had hired. As, however, he had eleven children, he was probably not very lonesome.

In the spring or summer of 1810, Turner Aldrich and his family came up the Cattaraugus creek from the lake beach, and let their wagons down the "breakers" into the Gowanda flats by means of ropes hitched to the hind axle and payed out from around trees. They located on the site of Gowanda, and were the first family in Collins, except those near Taylor's Hollow.

* There was another *Beaver* wrecked in early times on Lake Erie. This was a schooner belonging to the Northwestern Fur Company, which went ashore late in the autumn of 1786, on the site of Cleveland, where the crew remained through the winter.

From this until the beginning of the war with Great Britain the history of the county consisted chiefly of a constant flow of emigration into all the townships outside the reservations, the details of which may properly be left to the various town histories.

In the forepart of this year the President, being authorized by Congress, located the port of entry for the district of Buffalo Creek at Black Rock, from the first of April to the first of December in each year, and at "Buffaloe" the rest of the time. It is difficult to see why the office should have been moved twice a year merely to make "Buffaloe" a port of entry during the four months when there were no entries.

The year 1811 was also marked by the establishment of Mr. Jabez B. Hyde as the first school-teacher among the Senecas. He was sent by the New York Missionary Society. A minister of the gospel was sent at the same time, but was rejected by the chiefs, while the teacher was invited to remain.

But the most important event in the eye of the historian was the establishment of the first newspaper in Erie county, the *Buffalo Gazette*; the initial number of which was issued on the third day of October, 1811, by Messrs. Smith H. and Hezekiah A. Salisbury. The former was the editor.

For the time previous to its appearance the student of local history must depend on the memory of a few aged persons, eked out by a very small number of scattering records. But, fortunately, a tolerably complete file of the *Gazette* has been preserved through all the vicissitudes of sixty-five years, and is now in the possession of the Young Men's Association of Buffalo. By carefully studying its columns, especially the advertisements, one can form a very fair idea of the progress of the county. The first number has been stolen from the files; the second, dated October 10, 1811, remains, the earliest specimen of Erie county journalism.

A rough-looking little sheet was this pioneer newspaper of Erie county, printed on coarse, brownish paper, each of the four pages being about twelve inches by twenty. Its price was \$2.50 per year if left weekly at doors; \$2.00 if taken at the office or sent by mail. The price seems large for a sheet of those dimensions, but the advertising rates were certainly low enough. A "square" was inserted three weeks for \$1.00, and twenty-five cents was charged for each subsequent insertion.

The *Gazette* will be duly described in the chapter on the Press, in this work, but we reproduce here some items from its pages as throwing a light on the situation of the county before the War of 1812.

There must have been a large mail business done in this region or a very slow delivery; as the first number of the *Gazette* contained an advertisement of a hundred and fifty-seven letters remaining in the post-office at Buffalo Creek. Five of them were directed to women, whose

names we give as specimens of the feminine nomenclature of that day: Susan Davenport, Sarah Goosbeck, Susannah McConnel, Nancy Tuck, Lucinda Olmsted. Not one ending in "ie."

With their printing office the Salisburys carried on the first bookstore in the county, and kept a catalogue of their books constantly displayed in their paper. It may give an idea of the literary taste of that era to observe that one of those lists contained the names of seventeen books on law, fourteen on medicine, fifty-four on religious subjects, fifty-four on history, poetry and philosophy, and only eleven novels!

One of the first numbers chronicles the arrival of the schooner *Salina*, Daniel Robbins master, with a cargo of "Furr" estimated at a hundred and fifty thousand dollars—an estimate which we fear did not hold out. Another contained an advertisement stating that the new sloop "*Friends' Goodwill*, of Black Rock," would carry passengers to Detroit for twelve dollars each, and goods for a dollar and a half a barrel.

Militia affairs evidently received considerable attention, as the only advertisement of blanks was one of Sergeants' Warrants, Captains' Orders to Sergeants, Notices to Warn Men to Parade," &c., &c. Captains were numerous, and were not always blessed with high scholastic acquirements, as is shown by the following communication from one gallant chieftain to another, which somehow found its way into the *Gazette*, minus the names:—

WILLINK, November the 10, 1811.

"Capt. ———, Sir this day Mr. ——— inform mee that he was not able to do militerry duty, and wish you not to flect a fine on him ef I had a non his situation i shod not returned him this is from yr frend.
—————, Capt."

"Willink," gives but a slight idea of the locality, as the whole south part of the county was still called by that name.

Municipal towns were so large that survey townships were frequently used for description. Thus Daniel Wood advertised a watch left at his house "in the 6th Town, 8th Range;" that is in the present town of Collins.

Failures in business seem to have been rather common in proportion to the amount done; as one paper contains three, and another four notices for insolvent debtors to show cause why they should not be declared bankrupts. Yet it is plain that business was generally flourishing. There were no advertisements for work, but many for workmen. In the course of a few weeks in the fall of 1811, there were advertisements published calling for journeymen tailors, a journeyman shoemaker, a tailor's apprentice, journeymen hatters, and two or three journeymen blacksmiths.

The Patent Medicine Man was already an established institution, and M. Daley advertised several unfailling panaceas, their value being attested by certificates as ample, (and as truthful,) as those of the present day.

Even in those good old times, officials were sometimes guilty of "irregularities," and one of the few local items in the *Gazette*, under the head, "A delinquent and a villain," gave notice that Joseph Alward, who wore the double honors of constable of Willink and carrier of news, had "cleared out for Canada," taking two horses, eight or ten watches and other property. A news-carrier was an important functionary; he was the sole reliance of most of the inhabitants for papers and letters—there being but one post-office in the county out of Buffalo, and none south of the reservation. The next week after the disappearance of the "delinquent and villain," David Leroy gave notice that he had taken Alward's route, but he soon gave it up for lack of business. Another notice informed the people that a carrier named Paul Drinkwater had judiciously selected one route down the river and another up the lake.

A. S. Clarke, postmaster at Clarence, (his store it will be remembered was in the present town of Newstead,) advertised seven letters detained at his office for Clarence, and fifty for Willink. These latter had to be sent from fifteen to fifty miles by private conveyance.

There was still no regular preaching of the gospel in the county. Some steps were taken to that end, but nothing was accomplished until after the war.

Some schemes were publicly tolerated, which would now be looked on with general disfavor. A memorial was presented to the legislature, signed by many of the principal citizens of Niagara county asking for \$15,000 to build a road from the Genesee river to Buffalo, the State to be reimbursed by a lottery. The project was warmly endorsed by the *Gazette*. At the present day we should at least have morality enough to call the proposed proceeding a gift-enterprise. The memorial does not appear to have been adopted.

There were already two medical societies, each calling itself "The Medical Society of Niagara County." A description of these and their bitter war will be found in the chapter devoted to the Erie County Medical Society.

On the 20th day of March, 1812, the gigantic town of Willink was seriously reduced by a law erecting the towns of Hamburg, Eden and Concord. Hamburg contained the present towns of Hamburg and East Hamburg. Eden was composed of what is now Boston, Eden, Evans, and part of Brant, and Concord comprised the whole tract afterwards divided into Sardinia, Concord, Collins and North Collins—leaving Willink only twelve mile square, embracing Aurora, Wales, Holland and Colden. Besides, Willink and Hamburg nominally extended to the middle of the Buffalo reservation, and Collins covered that part of the Cattaraugus reservation situated in Niagara county.

During all this time there was a constant and increasing ferment regarding war and politics. The growing dissatisfaction of the govern-

ment and a majority of the people of the United States with the government of Great Britain, on account of her disregard of neutral rights in the contest with Napoleon, had at length reached the verge of war, and the denunciations of that power in Congress, in State Legislatures, in the press and the public meetings, were constantly becoming more bitter. While this was the sentiment of the ruling party (that is, the Democratic or Republican, for it went by both names), the Federalists, who constituted a large and influential minority, opposed a war with England, asked for further negotiations, and met the Democratic denunciations of that country with still more bitter attacks on Napoleon, whom they accused the Republicans of favoring.

In February, 1812, Congress passed a law to organize an army of twenty-five thousand men. Shortly after, Daniel D. Tompkins, the Republican governor of New York, made a speech to the Legislature, advising that the State prepare for the coming contest.

This county down to that time had been decidedly Federal. Ebenezer Walden was the Federal member of assembly for the counties of Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua. In April, Abel M. Grosvenor was nominated for the assembly by a meeting of the Federalists, or as they termed themselves, "Federal Republicans." At the same meeting, a large committee was appointed, and, as it is to be presumed that the men selected were somewhat influential members of their party in that day, we transcribe a list of those residing in the present county of Erie:—

Town of Buffalo.—Nathaniel Sill, Joshua Gillett, Benjamin Caryl, James Beard, Gilman Folsom, William B. Grant, John Russell, Daniel Lewis, Rowland Cotton, David Reese, Elisha Ensign, S. H. Salisbury, Ransom Harmon, Frederick House, Guy J. Atkins, Samuel Lasuer, John Duer, John Watkins, R. Grosvenor Wheeler, Fred Buck, Henry Anguish, Nehemiah Seeley, Henry Doney, Solomon Eldridge, Holden Allen.

Clarence.—Henry Johnson, Asa Fields, James Powers, James S. Youngs, William Baker, Archibald Black, John Stranahan, Josiah Wheeler, G. Stranahan, Benjamin O. Bivins, John Peck, Jonathan Barrett.

Willink.—Abel Fuller, Ebenezer Holmes, John McKeen, Sanford G. Colvin, Levi Blake, Ephraim Woodruff, Daniel Haskell, Samuel Merriam, Dr. John Watson, John Gaylord, Jr.

Hamburg.—Seth Abbott, Joseph Browning, William Coltrin, Ebenezer Goodrich, Cotton Fletcher, John Green, Samuel Abbott, Benjamin Enos, Pardon Pierce.

Eden.—Charles Johnson, Luther Hibbard, Dorastus Hatch, Dr. John March, Job Palmer, Samuel Tubbs.

Concord.—Joseph Hanchett, Solomon Fields, Samuel Cooper, Stephen Lapham, Gideon Lapham, Gideon Parsons, William S. Sweet.

As a companion to the Federal Committee, we insert here the names of the members of a similar one, composed of Democratic Republicans, though not appointed till a year or so later. They were as follows:—

Buffalo.—Nathaniel Henshaw, Ebenezer Johnson, Pliny A. Field, William Best, Louis Le Couteulx, John Sample.



DR. EBENEZER JOHNSON.

Clarence.—Otis R. Hopkins, Samuel Hill, Jr., Daniel Rawson, James Baldwin, Daniel McCleary, Oliver Standard, Moses Fenno.

Hamburg.—David Eddy, Richard Smith, Samuel Hawkins, Giles Sage, William Warriner, Joseph Albert, Zenas Smith.

Willink.—Elias Osborn, Israel Phelps, Jr., Daniel Thurston, Jr., William Warren, James M. Stevens, John Carpenter, Joshua Henshaw.

Eden.—Christopher Stone, Benjamin Tubbs, Gideon Dudley, Amos Smith, Joseph Thorn.

Concord.—Rufus Eaton, Frederick Richmond, Allen King, Benjamin Gardner, Isaac Knox.

Jonas Williams, the founder of Williamsville, was the Republican candidate for the Assembly.

Already there were fears of Indian assault. It was reported that a body of British and Indians were assembled at Newark, to make a descent on the people on this side. A public meeting was held at Cook's tavern, in Buffalo, at which the statement was declared untrue.

Early in May a Lieutenant of the United States army advertised for recruits at Buffalo, offering those who enlisted for five years a hundred and sixty acres of land, three months' extra pay, and a bounty of sixteen dollars. The amount of bounty will not seem extravagant to modern readers.

An election was held on the 12th of May, and the approach of war had evidently caused a great change in the strength of the two parties. The votes for Member of Assembly show at once the ascendancy suddenly gained by the Democrats, and the comparative population of the several towns. For Grosvenor, Federal, Willink gave 71 votes, Hamburg 47, Eden 41, Concord 33, Clarence 72, Buffalo 123; total, 387. For Williams, Republican, Willink gave 114, Hamburg 110, Eden 46, Concord 50, Clarence 177, Buffalo 112; total, 609. Archibald S. Clarke was elected State Senator, being the first citizen of Erie county to hold that office, as he had been the first Assemblyman and first Surrogate. The Congressmen chosen for this district were both outside of Niagara county.

The militia were being prepared for war, at least to the extent of being amply provided with officers. In Lieutenant-Colonel Chapman's regiment, Dr. Ebenezer Johnson was appointed "surgeon's mate," (assistant surgeon he would now be called;) Abiel Gardner and Ezekiel Sheldon, Lieutenants; Oziel Smith, Paymaster; John Hersey and Samuel Edsall, Ensigns.

In Lieutenant-Colonel Warren's regiment, Adoniram Eldridge, Charles Johnson, John Coon, Daniel Haskill, Benjamin Gardner and John Russell were appointed Captains; Innis B. Palmer, Isaac Phelps, Timothy Fuller, Benjamin I. Clough, Gideon Person, Jr., Frederick Richmond and Varnum Kenyon, Lieutenants; William Warriner, Surgeon; Stephen Kinney, Paymaster; Elihu Rice, Samuel Cochrane, Benjamin Douglass, Lyman Blackmar and Oliver Blezeo, Ensigns.

Scarcely a day passed that rumors of Indian outrages did not startle the inhabitants of Niagara county, who looked with anxious eyes on the half-tamed Iroquois in their midst, many of whom had once bathed their hands in American blood. The rumors were all false, but the terror they inspired was none the less real.

Congress passed an act calling out a hundred thousand militia, (thirteen thousand five hundred of whom were from New York,) and the news was followed quickly by an order detailing two hundred and forty men from Hopkins' brigade, for immediate service. On the 17th of May, Colonel Swift, of Ontario county, arrived at Buffalo to assume command on the frontier. On the 18th, the first detachment of militia marched through that village on their way to Lewiston. They were from the south towns, and were commanded by Major Benjamin Whaley.

On the 26th, Superintendent Granger, with the interpreters Jones and Parrish, held a council with the chiefs of the Six Nations in the United States. Mr. Granger did not seek to enlist their services, such not being the policy of the government, but urged them to remain neutral. To this they agreed, but said they would send a delegation to consult their brethren in Canada. Meanwhile, the declaration of war was under earnest discussion in Congress.

On the 23d of June, Colonel Swift, whose headquarters were at Black Rock, was in command of six hundred militia, besides which there was a small garrison of regulars at Fort Niagara. There was no artillery, except at the fort.

The preparations for war on the other side were somewhat better, there being six or seven hundred British regulars along the Niagara, and a hundred pieces of artillery. The excitement grew more intense every hour. Reckless men on either shore fired across the river "for fun," their shots were returned, and the seething materials almost sprang into flame by spontaneous combustion.

The morning of the 26th of June came. A small vessel, loaded with salt, which had just left Black Rock, was noticed entering Lake Erie by some of the citizens of Buffalo, and presently a British armed vessel from Fort Erie was seen making its way toward the American ship. The latter was soon overtaken and boarded, and then both vessels turned their prows toward the British stronghold.

There could be but one explanation of this—the vessel was captured—and the news of war spread with lightning-like rapidity among the inhabitants of the little frontier village. All doubt was dispelled a few hours later by an express rider from the East, bearing the President's proclamation of war. The Canadians had received the earliest news by reason of John Jacob Astor's sending a fast express to Queenston, twelve hours ahead of the government riders, to warn his agents there.

The War of 1812 had begun.